



Recap of United Chamber's Government Affairs Meeting of May 17, 2021

Homelessness, specifically encampments that are negatively affecting neighborhoods of residents, businesses and of course the homeless themselves is one of the biggest concerns of Los Angeles. In that light, the United Chambers May 17th Government Affairs Committee meeting featured Robb Korinke, to talk about the *Build Shelters Now* coalition.

The Hollywood Chamber, a member of United Chambers, acknowledged they had joined the coalition as part of a west side alliance of Chambers and encouraged United Chambers to join. The *Build Shelters Now* Coalition advocates to have shelters built with support services as opposed to the permanent housing first program. More shelters could be built, helping significant more people get off the street and on a positive path with the same amount spent on just one permanent unit. He also suggested that we need to work with our legislators to help improve the ordinances that might be hampering the solutions to the problem on a timely basis. Vahid Khorsand, the West Valley rep from the Mayor's office pointed out that the new 2021-2022 City budget could be an obstacle since the homeless programs have been allocated for.

David Honda, the 1992 Chair of UCC, was our next speaker discussing on behalf of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). The agency is under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Commerce. With their \$153 million in funding, grants are awarded to companies in the \$10 million range. Starting under the previous administration, the agency must demonstrate results to be funded every year. One company mentioned that received funding was Echo Power that converts waste into energy.

Legislative reps from the City, State and County gave reports. We welcomed Alexandria Naseef from Councilmember Nithya Raman's CD4 office as a first-time participant in the meeting. Javier Reyes, from Assemblymember Valladares's office spoke about several bills under consideration and explained the process of when bills are sent to the suspense file.

Horace Heidt, a housing provider, gave us update on existing and proposed ordinances that the City is imposing on landlords. The Chair pointed out 3 issues that will make news. With the state having a huge budget surplus, under the Gann Limit that became state law in 1979, taxpayers in the state are due a refund via cash or tax credit. The City is considering, under CF#20-0380-S1, an ordinance that would make permanent many of the temporary outdoor dining regulations now in place. Thirdly, on May 11th, the City Council's Economic and Jobs Creation Committee approved CF#19-1235 which will begin the process of establishing the Public Bank of Los Angeles.

The Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce is looking for a CEO.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the next United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting that will be held via ZOOM on June 21st, the first day of Summer.

Richard Fisk
Chair of United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee