

CITY COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Sylvia Ballin

Vice Mayor Antonio Lopez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember

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JOEL FAJARDO

(818) 898-1203

COUNCILMEMBER
ROBERT C. GONZALES

DATE: July 19, 2017

COUNCILMEMBER
JAIME SOTO

SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SETTLEMENT IN LAWSUIT FILED BY FORMER PARKS, WELLNESS & RECREATION COMMISSIONER

San Fernando, CA – On Tuesday, July 11, 2017, the San Fernando City Council voted 3 to 1 to approve a settlement agreement in a lawsuit filed by former Parks, Wellness, and Recreation Commissioner Yolanda Haro naming the City of San Fernando and Councilmember Jaime Soto as defendants. The lawsuit alleged sex discrimination, wrongful termination, unlawful retaliation, hostile work environment, wrongful termination in violation of public policy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The City was represented by the law firm of McCune & Harber, LLP with additional input and guidance from Carl Warren & Company (the City's third party claims administrator), and the Independent Cities Risk Management Authority (ICRMA) (the City's self-insurance risk pool organization). At Councilmembers Soto's request, the City also agreed to pay for the Law Offices of Albert Robles to represent Mr. Soto.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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The settlement amount of \$62,500 was approved after carefully evaluating the potential cost of litigating the matter, including the prospect of incurring costs for the City's legal counsel, Councilmember Soto's separately requested legal counsel, and the plaintiff's legal counsel should the plaintiff prevail in the litigation.

A copy of the summons and complaint and the settlement agreement can be obtained via email from the San Fernando City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@sfcity.org.

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