



April 2024 Newsletter

April Meeting Reminder - Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Please join us TOMORROW, **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** for our monthly meeting! Below is our Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks from President Eric Rudin;
2. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2024 CCDU Meeting;
3. Report from Treasurer Judy Scott;
4. Report from VP of Membership Ron Ostrin;
5. Special Guests: **Ray Long**, President, Culver City Federation of Teachers; **Debbie Hamme**, President, Association of Classified Employees
6. Items from the Floor;
7. Adjournment.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86858894560?pwd=SmZhd3MzRIJ2cGJ2aHFESldSNkxXZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5889 4560

Passcode: 626064

Zoom Waiting Room is opened at 6:45 pm on meeting nights, Waiting room is accepted into the meeting at 7:00 pm.

April President's Message

WE CANNOT TOLERATE AGE DISCRIMINATION

Dear Fellow Culver City Democrats United Members and Supporters,

Regarding discrimination, here in **California**, it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex/gender, gender identify/gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, request for family care leave, request for leave for an employee's own serious health condition, request for pregnancy disability leave, retaliation for reporting patient abuse in tax-supported institutions, and age (over 40). In last month's brilliant **State of the Union address**, President Biden raised the issue of age and said, "let's all agree once again to stand up for seniors."

However, in Culver City, far too often age discrimination is treated as though it either is socially acceptable or does not exist. Let me be clear, age discrimination is not a uniquely Culver City problem; but, that does not mean we should tolerate it. Some of you may be thinking, "What is Eric talking about?" Others of you know exactly what I am talking about because you have experienced age discrimination and/or witnessed it. For those unaware, I will provide some background.

The first time that I realized how much of a problem age discrimination is in Culver City came during a **May 25, 2022 Planning Commission meeting**. The item on the agenda was, "Comprehensive revisions to zoning code requirements and standards relating to required off-street parking citywide." In discussing a survey on parking minimums and maximums, I was shocked to hear Commissioner Jen Carter say, "I don't think the survey was helpful. People are claiming it reflects the people of Culver City. It doesn't. It reflects the view of people who took the survey, a very small amount, most who are over 50." Quite ironically, the very next sentence she uttered was, "And, I feel like this is a moral issue."

Now, I would like you to go back to Commissioner Carter's first statement, replace "who are over 50" with any other member of a protected class in California, and see how that sentence reads. Commissioner Carter then went on to cite a different survey, which cited the preferences of younger people. She eventually conceded that some existing parking could be changed into parking for people with disabilities and the elderly because, "[w]e can be fair there."

Not to be outdone, Vice Chair and now City Council Candidate Nancy Barba said, “We are all members of this community if we work, or go to school here, or live here” and “The fact that we’re ‘othering’ people that people are suggesting are not members of this community is completely the wrong take. I really want to invite everyone to give all of our community members the benefit of the doubt that we’re all here to make a better community.” Then, not two minutes later, she said, “These surveys, not only are they not representative but it’s problematic that it sways to a larger, older segment of the population which also correlates with housing and building owners in the community. So all of that discredits the survey in my mind. That’s not who we need to be thinking about here.” So much for not “othering” people. Apparently, City Council Candidate Barba finds it acceptable to dismiss a survey because the respondents were older than she would like.

On a related issue, Move Culver City has also had a discriminatory impact on older people who have difficulties with mobility (and many people with disabilities, but that is for another day). According to the **Move Culver City Assessment Issues Survey**, “[m]en ages 18-49 are the core supporters of Move Culver City; residents ages 50 and older oppose the project regardless of gender.” Of people 50-years-old and older, 72% of women and 73% of men surveyed stated that Move Culver City had a “Total Negative Impact” on their day-to-day lives.

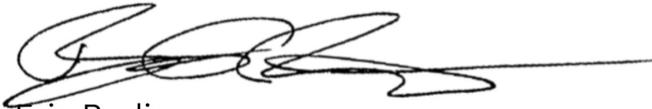
Notwithstanding the above, many influential people in Culver City refuse to even discuss amending Move Culver City. Those powerful voices cite the environment as their reason, with a large group going so far as to **file a lawsuit** to keep Move Culver City as is. While, of course, we must vigorously fight against climate change, deals **like this** from Governor Newsom combat climate change. Move Culver City as it exists today is not the answer. In sum, a project most appealable to men aged 18 to 49 is being vigorously defended by people claiming to stand for equity despite the negative impact on the day-to-day lives of people aged 50 and older.

In thinking about age discrimination, I was reminded again about President Biden. As you likely are aware, President Biden is being told by numerous media personalities and citizens alike that he is “too old” to be our President for a second term. President Biden, at age 81, despite the fact that he is in the midst of a **tremendously productive Presidency**, is not being treated as such because it seems he is too old to run against 77-year-old wannabe dictator, Donald Trump.

Today, here in Culver City, we must agree that discrimination based on age, along with all forms of discrimination, is unacceptable. And remember, as President Biden said, “the issue facing our nation isn’t how old we are; it’s how old are our ideas.” Let

us follow President Biden's lead and continue to make Culver City a welcoming city for **all** of those in our community.

Best Regards,



Eric Rudin
Culver City Democrats United President

[New Membership Link](#)

CCDU



Est. 2023

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