



Recap of United Chambers Government Affairs October 18, 2021, Meeting

For the first United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs meeting of the fall season, we had a sizable audience, probably due to our 2 guest speakers, L. A. City Attorney and 2022 candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles Mr. Mike Feuer, and Mr. Jeffery Prang, L. A. County Assessor.

Mr. Feuer spoke about his background of 30 years of public service, the accomplishments his office has achieved since elected in 2013 along with the challenges along the way.

Changing hats, with a strong field of announced and unannounced candidates, he talked about what he would do if elected Mayor. Acknowledging a tight race and the big issues facing the City, he stressed what immediate specific actions he would take to tackle the homeless issue. When evaluating his opponents, he suggested that we look for them to answer questions with specific detailed answers. A question was posed to him about the ordinances his offices writes and the potential for litigation. As an example of the new City Vaccine mandate for entry into virtually everywhere in the City. The main points raised were, impacts on businesses, enforcement and possibly a case for discrimination. He replied that it is working in other cities around the country, and he believed it would hold up in court. He is not for defunding the police having previously stated that the City should have about 10,400 officers.

Our next Speaker was Los Angeles County Assessor Mr. Jeffery Prang. Mr. Prang was our guest a couple of years ago, where he discussed the pros and cons of the ballot measure that would change Proposition 13 for commercial and industrial properties. Monday, with a PowerPoint presentation, he once again gave a very informative talk about what his office is involved with and how new laws and regulations will affect the work of his office. He did have a specific slide on the impact of 2 Senate Bills the Governor signed into law, SB9 and SB10 which will affect single family property. With respect to property taxes, those new laws, like ADU's, will cause a property tax reassessment, raising the annual property tax. The effect on property transfers and the tax base under Proposition 19 we voted in last year was also a point of discussion. (He made that PowerPoint available to the community)

As always, our legislative office representatives gave their reports. We have a West Valley rep. new to the Mayor's staff, Erin Seinfeld, who mentioned a new round of "Come Back" grants available for small for-profit businesses. Nick Gaines from State Senator Henry Stern's office listed several bills that have been signed by the Governor. Representatives from 2 County Supervisor's offices noted several County issues and CD12 was represented by Sharon Bronson.

The Chair announced that United Chambers of Commerce has joined in support of the Federal HIRE Act, that among other provisions expands the value of the 1996 Work Opportunity Tax Credit to reflect the increased costs of recruiting and retraining employees. It also allows employers to claim the credit for qualifying individuals being rehired into a prior job. On another topic, he noted that the L. A. County redistricting commission is considering making the Valley one district instead of the 2 areas now in place currently represented by Sheila Kuehl of the 3rd District and Kathryn Barger of the 5th District. The Commission's final recommendation is due December 15th.

Upcoming for UCC, is our State of the County luncheon featuring Sheila Kuehl and Kathryn Barger on next Wednesday the 27th. Our November Government Affairs meeting is on the 15th where we have Rob Wilcox, as guest speaker, running for City Controller. Our current City Controller Ron Galperin and Councilmember John Lee are considering joining us next month. Contact Marian, Marian@unitedchambers.org, for more details and please join us for these events.

Richard Fisk
Chair for Government Affairs