

MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

Monday, July 29, 2024 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Chaired by Supervisor Dawn Rowe at Chuck's request. Flag salute by Sgt. Weinberg.

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie Schultz. Seconded by Frank Francis

Treasurer report. Collection June 24 was \$71. \$20 to Moose. Balance \$4819.39.

County Sheriff Shannon Dicus and staff presentation: "Sheriff Public Safety" LVEDA's thanks to Dana Weinberg for the work he's done out here. He's also the leader of the Rural Crimes Task Force -- but being transferred to Adelanto. Taskforce likely to remain at our substation. Described a new task force to bring consequences to crime. Recovery of illegal arms close to LA County numbers when they are 4x larger than SB County. 'Reasonable Suspicion' stemming from reading body English open the door to being able to detain. Victorville one of top cities for ghost guns – Homemade, unregistered guns. Toughest job for law enforcement is recruitment. CHP needs 900 more officers. Scrap metal and catalytic converter thefts. Recent Operation Consequences county-wide: 3400 traffic stops – over 700 citations. 65 officer-involved shootings so far this year – way up from other years.

Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act – Prop 47. Has enabled mass retail theft. Making drugs misdemeanor. Takes a theft worth over \$940 to be a felony.

Homelessness Losing one person a day due to killings/meth/fights/fentanyl, etc. Mental health major problem – deputies find them "rotting in their own skin". Terrible situation. Shoplifting only a citation, not arrest. Prop 36 is on the ballot and will address some of this stuff. We all need to get the word out. Some deaths in jail due to fentanyl (SP). Hide it body cavities which can't legally be searched.

Several new tools coming to help make life better. Governor just signed an executive order to clean up the streets. Grants Pass decision by courts made it possible to do that cleanup. County will start building homeless shelters and gradually get the worst of the worst off the streets and then work to include more. Go to website California Legislative info to keep track of what's happening in the legislature.

SB2 Supreme Court ruled you no longer need cause to issue a CCW permit. But challenged by Calif. and not yet resolved. Sheriff software making renewals easier. Chuck/LVEDA thanked the Sheriff, Sup. Rowe and Code Enf. for eradicating the illegal marijuana grows that plagued our community for years.

THIRD DISTRICT. Dawn Rowe. Re Observatory at LV Library. First of its kind in U.S. 2 telescopes so can toggle between start gazing and planetary viewing. Can be operated from anywhere via WiFi. Unveiling coming soon.

Redistricting made our area an open area for State Senate so currently don't have a senator – but still have representation by Sen. Grove's office via her rep. Octavias.. Made other changes. Then we got Assemblyman Lackey who has had to learn our area from scratch.

Assemblyman Lackey. SB County is 60% of his district. August is last month of legislative session, with 1000 bills yet to be reviewed. Sits on Public Safety Committee. Citizens will have opportunity to address some issues through initiative process -- which shouldn't be needed if the legislative system worked for us as intended. The legislature is anti-law enforcement. Retail theft underreported because there is no consequence. MUST support Proposition 36. Please vote for that proposition, if that's all you vote for. Re license plate readers. Tiny computers that track vehicles through a particular area. State has 73 billion deficit and so is unwilling to fund items. Insurance issue: Single payer insurance by government is a scary option. Must stand against it. AB2200 "Health Care for All". Now considered discrimination to know the criminal history of potential employees. Very bad law. AB2645 want to be able to use data from license plate readers to look for missing persons. Resistance being met. Too much division in politics and the nation – need to respect each other and unite.

Senator Rosalicia Ochoa Bogh. Senate District 23 Riverside, San Bernardino Counties 1.2 million people, 38 cities. Has held 44 town hall meetings in 20 months. 4th year in the senate. New senate district is District 19 (which we will be in) and will be voted on this fall. One of most important jobs is to educate constituency regarding what is going on in Sacto and how to engage with the process effectively. Spoke extensively on how she tries to get things done as a Republican in a heavily Democratic State Senate. Out of 40 senators – only 8 are Republican. Out of 80 in the Assembly – only 18 are Republicans. Need 41 votes in the senate to pass a bill. Have to carefully choose which legislation to work on that can be influenced by the minority. Some of her issues: public safety/law enforcement/housing/human services/working both sides of the isle as best can. Incarcerating people that should be getting mental health services. Need an audit on how spending \$24B on homeless – need accountability. Budget: \$1B reduction for housing. Where do the homeless encampments go when removed? Health care in dire situation. Can let its revenue go into the Gen. Fund. Wants to learn a lot more about her district.

Code Enforcement Paul Klinessmith the new area supervisor. Huge area from here to the state line. LV alone has 356 cases. Got vehicles/boats/old motorhomes removed along LV roads and worked with SCE for stuff in its right of way. Part of SB County Land Use Services Dept. Covers Off-Highway Vehicles also.

SGT Weinberg said goodbye after 4 years. He has done a great job for us and will be missed.

Congressman Obernolte by Hayden Bartz. Helping Living Donors Act, Fusion Energy Act, both passed. He got amendment into Dept of Interior 2025 budget to stop EPA from issuing waiver to State of CA that would allow the elimination of diesel locomotives – requiring all electric – which now allows BNSF's major logistic project west of Barstow to proceed w/o requiring electric locomotives which don't exist and wouldn't work anyway.

Senator Grove by Octavius Scott. Since we have no official state senator until the next election, Senator Grove will help with any issues that come up. Octavius Scott is her local representative.

LVUSD. Peter Livingston made a few remarks in the high speed ending to the packed meeting. School starting next week – staff ready – the district is in great shape.

LV Museum by Chelsea LaGrange. Nothing new to report.

Big Bear Health Van. Ryan Orr. Bear Valley community health care district. Hopes to bring the medical van down soon so we can see it.

Chuck Bell honored on his pending birthday. Certificates of appreciation presented by Senator Rosalicia Ochoa Bogh, Assemblyman Tom Lackey, and Supervisor Dawn Rowe. Well deserved, but he's not retiring. He thanked all our elected reps. and attendees for helping to make LVEDA function and worth the effort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Angie Miller -- Would have talked about fireworks and parade but time ran out. Angie voted "Woman of the Year.

Adjourned 6:59

Important links:

Code Enforcement can be reached at (760)995-8140; Fax (760)995-8170

codeenforcementdivision@lus.sbcounty.gov.

Sheriff Shannon Dicus is on Facebook and X (Twitter). You can subscribe to his email News Brief at the SB County website www.sbcounty.gov.

Website for Concealed Carry information: www.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ccw.