

**MINUTES  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
OF THE SAN MARINO CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 26, 2017 - 8:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Richard Sun called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**           **PRESENT:** Councilman Huang, Councilman Talt, Councilman Yung, Vice Mayor Ward, and Mayor Sun

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**1.    RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RESPONSE TO HIGH BLOOD LEVELS OF LEAD IN SAN MARINO CHILDREN AND TAKING AND ACTIONS RELATED THERETO DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

Interim City Manager Cindy Collins introduced Dr. Cyrus Rangan, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.M.T, Director of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, and Maurice Pantoja, Environmental Services Manager from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Dr. Rangan presented information on the recent data regarding the high blood levels of lead that were found in 17% of the children under 6 tested and living within two census tracts in San Marino, which is above the Centers for Disease Control reference level of 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter. Dr. Rangan referenced the 2015 data set from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that was based on data collected by the County between 2011 and 2015. Dr. Rangan stated that the elevated levels of lead was not the same as lead poisoning. He explained the lead testing process and the follow-up actions required by the State and County to address elevated blood levels of lead. Dr. Rangan also noted that only two readings of the 163 tests between 2011 and 2015 measured above 6: a 6.0 in 2011 and a 6.8 in 2013.

Mr. Pantoja explained that the County's reporting method is such that any measurement above zero is listed as a "5 or below," even if the actual number is just 2 or 1, and that San Marino's 17% number included all of the 5 or below readings.

Councilman Steve Talt asked what the common causes of lead in the environment were.

Dr. Rangan stated that lead paint is the primary source of elevated blood levels of lead.

Councilman Steve Talt inquired what people could do to protect themselves from lead exposure.

Dr. Rangan stated that inspection of your home by a certified lead inspector is the key to prevention, especially if you live in an older home and are planning any kind of home renovation.

Mr. Pantoja added that lead paint has been banned in California since 1978.

Councilman Steve Talt inquired as to what were the symptoms of lead poisoning.

Dr. Rangan responded that many times when children have lead in their body they have no symptoms, which is why screening is so important. He recommended that children between ages one and two be tested by their pediatrician.

Councilman Steve Talt asked if the water supply could be a possible cause of high lead levels.

Dr. Rangan responded that the municipal water supply was not a source of high lead levels; however, possible lead contamination can come from old pipes in the home.

Mayor Richard Sun asked why the City of Pasadena had not been listed in the report.

Mr. Pantoja explained that the City of Pasadena has its own health department and performs its own testing.

Mayor Richard Sun asked how long lead remains in the body.

Dr. Rangan responded that lead could be stored in the body for extended periods of time, depending on the source of lead ingestion.

Dr. Rangan stated that the Rueters story is an over simplification, and those numbers should not be used to conclude that San Marino has a lead problem.

Councilman Steven Huang inquired if house painters should take precautions when working on older homes.

Dr. Rangan responded that anyone who is performing sanding and grinding work when painting older homes should take necessary precautions.

Councilman Steven Huang inquired about other factors that have contributed to high lead levels.

Dr. Rangan noted that society's overall lead levels have decreased over the years as a result of no longer being exposed to contributors such as leaded gasoline and lead pencils.

Councilman Allan Yung asked if there was a threshold in which the County would contact the City to inform them of a lead risk.

Dr. Rangan responded that there is no threshold, especially since the numbers are so small. He stated that if a pattern were discovered pertaining to high blood lead levels, then the County would notify the City.

The following person(s) spoke:

Saul Roe, San Marino

C. Joseph Chang, San Marino Unified School District Board President

Shirley Jagels, San Marino

Calvin Lo, San Marino

Michelle Lumley, San Marino

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The San Marino City Council adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

  
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VERONICA RUIZ, CMC  
CITY CLERK