

MINUTES

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER  
11300 STANFORD AVENUE  
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 20, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Community Meeting Center.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BEARD, CABRAL, ELLSWORTH, PAK  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BONIKOWSKI, BUI  
VACANCY: ONE

ALSO PRESENT: James Eggart, Assistant City Attorney; Karl Hill, Planning Services Manager; Chris Chung, Assistant Planner; Sergeant Ed Leiva, Police Department; Judith Moore, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Commissioner Pak and recited by those present in the Chambers.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Pak moved to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2011, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: BEARD, CABRAL, ELLSWORTH, PAK  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: BONIKOWSKI, BUI  
VACANCY: COMMISSIONERS: ONE

Commissioner Bonikowski joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and Commissioner Bui joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: AMENDMENT NO. A-158-11  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-311-11  
APPLICANT: AMERICARE MEDSERVICES, INC.  
LOCATION: EAST SIDE OF KNOTT STREET, BETWEEN PATTERSON DRIVE AND ORANGEWOOD AVENUE AT 11330-11458 KNOTT STREET  
DATE: JANUARY 20, 2011

REQUEST: To amend the Planned Unit Development No. PUD-144-02 zone to add 'ambulance service' as a permitted use, subject to conditional use permit approval, in conjunction with a request for conditional use permit approval to operate a new 4,968 square foot ambulance service business, Americare Medservices, at 11458 Knott Street. The PUD zone includes sixteen (16) parcels with addresses of 11330, 11338, 11350, 11358,

11380, 11388, 11390, 11398, 11400, 11408, 11410, 11418, 11430, 11438, 11450, 11458 Knott Street, with Parcel Nos. of 131-024-01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Staff report was read and recommended approval.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if there were other non-emergency ambulance businesses in the City. Staff replied yes, at least two or three.

Commissioner Pak asked if there was a relation between the designations of PUD-144-02 and CCSP-CC. Staff replied that the CCSP-CC (Community Center Specific Plan) is not relevant to this location.

Commissioner Cabral asked for the number of employees the business would have. Staff deferred the question to the applicant to answer during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Bonikowski asked if the ambulance calls would include emergency transport and calls with sirens. Staff responded that the 24-hour transportation calls would be non-emergency related for those who need assistance and that if a siren was required, the siren would only be turned on at the right-of-way public street.

Chair Beard opened the public hearing to receive testimony in favor of or in opposition to the request.

Mr. Frank Adler, the applicant's representative, approached the Commission and stated that the number of employees would be two to three persons.

Chair Beard asked Mr. Adler if the applicant had read and agreed with the Conditions of Approval. Mr. Adler replied yes, and that one of the existing ambulance services in Garden Grove, Americare, was owned by the applicant; that the 24-hour calls are non-emergency related for transportation only such as non-emergency medical transport to a hospital; and that the rest areas shown are required for the 24-hour service.

Mr. Anthony Trani approached the Commission and expressed his concern regarding how often the emergency calls with sirens would occur, especially at night, as Knott Avenue is close by and they would hear the sirens.

Mr. Adler responded that the number of emergency calls would vary and that the calls are typically for 'hospital to hospital' and 'residence to hospital' non-emergency transport.

Mr. Scott Smith, the chief operating officer of Americare Ambulance Service, approached the Commission and stated that the overall system handles approximately 4,000 transport calls per month; that approximately two percent are actual emergency calls; that the new location would be an inner-facility provider transporting patients from hospital to skilled nursing facility and skilled nursing facility to hospital

along with psychiatric calls; and, that they are the 911 prime provider for EOA No. 24 for the OCFA, which is in an area other than Garden Grove.

Commissioner Pak asked for the number of emergency calls that would occur during the 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. shift. Mr. Smith replied that most calls occur between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; that the emergency calls are in different areas such as Downey, Compton, and Villa Park; that this facility would not have Code 3 responses; that a typical day would include a vehicle check before ambulances would be distributed to different medical facilities; and that the ambulances return at approximately 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. with only a few non-emergency calls during the evening hours.

Chair Beard asked for an example of a time an emergency siren would be used. Mr. Smith responded that the request would come from the municipality, such as for the previous Brea and Placentia fires at which additional ambulances were recruited. Also, if a patient's medical status would deteriorate while in transport, the ambulance may run the lights and siren.

Vice Chair Bui asked about the previous tenant at this location.

Mr. Lyle Wells, the previous owner of the building, approached the Commission and stated that he ran a service building and electronic equipment manufacturing business from 2004 to 2009.

Commissioner Bonikowski asked for the number of Code 3 responses that had occurred at the applicant's other location on Trask Avenue. Mr. Smith replied that there were no Code 3 responses.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Ellsworth pointed out that Condition No. 8 allows for the Police Department to change or reduce the hours of operation if problems occur regarding the 24-hour service.

Commissioner Bonikowski recalled his experience as a volunteer medical technician noting that the service he provided was used as back-up and that there were only a few emergency calls. He also supported the business, especially in west Garden Grove where senior homes are located.

Commissioner Pak commented that the business would be a wonderful addition to Garden Grove. Chair Beard concurred.

Commissioner Cabral moved to recommend approval of Amendment No. A-158-11 to City Council, and approve Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-311-11, seconded by Vice Chair Bui, pursuant to the facts and reasons contained in Resolution Nos. 5732-11 (A) and 5733-11 (CUP). The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	BEARD, BONIKOWSKI, BUI, CABRAL, ELLSWORTH, PAK
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
VACANCY:	COMMISSIONERS:	ONE

MATTERS FROM  
COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Pak stated that this Planning Commission meeting may be his last and that the sister-city students had a great time learning about culture, customs, and language, and were appreciative to the City of Garden Grove for its hospitality.

Commissioner Ellsworth thanked his student who attended the Planning Commission meeting to earn extra credit in his criminal justice class.

Commissioner Cabral added that the formation of the Association of California Cities for Orange County was announced, which included an offer to attend a forum on policy leadership skills training for \$100 for two days, February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, in the city of Orange.

Vice Chair Bui mentioned that the Chinese New Year would occur on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, with activities in the cities of Westminster and Garden Grove, along with a festival at the Bolsa Grande High School, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Bonikowski asked for the amount of money the Governor would take away from the City for redevelopment money. Staff suggested that Commissioner Bonikowski contact the City's redevelopment staff and added that the City Manager has opposed the elimination of redevelopment agencies.

Chair Beard mentioned that he was a sister-city host family and that the experience was enjoyable for their student, Inseop Sin. He also thanked fellow Planning Commissioners and staff should there be any reappointment changes for Commissioners.

MATTERS FROM  
STAFF:

Staff stated that there would be no February 3, 2011 Planning Commission meeting and that the next meeting would be on February 17, 2011. Staff read a brief description of the February 17th agenda items.

Staff added that the current Planning Commissioners were to remain seated until further notice.

Staff also noted that the barricade on Wilson Street was removed in 2008 per the Traffic Commission's request and that originally, the barricade was in place due to the adult bookstore that occupied the corner building, and that the bookstore was gone and would not be reestablished. Staff added that a different barricade is located in the alley between Wilson Street and Monroe Street.

Chair Beard asked if the Ice Kiss agenda item from the December 16, 2010 Planning Commission meeting was appealed. Staff replied yes, and that the item would be heard by City Council on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Beard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. The motion received the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONERS:	BEARD, BONIKOWSKI, BUI, CABRAL, ELLSWORTH, PAK
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS:	NONE
VACANCY:	COMMISSIONERS:	ONE

JUDITH MOORE  
Recording Secretary