



Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Forum June 28, 2017 Agenda

Jim Vigdor, Presiding
8:00 a.m. Simi Valley Chamber Boardroom

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| I. | Call to Order | Jim Vigdor |
| II. | Self-Introductions | |
| III. | Approval of Minutes | Jim Vigdor |
| IV. | <u>Legislative Updates</u>
Congresswoman Brownley
Congressman Knight
Senator Stern
Assemblyman Acosta
Supervisor Foy
City of Simi Valley
Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
US Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce | Jason Barnes
John Bagnall
Nancy Farias
Taylor Criddle
Brian Miller
Brian Gabler
Elaine Freeman
Jennings Imel
Samantha Shapiro |

Other Agencies:

Cal State Channel Islands, Job & Career Center, Metropolitan Water District,

- VII. Other Business

Next Meeting: July 26, 8:00 a.m.

- VIII. Adjourn

Disclaimer: The Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Forum is a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The Committee acts as a forum for discussion about legislative activity and provides the Board of Directors with recommendations for decisions. Comments made at committee meetings do not represent the views of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce or the Board of Directors.

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
May 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Katie Varner, Chad Ball, Jim Vigdor, Celina Zacarias, Taylor Criddle, Vartan – US Chamber, Melanie Vollbrecht, John Bagnall, Samantha Shapiro, Denis Weber, Jason Barnes

Call to order – 8:05 AM

- I. Celina Zacarias made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting, with a note to add her to the “present” section. Katie Varner seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes were approved.
- II. Katie Varner presented on behalf of Congressman Steve Knight. Congressman Knight has a new legislative director, Megan Zavertrnik in the DC office, and they will have a focus on more constituent driven legislation. The Congressman’s No Heroes Left Untreated bill passed unanimously out of the house and will now move to the Senate. He has several other Veterans’ related bills. HR 1270, the Living Donor Act, related to discrimination against those who have donated organs, is another bill his office has signed on to. He is also working with the city on youth issues in Simi Valley; they are partnering with the city’s youth services, the school district, and the Boys and Girls Club. One main area of focus that was most prominent and in need of attention is mental health.
- III. Jason Barnes presented on behalf of Congresswoman Julia Brownley. The Congresswoman met with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to talk about Veterans Health Care. She presented her legislative package, which had 27 bills in total. He spoke about the neighborhood works public nonprofit, which awarded a \$415,000 grant to create affordable housing in the county. HR 2123 is a veterans’ act to increase access to health care and remove barriers.
- IV. Taylor Criddle presented on behalf of Assemblyman Dante Acosta. The Assemblyman had a successful town hall in Simi Valley at the beginning of May. SB 57, the So. Cal. Gas tax bill is in appropriations currently. His office is focused on spreading the word about AB 754, the foster care youth bill, which is focused on making sure the foster care youth are getting equal opportunities and representation in school. SB 1, the gas tax bill, was signed by the Governor, which will increase gas tax by \$0.12 per gallon.
- V. Chad Ball presented on behalf of Supervisor Foy. The free clinic will hopefully be moving into the county building in about a month. There are about \$1.5 million in improvements needed. The free clinic can offer a significant amount of services that the county is unable to offer. The county approved a bike tourism area/tour. They are focused on making it safer for bike tourism in the area, modeled after Oregon.
- VI. Vartan presented on behalf of the US Chamber. The US Chamber supported the American Health Care Act; it eliminated the health insurance tax, the individual and personal mandate. They are unsure what will happen when the AHCA heads to the Senate, whether it will have amendments, a re-write, etc. Moving on to tax reform, President Trump’s proposal to decrease corporate tax rate and decrease tax brackets, eliminate estate tax. By fixing health care and reducing taxes, the US Chamber believes there will be growth. They also are hoping for regulatory reform.
- VII. Celina Zacarias reported on behalf of California State University, Channel Islands. The commencement was last weekend and they graduated a class of 2,261. Their nursing program is ranked #11/110 in California. They get 500 applications a semester and can only accept 33 at their main campus and 33 at their Santa Barbara location for the nursing program. Regarding the state budget, the Governor did not give the full budget. He cut \$168 million and put mandates. She is sending letters to local legislators asking for their help in lobbying the Governor for the funding for the California State Universities.
- VIII. Samantha Shapiro presented a legislative summary for the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce regarding the legislation they have taken positions on so far this year. A delegation from the Simi Valley Chamber will be going to Sacramento for the CalChamber Capitol Summit trip from May 31st-June 1st.

Adjourn – 8:50 AM