

**SAN FERNANDO EDUCATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Community Meeting Room
117 Macneil Street
San Fernando, CA 91340

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioner Angel Zobel-Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present:

Members: Commissioners Yvonne G. Mejia, Danitza Pantoja, Michael Remenih,
Olivia Robledo (arrived at 6:19 p.m.), and Angel Zobel-Rodriguez

Staff: City Clerk Elena G. Chávez and Deputy City Clerk Miriam Gutierrez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Chávez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Remenih, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the agenda was approved.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

David M. Gonzales (Education Deputy) from L.A.U.S.D. Board Member Monica Ratliff's office, introduced himself and distributed information regarding an upcoming Town Hall meeting.

Emily Carranza (Gabriel Fernandez family member) asked the Commission for their annual support of the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship program. She hopes that these young adults will make a change within the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and help to prevent similar tragedies.

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In response to Commissioner Remenih's suggestion, Ms. Carranza expressed interest in being a presenter during the scholarship awards ceremony.

City Clerk Chávez reminded everyone that this item was on the agenda (Item No. 3) for further discussion.

COMMISSION MATTERS

1) REQUEST TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2016 – SPECIAL MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Remenih, seconded by Commissioner Pantoja, to approve the minutes. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Pantoja, Remenih, Zobel-Rodriguez – 3
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	Mejia – 1
ABSENT:	Robledo – 1

2) PRESENTATION REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY IMPACTION PLAN AND ITS AFFECTS ON OUR CITY'S RESIDENTS AND OTHER DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Irene Tovar, Chairperson for the Coalition Against CSU Impaction and CEO of the Latin American Civic Association, explained that there is a crisis in higher education and she talked about California State University, Northridge's Impaction Plan which denies qualified students (many from this community) entrance into the University.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Tovar responded to questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Remenih, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee (consisting of Commissioners Pantoja and Mejia) to draft a letter of support (to be reviewed at the next meeting) advocating for education funds from the State's budget. By consensus, the motion carried.

3) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF A GABRIEL FERNANDEZ FAMILY MEMBER IN THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM PROCESS

Ms. Carranza briefly spoke and thanked Vice Mayor Ballin and Commissioners for the opportunity to be a part of the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship program.

Commissioners discussed various ideas including possibly holding a small ceremony for scholarship award winners.

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Motion by Commissioner Remenih, seconded by Commissioner Robledo, to include Ms. Carranza in the presentation of the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship recipients at an awards ceremony. By consensus, the motion carried.

4) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF 2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND THE NEXT STEPS OF THE PROCESS

Representatives from the United States Postal Service Federal Credit Union and Republic Services gave brief updates regarding the status of each of the scholarships.

Commissioners viewed the two Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos submitted for the Latino Water Coalition Foundation (CLWC) Scholarship.

Motion by Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Remenih, to approve the PSA submittals. By consensus, the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Zobel-Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Pantoja, to apply the remaining \$1,000 (from the CLWC funds) towards the Gabriel Fernandez Scholarship (the distribution/breakdown to be decided later). By consensus, the motion was approved.

5) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 EDUCATION COMMISSION FUNDS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

City Clerk Chávez informed the Commissioners that a \$3,000 startup fund had been budgeted for the Education Commission and an additional \$1,000 had been committed from Vice Mayor Ballin's Community Investment Fund.

Discussion ensued on the use of the funds for the scholarship awards ceremony.

Motion by Commissioner Mejia, seconded by Commissioner Pantoja, to postpone the item for further discussion at the next meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

6) NOMINATION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Motion by Commissioner Remenih, seconded by Commissioner Pantoja, to nominate Angel Zobel-Rodriguez as Chair. By consensus, the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Mejia, seconded by Commissioner Remenih, to nominate Danitza Pantoja as Vice Chair. By consensus, the motion carried.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Remenih stated that he is excited about the interest and progress regarding the scholarships and said that the PSA's were fantastic.

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Vice Chair Pantoja thanked Deputy City Clerk Gutierrez and City Clerk Chávez for their work. She also thanked Vice Mayor Ballin for advocating for the Commission and for her presence and feedback at the meetings.

Commissioner Mejia thanked staff for all the extra work that goes into the Commission.

Commissioner Robledo is proud to be on the Education Commission and to work with her colleagues. She believes that the children in this community are in good hands and it's the Commission's sincere desire to lift them up and make San Fernando a better place for them.

Vice Mayor Ballin said that this Commission has an energy she has not seen and she is excited about great things coming forward.

Commissioner Mejia thanked Ms. Carranza for participating.

Ms. Carranza stated that she appreciates the Commission for their efforts and for moving forward with the Gabriel Fernandez scholarship.

Chair Zobel-Rodriguez is excited that things are rolling now (compared to several years ago when we could not get all five commissioners on board). She said this is her passion and it's an exciting time in education by exposing our children to college opportunities. She also thanked staff.

Commissioner Robledo suggested providing an option to the schools to award the scholarships at a school assembly.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Deputy City Clerk Gutierrez talked about reminder notices sent to City officials (including Commissioners) regarding mandated AB1234 Ethics Training and she explained the process to satisfy the requirement including a free on-line course.

ADJOURNMENT (8:00 P.M.)

Motion by Commissioner Remenih, seconded by Commissioner Mejia, to adjourn the meeting. By consensus, the motion carried.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of February 23, 2016 meeting as approved by the Education Commission.

*Miriam Gutierrez
Deputy City Clerk*