

Active Democrat



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General Meeting – Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Chief of Police Scott Bixby

President's Message:



When most people think of ways to improve public safety, the idea that typically comes to mind is increasing the number of police in our communities.

But as policing as an institution is coming under increased scrutiny in light of widespread media coverage of controversial police shootings of unarmed people, many are questioning the wisdom of hiring more police as the preferred solution to fighting crime. I agree.

In fact, the best crime fighting weapon is to decrease inequality and increase trust in our society. The most equal societies have the least social ills and have the most trust among their citizens, according to a book I have read and recommend, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality is Better for Everyone* by British researchers Kate Pickett and Richard G. Wilkinson. It makes a ton of sense. Give marginalized people access to high quality education, good jobs, better pay, and a generous social safety net, and they won't be so desperate that they turn to crime to survive.

So, a more equal society is a safer society. The more people feel economically safe and secure, the less likely they are to fear their neighbors and want to buy guns for protection. It's no wonder that the United States is the most unequal of the advanced democracies and has the most guns per capita and the highest level of gun violence.

A culture that prizes profits over the well-being of people is ultimately self-defeating. A society that views certain of its members with suspicion and treats them as less than human, rather than as full citizens, is self-defeating. And a country that allows a small number of its population hoard a disproportionate share of the wealth at the expense of the majority population, is self-defeating. These are the ingredients that contribute to a less safe society.

How do we end inequality and make the U.S. a safer country? Changing attitudes and culture is key. First, we should view all our fellow citizens as human beings, with the same right to a dignified well-being as we would have for [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, June 10, 2015
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

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 - Renew your membership!** Please use the form on page 4 or to renew online click "Join/Renew" on our web site.
 - Electronic Newsletter:** Submit your email address to Info@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

[**President** from Page 1] ourselves. Next, we should regard all work as having value and deserving of a just compensation; the labor of the domestic worker is as important as that of the CEO. Then, we should value the public sphere as much as we do the private; our public institutions and our public spaces deserve our support and enough resources to thrive. Next, we must end draconian punishments for petty offenses; leave the quality of life issues for civilians to deal with creatively, and leave our police to handle the truly violent elements. Finally, we must break down the barriers to political participation that keep the less affluent and the less connected away from influencing public policy. America has to practice *real* democracy, not simply preach about it. We have come at a crossroads and we have a choice. If we pay attention to world history, a widening divide between the haves and have-nots only ends in one way, and it's not pretty. Instead, let's take the other path, the one toward broad

societal prosperity, healthier and safer communities.

From the Editor: The Role of Police

It is society as a whole that must determine the proper role and behavior of the police and demand that police policy be consistent with our ideals and sense of justice. We must each strive to ensure the police are not only supported by our community but also that they support a just and equitable application of our laws.

For everyone to have confidence in our system of justice and the rule of law we must be able to rely on the police to keep order and provide protection to citizens. Sociologists note that one of the reasons gangs and drug cartels have so many violent conflicts stems from the fact that they cannot go to the police and the justice system to resolve their disputes. As a result these groups operating outside the law take matters into their own hands

Seeking Submissions

We would like your articles and letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard! Submissions will be published as space allows. Submissions may be edited for length.

The Club's Executive Board reserves the right to determine suitability of submissions for inclusion in the newsletter.

and violence is the inevitable result.

However, it is unfortunately all too common that a police force will be misused to oppress a group or maintain an unjust status quo. I'm sure any of us can recall events in our not too distant past where some police in the U.S. were instruments of oppression instead of justice.

Our community must maintain a dialog with and an oversight of the police to be sure our police fill the proper role.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

The following is a notification to all members who are lapsed and not current for 2015 dues: If you want to vote for the Culver City School Board Candidates at our September General Meeting you must be paid up by August 15, 2015. Please note: This is an official notification from your Membership Chair

The Club sends condolences to Club member Gary Silbiger on the passing of his mother Alice Silbiger who passed away on Thursday May 21, 2015. She leaves behind her son Gary former Culver City Councilmember and Mayor, daughter Harriet Silbiger, daughter-in-law Barbara Honig, grandchildren Tania and Karlo Silbiger, and many other family members.

The club is saddened with the passing of another long time member and former Recording Secretary David Weisman. Our condolences go out to his wife Ruth and family.

2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Sylvia Moore
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

First VP: Khin Khin Gyi
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Second VP: Amy Cherness
SecondVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Recording Secretary:
Patricia Levinson
Secretary@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Stephen Murray
CorrespondanceSec@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Membership Secretary:
Diane Rosenberg
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra
Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

About Our Speaker, Chief Bixby



My family moved to the Culver City area in the early 1960's. I attended Braddock Drive Elementary School, El Rincon Elementary School, Culver City Junior High School, Culver City High School and West Los Angeles Community College where I earned an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice. I later attended National University where I completed my Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.

My first interest in law enforcement was when "Policeman Bill" came to my first grade class. I was so impressed with what I perceived as a bigger than life hero, I decided that is what I wanted to be. I joined Culver City Police Department's Explorer Program in 1974, at the age of 15. I was hired as a Community Service Officer with Culver City in January of 1980 and later that same year promoted to Police Officer. For the next 14 years I was fortunate enough to work uniformed patrol, traffic enforcement, motor officer, investigations and a federal gang/narcotics task force. I

transferred to the Culver City Fire Department for a short period of time in 1987/1988 before returning to my roots at the Police Department.

In 1994 I was promoted to sergeant where I worked patrol, investigations, local narcotics and the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force, (LA IMPACT) a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force. I was promoted to lieutenant in 2000 where I worked in patrol, the Drug Awareness Resistance Education Program, (DARE) LA IMPACT Team Leader, LA IMPACT Deputy Director and Acting Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Culver City. In 2005 I promoted to Captain where I was in charge of the Operations Bureau from 2005 through 2007. From 2007 through 2009 I was in charge of the Traffic Bureau. In December of 2009 I was promoted to Assistant Chief, in charge of the Administration and Investigations Bureau. In April of 2014, I was appointed as the Interim Chief of Police and appointed to the permanent position on August 11, 2014.

Resolution to be Considered

The Executive Board will consider the following resolution submitted by Darryl Cherness:

Whereas, There are currently approximately three (3) million long term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 weeks or longer) living in the United States and approximately 477,000 in California;

Whereas, Employers typically refuse to hire the long term unemployed due to the duration of their unemployment and the fact that the long term unemployed tend to be older than the general workforce; and

Whereas, the crisis of the long term unemployed must be addressed on an immediate basis due to the fact that the older long term unemployed are faced with the prospect of depleting their life savings and losing their homes;

Resolved, That the Culver City Democratic Club (the Club) supports the establishment of a program in which the State of California becomes the employer of last resort for the long term unemployed, and such program provides at least one (1) year of employment and training for this population;

Resolved, That the position of the Club be communicated to Governor Brown, State Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, and State Senator Holly Mitchell; and

Resolved, That the position of the Club also be communicated to the local media.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2015!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership OR click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Dues are due by January 1, 2015

For questions please call Membership Secretary
Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

"Not only our future economic soundness but the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to idle men."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2015.
Dues for 2015 are due by
January 1, 2015. Current
dues must be paid by
renewing members before a
vote to get a ballot at the
general meeting. New and
lapsed members must have
paid dues at least 25 days in
advance to vote at a meeting.

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015 - Meeting Program:
Chief of Police Scott Bixby**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, June 10**
Monthly General Meeting:
Chief of Police Scott Bixby
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Saturday, June 27**
Monthly Board Meeting:
10:00 AM at Pat Levinson's home.
All members welcome. Call Khin
Khin at (310) 945-6087 or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Saturday, July 4**
**Annual Independence Day
Picnic**
11 AM - 3 PM at Carlson Park.
Public is welcome. Bring
something to be grilled for
yourself and something to share.
Soft drinks, watermelon, utensils,
plates, etc. provided by Club.
Everyone is welcome. Call Sylvia
at (323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, July 8**
Monthly General Meeting:
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: _____

Membership Dues: Dues may be waived for financial hardship

Member \$30

Student \$20

Supporting Member \$75

Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$_____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

OR Click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com.

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at
(310) 398-5328

Please renew for 2015 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.