

eComments Report for City Council Meeting Agenda of August 25, 2020

Item	Name	E-mail	Street	Neighborhood	City	State	Zip	Comment	Received
SPECIAL MEETING	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						Again, I ask why there is still no video City Council meetings when most cities are already doing it... I was told the mayor has to approve it. We need an open Democratic process.	8/24/2020
CITY COUNCIL MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						Why are we the only city in the area not to have video City Council meetings? We need an open Democratic process. if the DNC used Zoom or Citrix Mtg for the convention, you can use it for City Council mtgs.	8/24/2020
2. (20-0782) Recommendation to receive supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, and find the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article 12.5, Section 15194; and Adopt ordinance approving a zoning change from Regional Highway Commercial (CHW) to Community R-4-N Commercial (CCN), for the properties addressed as 901-945 East Pacific Coast Highway (APN's 7210-013-026, 023, 900, and 901). (District 6)	Sandra Kroll	sdkroll10@gmail.com						This is such a good project for this corner. Not only will it add some badly needed housing for a population that should NEVER be unhoused - our seniors - but it will add value to the entire area, and possibly encourage others to update and beautify their properties.	8/25/2020

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2. (20-0782) Recommendation to receive supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, and find the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article 12.5, Section 15194; and Adopt ordinance approving a zoning change from Regional Highway Commercial (CHW) to Community R-4-N Commercial (CCN), for the properties addressed as 901-945 East Pacific Coast Highway (APN's 7210-013-026, 023, 900, and 901). (District 6)	Elsa Tung	elsa.m.tung@gmail.com						As an active District 7 resident and affordable housing advocate, I write in strong support of this senior affordable housing project. There is an acute need for housing for seniors with limited incomes and senior veterans who have experienced homelessness in Long Beach. According to the 2020 Long Beach homeless count, senior homelessness increased by 13% from 2019. According to the City of Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults, the percentage of seniors living below the poverty line is expected to increase from 18% in 2020 to 23% by 2025. It is crucial that housing for seniors with limited incomes is built to address this growing need. This neighborhood is ideal for senior housing. Residents will have access to high quality bus service outside their front door with service across Long Beach. There are parks, medical clinics, senior educational services at Long Beach City College all within one-half mile of site. I urge your support for this critical project!	8/24/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Linda Spery	lindasper@gmail.com						Dear Mayor and Council, Now that the e-scooter program has been relaunched, our City's pedestrians are once again at risk of being mowed down by packs of e-scooter riders. This is especially evident on Ocean Blvd. sidewalks in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd districts. Your regulations clearly state that sidewalk riding is not permitted and you as a Council have reiterated this regulation numerous times in meetings. Idle promises have been made by the e-scooter contractors to keep their riders off the sidewalks. What are your plans for enforcement to prevent accidents, lawsuits and ADA violation citations just waiting to happen?	8/24/2020

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PUBLIC COMMENT:	Kellie Canning	kelliecanning@gmail.com						<p>Non-Agenda Item: Last week's vote to approve Public Works request of \$3.4 million dollars for six months of work paid to West Coast Arborists (WCA), is shocking in its cost and irresponsibility. WCA and Long Beach Public Works (LBPW) are pending monetary penalties for violations made on May 6th, 2020, for breaking Federal, State and Local laws. WCA breached too many contract stipulations to enumerate. To award an extension to a Co-Violator that is seven times larger than the previous 6 months and accounts for 15% of our \$25M+City deficit verges on criminal. One of the stipulations in WCA's contract is "compliance with the laws" (pg. 27 #30) for which they may be terminated. Terminate WCA. \$3.4M to support 15 City employees, as noted by Eric Lopez, is a pathetic use of the pandemic to justify this bloated program by a department negligent in its duties to manage itself, its contractor, its responsibility to us, the environment, and the laws. Request Council rescind Co# 34265- \$3.4M ext.</p>	8/24/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Marianne Cole	celticelle@yahoo.com						<p>I am horrified that the Long Beach Public Works Dept. chose to renew a tree trimming contract with West Coast Arborists, the company who was illegally trimming trees during bird nesting season and killing fledgling herons. Did the city of Long Beach ever make the amends that they were supposed to according to the ruling of the Coastal Commission? Or do you continue to thumb your nose at every attempt to get you to comply with environmental regulations? This is one of the most corrupt city governments now. I have very little respect for anything that you do. Total bought and sold politicians, the mayor and all city council members, to developers and other political bartering and cronyism. You should be ashamed of yourselves. I wish we could turn you all out at election time.</p>	8/24/2020
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						<p>We have a litter crisis in Long Beach. We need a task force to address why people are littering in the city and ways to address it.</p>	8/24/2020

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5. (20-0677) Recommendation to request that the Special Order issued on January 16, 2020 become a permanent policy change for the Long Beach Police Department.	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						Agree with this. Ban the chokehold. We also need to dismantle the CPCC and have a true oversight commission. The city also needs to have a task force with BLM members and police officers.	8/24/2020
6. (20-0786) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Clean Power Alliance on Community Choice Aggregation.	Sona Coffee	sonacoffee@gmail.com						The Clean Power Alliance (CPA) is a viable Community Choice Energy entity in the Los Angeles area, and the largest CCA in the country, with approximately one million customers. CPA has shown that it is able to successfully accumulate financial reserves, and build an energy portfolio that meets California's renewable energy mandates 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline. I urge the City of Long Beach to submit a Letter of Interest to CPA, so CPA can assess whether the addition of Long Beach to its electricity service is beneficial. The City can consider other governance options while CPA is completing this assessment, and should do so in a timely manner in order to make a decision on whether to join CPA or file an Implementation Plan for a stand-alone program in Long Beach by December 31, 2020. Now is the time for Long Beach to take action on this issue and move our community into the clean energy future, instead of waiting another two years before making any decisions.	8/25/2020
6. (20-0786) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Clean Power Alliance on Community Choice Aggregation.	Paul Klapka	paul.klapka@gmail.com						When a city chooses a CCA, state law dictates that all residents are signed up for that CCA unless they affirmatively "opt-out" to remain with their utility. I have a second home in Palm Springs where they recently joined a CCA. My Palm Springs neighbors were confused and angry about having their electricity provider switched without their consent. How will the city and CPA ensure the same confusion and anger will not happen with Long Beach residents if the city chooses the CCA?	8/25/2020

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6. (20-0786) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Clean Power Alliance on Community Choice Aggregation.	Gabrielle Weeks	gabrielleweeks@gmail.com						As stated in the agenda report, the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has established itself as a highly effective and successful Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) entity in CA. To avoid missing another year of opportunity to provide our residents with local choice, cleaner energy and job creation, the City Council should direct staff to submit a letter of interest to CPA, giving you the flexibility to join CPA, or if the feasibility study determines it is a better choice, create your own CCA.	8/24/2020
6. (20-0786) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Clean Power Alliance on Community Choice Aggregation.	Coby Skye	cobster@charter.net						As detailed in the agenda report, the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has established itself as a highly effective and successful Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) entity in CA. To avoid missing another year of opportunity to provide our residents with local choice, cleaner energy and job creation, the City Council should direct staff to submit a letter of interest to CPA, giving you the flexibility to join CPA, or if the feasibility study determines it is a better choice, create your own CCA.	8/23/2020

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7. (20-0608) Recommendation to request City Council to endorse the CAAP to include a resilient jobs program; consider the CCA initiative; and include a construction career policy with the CAAP that ensures there are job standards for people who are impacted more with the air quality in their area.	Sona Coffee	sonacoffee@gmail.com						The City of Long Beach has made several statements surrounding climate action, and has begun a serious endeavor to plan for the community's climate future. Now we need to act on these plans and put in place a CAAP that contributes to an equitable and resilient recovery in Long Beach. We realize there is a connection between a climate plan that has a strong green jobs component, and a Community Choice Energy program that can direct revenues towards disadvantaged communities. Understanding that we are in an economic crisis as well, and that there is a critical need to create jobs in clean energy and climate-friendly sectors, we recommended that the City Council expedite the timeframe to endorse the CAAP, and include a resilient jobs program and a construction career policy with the CAAP that ensures there are job standards for those living in impacted areas, and consider including the CCA initiative in order to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions.	8/25/2020
7. (20-0608) Recommendation to request City Council to endorse the CAAP to include a resilient jobs program; consider the CCA initiative; and include a construction career policy with the CAAP that ensures there are job standards for people who are impacted more with the air quality in their area.	Patricia Chen	patriciachill88@gmail.com						I support Agenda Item 7. The only way for the CAAP to work is if it is win-win. The people who are struggling to make ends meet in Long Beach should be able to work for and be part of the solution instead of being completely ruined by climate problems and dramatic economic changes.	8/24/2020

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7. (20-0608) Recommendation to request City Council to endorse the CAAP to include a resilient jobs program; consider the CCA initiative; and include a construction career policy with the CAAP that ensures there are job standards for people who are impacted more with the air quality in their area.	Gabrielle Weeks	gabrielleweeks@gmail.com						Addressing climate change - both taking action, and adapting to unavoidable changes - is an existential necessity for Long Beach's future. Development of the CAAP was a long, rigorous and inclusive process, resulting in a meaningful plan presented to the City Council for action. I urge the Council to not just endorse the CAAP, but direct all City Departments to commit to making climate action and adaptation a priority. Such action must be guided by science and prioritize the most significant sources of climate pollution (and air pollution in general) first - namely fossil fuel extraction, transportation, and energy. Long Beach must transition away from unsustainable fossil fuels entirely in our transportation, our energy systems and allowing extraction of fossil fuels in our City.	8/24/2020
7. (20-0608) Recommendation to request City Council to endorse the CAAP to include a resilient jobs program; consider the CCA initiative; and include a construction career policy with the CAAP that ensures there are job standards for people who are impacted more with the air quality in their area.	Coby Skye	cobster@charter.net						It is not hyperbole to say that addressing climate change - both taking action, and adapting to unavoidable changes - is an existential necessity for Long Beach's future. Development of the CAAP was a rigorous and inclusive process, resulting in a meaningful plan presented to the City Council for action. I urge the Council to not just endorse the CAAP, but direct all City Departments to commit to making climate action and adaptation a priority. Such action must be guided by science and prioritize the most significant sources of climate pollution (and air pollution in general) first - namely fossil fuel extraction, transportation, and energy. Long Beach must transition away from unsustainable fossil fuels entirely in our transportation, our energy systems and allowing extraction of fossil fuels in our City.	8/23/2020

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8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Michelle Lewis	speedygirl12345@yahoo.com						Members of the Council, my name is Michelle Lewis, and I'm a life long resident of District 2. We are currently in a climate crisis exasperated by the burning of fossil fuel for energy of all forms. We need to act now as a city to expedite our shift to clean electricity and adopt the community choice aggregation model many cities across the state already participate in. Ensuring local clean energy jobs is an important factor in shifting toward a greener economy, and local control of energy procurement will allow for that. The process toward implementation will take additional time with the CPUC, so it's important that we start that now rather than delaying such necessary actions toward achieving our climate goals.	8/25/2020
8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Kirk Davis	mooncoimprovements@yahoo.com						How do you reconcile environmental racism without addressing the pollution spewing refineries, the Port, and freeways next to the communities being most affected? There must be money for the taking in here somewhere for the Council to grab. Just tell us the truth. Long Beach's Downtown, North, and West areas are near or above the 90th percentile in the State of California for air pollution. Citing environmental concerns over electricity generation when so many other pollution issues exist in the city is farcical. Is there a proposal to close all of the power stations in Long Beach if the city joins CPA, or creates a CCA? What is the real long term strategy to lessen pollution and eliminate sources affecting climate change? If Edison is still supplying the electricity, and is committed to renewable energy, what is the real advantage? I am not in favor of this agenda item.	8/25/2020

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8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Patricia Chen	patriciachill88@gmail.com						As the Facilitator of the Green Team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach (UUCLB), I am writing to express our Team's wholehearted support of Community Choice Aggregation as a way to accelerate the transition to 100% renewable energy. The Green Team's mission is to educate members and friends of the UUCLB about the moral imperative imposed by climate change. It inspires our congregation and the wider community to take actions that honor and sustain the Earth for future generations. Implementing CCA in Long Beach as soon as possible is just such an action. We urge a yes vote.	8/24/2020
8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Gabrielle Weeks	gabrielleweeks@gmail.com						Long Beach has literally been studying Community Choice Energy (CCE) for years, seeing 19 CCE programs develop and grow in CA while we continue to study the issue. CCE has proven and very important benefits, including local job creation, greater choice for our residents, potential utility savings, and boosting renewable energy. Critically, meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals becomes far more difficult without it. Long Beach should join the largest and most stable CCE program in CA, the Clean Power Alliance. Stop dragging our heels. We've been repeatedly told by CPA staff that if we don't like it we can leave, yet no other city or county has. I strongly urge the City Council to direct staff to join the CPA now.	8/24/2020

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8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Vic Quach	vquach12@gmail.com						Dear Mayor Garcia and City Council, I am writing in support of Agenda Item 8. We need to join the Clean Power Alliance more than anything. We have surpassed Earth's overshoot day, which marks the date when humanity has exhausted nature's resources for the year. From now on, everything we consume is being taken from our future. The city can not claim to be a green city when it continues to rely on the burning of fossil fuels, while other cities like Santa Monica and Ventura County have already switched to this sustainable plan. Joining Clean Power Alliance is the easiest way to transition our city to a clean energy system and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is clear that Long Beach has a long way to go in terms of sustainability, joining CPA is one step closer to a sustainable city. I demand that LB City Council support Agenda Item 8 and file an implementation plan by the end of the year. Your new agenda everyday should be how to protect the future of Long Beach and its youth.	8/24/2020
8. (20-0682) Recommendation to request City Council to create a CCA or join the Clean Power Alliance, and file an implementation plan by the end of the year.	Coby Skye	cobster@charter.net						Long Beach has now been studying Community Choice Energy (CCE) for years, seeing 19 CCE programs develop and grow in CA while we continue to study the issue. CCE has proven and very important benefits, including local job creation, greater choice for our residents, potential utility savings, and boosting renewable energy. Critically, meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals becomes far more difficult without it. Long Beach has 3 great options to move forward - create our very own CCE program, use a template system like the one offered by Lancaster Choice Energy's incredibly successful system, or join the largest and most stable CCE program in CA, the Clean Power Alliance. There is simply no reason for further delay. I strongly urge the City Council to direct staff to proceed in studying these 3 options and returning with a solid recommendation for action this year.	8/23/2020

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9. (20-0810) Recommendation to amend Employment Agreement No. 35514 with Thomas B. Modica, City Manager, to permit him to voluntarily participate in a work furlough program on the same terms and conditions as those applied to other City employees, through negotiation with represented employee associations for Fiscal Year 2021, for a total of 26 furlough days, beginning with the pay period of September 26, 2020. (Citywide)	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						All employees making \$100,000 or more should take a 5% salary reduction, including the mayor.	8/24/2020
10. (20-0790) Recommendation to Receive and file a report on the feasibility of a Long Beach Community Choice Aggregation (CCA); Defer for two years any decision whether to participate in a CCA, or possibly sooner if new information becomes available solidifying benefits, to allow for increased stability in the California electricity market and reduce potential risk to residents and businesses; Direct City Manager to perform community outreach regarding the CCA concept along with potential benefits and risks to customers, as well as to gain feedback on how supportive the community might be of a Long Beach CCA; Direct City Manager to prepare a study that analyzes CCA governance options including forming a stand-alone City enterprise, creating a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with another interested public agency, or joining an existing JPA; Direct City Manager to continue to monitor the energy market and related regulations and report to the City Council annually or sooner if substantial market changes occur; and Direct City Manager to continue the City's partnership with Southern California Edison to raise awareness of existing programs that provide Long Beach residents and businesses with various options to purchase a	Sona Coffee	sonacoffee@gmail.com						Following years of review and advocacy for Community Choice Energy in Long Beach, I urge the City Council to take the next step forward on CCE and not delay this review another two years. Long Beach can consider its options in the next two months. Several options provide significant potential for community benefits to Long Beach and the region, and offer choice over our energy sources to the residents, business, and City. It is in the best interest of Long Beach to file a letter of interest with CPA, review the governance options available, and report back to City Council with the intent of filing a plan, or joining an existing program by year end.	8/25/2020

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<p>10. (20-0790) Recommendation to Receive and file a report on the feasibility of a Long Beach Community Choice Aggregation (CCA);</p> <p>Defer for two years any decision whether to participate in a CCA, or possibly sooner if new information becomes available solidifying benefits, to allow for increased stability in the California electricity market and reduce potential risk to residents and businesses;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to perform community outreach regarding the CCA concept along with potential benefits and risks to customers, as well as to gain feedback on how supportive the community might be of a Long Beach CCA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to prepare a study that analyzes CCA governance options including forming a stand-alone City enterprise, creating a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with another interested public agency, or joining an existing JPA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue to monitor the energy market and related regulations and report to the City Council annually or sooner if substantial market changes occur; and</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue the City's partnership with Southern California Edison to raise awareness of existing programs that provide Long Beach residents and businesses with various options to purchase a</p>	Ann Garth	anngarth8@gmail.com						<p>I strongly support increasing the use of renewable energy within Long Beach, even at significant financial expense. I recognize that the 60% RPS applies to both SCE and the CCA, but I hope Long Beach can lead the way towards higher-than-60% renewable energy use. I urge the City Council to strongly consider a CCA in a year or two, and if the financial costs are not prohibitive and the increase in renewable energy use is significant, to adopt a CCA.</p>	8/24/2020

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<p>10. (20-0790) Recommendation to Receive and file a report on the feasibility of a Long Beach Community Choice Aggregation (CCA);</p> <p>Defer for two years any decision whether to participate in a CCA, or possibly sooner if new information becomes available solidifying benefits, to allow for increased stability in the California electricity market and reduce potential risk to residents and businesses;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to perform community outreach regarding the CCA concept along with potential benefits and risks to customers, as well as to gain feedback on how supportive the community might be of a Long Beach CCA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to prepare a study that analyzes CCA governance options including forming a stand-alone City enterprise, creating a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with another interested public agency, or joining an existing JPA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue to monitor the energy market and related regulations and report to the City Council annually or sooner if substantial market changes occur; and</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue the City's partnership with Southern California Edison to raise awareness of existing programs that provide Long Beach residents and businesses with various options to purchase a</p>	Jackie Velez	jvrtst@yahoo.com						<p>Upon review of this Agenda Item 10, I agree with the suggestion to table this until there are sufficient resources and a better understanding of the implementation of a CCA. It seems to me that a CCA is a middle-man to oversee the buying of utility power which adds another cost to the customer. How and where is the renewable/green energy being generated, purchased and method of delivery? if it is not local, then is that cost of delivery factored in? The feasibility study would hopefully help to determine answers to these questions, but in light of budget shortfalls this year and more cost cutting, I believe this is not the time to pursue.</p>	8/24/2020

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<p>10. (20-0790) Recommendation to Receive and file a report on the feasibility of a Long Beach Community Choice Aggregation (CCA);</p> <p>Defer for two years any decision whether to participate in a CCA, or possibly sooner if new information becomes available solidifying benefits, to allow for increased stability in the California electricity market and reduce potential risk to residents and businesses;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to perform community outreach regarding the CCA concept along with potential benefits and risks to customers, as well as to gain feedback on how supportive the community might be of a Long Beach CCA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to prepare a study that analyzes CCA governance options including forming a stand-alone City enterprise, creating a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with another interested public agency, or joining an existing JPA;</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue to monitor the energy market and related regulations and report to the City Council annually or sooner if substantial market changes occur; and</p> <p>Direct City Manager to continue the City's partnership with Southern California Edison to raise awareness of existing programs that provide Long Beach residents and businesses with various options to purchase a</p>	Maureen Neeley	neeleym@att.net						<p>I would urge Council to delay any decision on participating in/using a CCA for our City's energy. The CPUC has already directed the State's utilities to migrate to cleaner energy and allow for open market purchase; let's keep that momentum going without obligating our City and staff to overseeing an entire energy program. We do not have the expertise, and the benefits for residents are just not there. Please follow staff's recommendation to: "Direct City Manager to continue the City's partnership with Southern California Edison to raise awareness of existing programs that provide Long Beach residents and businesses with various options to purchase a greater mix of renewables and utilize energy more efficiently."</p>	8/24/2020
<p>11. (20-0811) Recommendation to adopt resolution approving Memoranda of Understanding with the Long Beach Lifeguards Association, Long Beach Management Association, Association of Confidential Employees, City Prosecutors Association, and City Attorneys Association. (Citywide)</p>	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com						<p>The lifeguards need to be more proactive at the beach. They need to help with the homeless on the beach and stop relying on the police for everything.</p>	8/24/2020

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NEW BUSINESS:	Leslie Davis	leslielkd@gmail.com						Military-Grade Explosives on the streets of Long Beach. Recommendation: That this no longer be classified as a misdemeanor along with illegal fireworks, that has not worked or solved the problem in 2 decades, but instead be classified according to the below-cited penal code that states: "Penal Code 18720 PC is the California law that makes it a felony to possess materials necessary to make a destructive device. A destructive device is a bomb or other explosive device" and that it be prosecuted as such. We additionally recommend that a dedicated hotline for reporting these incidents be immediately established, separate from the police scanner, so that police can actually catch the perpetrators in the act.	8/24/2020