

CITIZENS COMMENTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Aubrey Murdock

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My name is Aubrey Murdock,
I live at 540 Liberty St.

I would like to submit a question regarding "Resolution 479-2021 Central Valley Redevelopment Continuation": What has precipitated this resolution and the possible review of this redevelopment plan by the planning board? What do the council and business administrator think the advantages or disadvantages are for a continuation of this plan as it stands (as an Area in Need of Redevelopment with Condemnation Plan)? Thank you for your consideration.

Is the city currently involved in any lawsuit concerning any of the Area in Need of Redevelopment **with Condemnation** Plans? If so, which areas? Are these lawsuits ongoing?

Daniel Joseph Wiley

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My name is Daniel Joseph Wiley, Managing Director of The HUUB, located at 35-47 Cleveland Street. As an organization, property owner, and social justice advocate in the City, we would like to submit the following questions & suggestions for the Council:

- 1) With residents recovering from the economic impacts of Covid-19, and many still facing threats of eviction, foreclosure, insurmountable debt, and either new or growing housing insecurities, what is the City of Orange planning to ensure that residents are protected once moratoriums and other protections are lifted by the State in 2022?
- 2) As new developments with density come into the city (one of them proposed for Cleveland St.), when will we see policy for renters that:
 - Creates affordable options for renters in new developments
 - Protects renters from unlawful evictions
 - Does not create clusters or pockets of both wealthy and indigent housing
 - Ensures affordable quality housing for renting families
- 3) As homeowners face some of the hardest decisions to make because of foreclosure threats and growing utility debts, how will the City be looking to protect homeowners?

When the time is right, and we believe that time is now, the following suggestions would like to be discussed:

- 1) Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance that creates opportunities for families and individuals seeking new affordable housing options that are attached to new housing developments that are built with density, and are granted special permission(s) from the planning/zoning boards.

- 2) A stronger rent control ordinance that does not grant rent increases without substantial capital improvements to units or common spaces, and also does reward landlords with profits when there are *any* code violations at the property.
- 3) A Right to Counsel Program that gives free access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction in landlord and tenant court.
- 4) The HUUB would like to be involved in any discussions about policy that protects the most vulnerable residents, but also creates new opportunities for the entire City of Orange. The last 20 months have been a collective suffering, and the pandemic continues to create unfortunate circumstances in our state, and our black and brown communities are, unfortunately, still the last to find help in the right direction. Now is the time to plan for a future in Orange that is based on recovery and revitalization, and must include all residents in the process.

Jeffrey Feld

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OPEN NOVEMBER 3, 2021 QUESTIONS

1. Why the delay in holding a mandatory noticed CY 2021 Best Practices Inventory Response Public Hearing pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2021-17 (Sept. 29, 2021)?
2. What is the status of CY 2021 Best Practices Inventory Response?
3. What is the status of the CY 2020 Audit?
4. What is the status of monthly and quarterly operating and revenue reports prepared under the direction of Orange's Finance Director?
5. What legislative oversight steps has the local governing body taken to combat the low hanging fruit public corruption allegations contained in Ted Sherman's Oct. 31, 2021 Sunday Star Ledger Front Page Article?
6. With the publication of Ted Sherman's front page blistering public corruption expose of Orange, will the local governing body authorize the retention of independent special outside counsel with redevelopment/long term tax exemption/low income housing tax credit law expertise and competence to investigate the public corruption allegations contained in all my Feld related complaints, including pending Remanded Feld X, Feld XIX and Feld XX?
7. Or, will the local governing body continue to act as ostriches burying their heads in the sand while exposing their backsides to their enemies?
8. Who was Orange's Qualified Purchasing Agent when these low-hanging fruit public corruption allegations occurred?
9. Before Orange's new BA arrived in August 2016 shortly after the July 2016 federal raid of the Orange public library, who had access to Mr. Mapp's signature stamp?
10. After our BA's arrival in August 2016, what payment approval reforms did he institute?
11. Does the local governing body have the authority to remove any Director after providing appropriate due process notice and an opportunity to be heard?
12. When will I receive a written response to all my prior outstanding and pending repetitive questions of public interest and importance?

FIRST READING

13. Why the delay in adopting the civilian public safety director reform Ord.58-2021 proposed by the BA years ago?

14. If we eliminate the civilian fire director position, why hasn't Orange also eliminated the civilian police director position held by the mayor's brother?
15. What are the anticipated cost savings arising from the elimination of the civilian fire director position?
16. Who were the retained professional planners who improperly omitted this preexisting use from the original and amended Central Valley Redevelopment Plans?
17. Based upon a federal guilty plea, why hasn't Orange severed its relationship with its current municipal planner?

RESOLUTIONS

18. With respect to the \$565,000 intra-line item CY 2021 appropriation transfer Res. 475-2021, what unforeseen events caused the need to transfer additional monies to administration O & E (\$100,000), other liability insurance (\$70,000) and workers' compensation (\$332,000) line items?
19. With respect to the \$1,787,396.15 NJDOT Road Work Grant Application Res. 476-2021, what is the total projected cost of this Pennoni Associates supervised nine street project?
20. How does Orange anticipate paying the differences between the total cost of this nine street roadwork project and the amount of the NJDOT grant?
21. Does Orange's current capital budget include this nine street roadwork project?
22. Why the emergent Res. 479-2021 need to amend the Central Orange Redevelopment Plan to include extraordinary condemnation powers?
23. What specific properties will be subject to extraordinary condemnation powers?
24. Who were the professional planners who originally excluded the threat of condemnation from the original and amended Central Orange Redevelopment Plans?
25. Who is monitoring the progress of the two consolidated prerogative writ redevelopment plan with condemnation powers actions involving Orange Commons SG LLC, including whether discovery is permitted in a prerogative writ action challenging the validity of a discretionary municipal ordinance not subject to referendum challenge? See, ESX-L-8692-20; ESX-L-1395-21.
26. Why does Orange continue to retain a certain law firm with no redevelopment law expertise to defend Orange?
27. Is there a substantive and procedural distinction between a prerogative writ involving the validity of a discretionary municipal legislative action and the validity of a quasi-judicial land use board decision?
28. How is the four year \$2,598,397.35 Johnson Communications police eyes in the sky project Res. 480-2021 being funded?
29. Is this a capital type project that must be included in an amended capital budget?
30. Can a local governing body contractually bind a municipality for more than one year by resolution?
31. Was an availability of funds certificate attached to Res. 480-2021?
32. With respect to the \$11,931,334 Bill List Res. 481-2021, why the delay in paying CY 2021 Third and Fourth Quarter Taxes to the local school district? Cf: BOE PO 21-0005, County PO 21-0006).
33. With respect to the \$11,931,334 Bill List, when will October 2021 S & W be presented to the local governing body for approval?

34. With respect to the \$11,931,334 Bill List, how much has Orange paid its special outside budget consultant for additional special management advisory services? See, Aug PO 21-00031; Sept. PO 21-00534
35. What additional special management advisory services were provided by Orange's special outside consultant to Orange? See, Aug PO 21-00031; Sept. PO 21-00534
36. Why couldn't in-house finance department employees provide these additional special management advisory services to Orange?
37. How many other outside part time gigs funded by taxpayers' trust fund monies, does Orange's full time finance director hold?
38. With respect to the two litigation settlement Res. 488- & 490-2021, how much did Orange pay defending these actions?
39. What were the sources of funding these defenses and settlements?
40. With respect to the \$150,000 special outside labor counsel cap increase change order Res. 489-2021, why the delay in processing this \$150,000 special outside labor counsel cap increase change order resolution?
41. Who is responsible internally for monitoring compliance with the original annual retention caps?
42. Does special outside labor counsel have any other employment relationship with any city employee in any other municipality, such as Irvington?

October 2021 OPRA Report

43. Of the 20 outstanding October 2021 OPRA requests, who are the requestors and who are the delinquent departments?
44. How many other CY 2021 OPRA requests remain open and outstanding?