

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**MARCH 13, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING**

City Hall Council Chambers
117 Macneil Street
San Fernando, CA 91340

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Mario F. Hernández called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Mario F. Hernández, Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Esqueda, and Councilmember Maribel De La Torre

Staff: City Administrator Al Hernández, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmembers Sylvia Ballin (notified staff that she was unable to attend – at an MWD meeting voting on water rate increase issues and conducting finalist interviews for the General Counsel position) and Antonio Lopez (notified staff he was unable to attend)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Mayor Hernández read the Rules of Decorum and Order reminding the public that they must observe the same rules applicable to the City Council.

Irwin Rosenberg (San Fernando Police Officers' Association (SFPOA) President) expressed disappointment that Council decided to move ahead with a process (selecting an Interim Chief of Police) that lacks honesty, integrity, and has no transparency. He said if an Interim Chief of Police is selected, they (the SFPOA) would strongly encourage the person to reach out to them. He also thanked the community for believing in them.

Renato Lira (resident) said: he was disappointed with what is going on; the three Councilmembers will decide to bring someone in who will be their puppet; supports Lt. Robert Parks as the next Chief of Police; it is a shame Council is going into a closed meeting (this

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meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. because the other two Councilmembers work) and urged them to not make a decision yet.

Jesse Avila (resident) talked about the timing of the closed session (two Councilmembers are not present), said the public has a right to know what Council is doing behind closed doors and it is obvious that three Councilmembers are making all the decisions..

Vito Scataglia (39-year member of SFPD Reserves) said that the City and police have a reputation for being family-oriented, have gone through much in the past and can work through this as well, and would like that Jeff Eley get an opportunity serve (as Chief of Police) first.

Patty Lopez (resident) said she wanted to state for the record (and for her protection) that she has been intimidated (for speaking out) by friends of Councilmember De La Torre. She said she was here to support Lt. Robert Parks (no need to bring in an outsider) and Councilmembers don't represent the City and in the end, the community will remove them.

Mike Majers said it was sad to see two Councilmember are not present (a special meeting was called at 4:00 p.m. when a lot of people can not attend). He said it is a shame to see what is taking place.

Norma (did not state last name) spoke in support of Lt. Robert Parks and said he would be a good officer to be in charge of the City.

Julian Ruelas (resident) said that making decision of this magnitude, demonstrates that they (Council) are not paying attention to the constituents. Calling a special meeting at 4:00 p.m. is designed against attendance (especially for those who work outside the City), and he said it was inappropriate and implored the Council to stop the games.

Linda Jauron (resident) said: it was disconcerting that the Council majority was having this meeting and not allowing any dissent in these discussions; the community doesn't trust them or their judgment; believes that one member is not qualified to vote and should recuse herself; if they (Council) cared about the people and what the public wants, they will not make the decision today.

Samuel Beltran spoke in support of Police Lt. Robert Parks and said Council does not have to bring in anyone else.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (4:47 P.M.)

By consensus, Councilmembers recessed to the following Closed Session:

- A) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT
G.C. 54957

Title: Interim Chief of Police

RECONVENE (5:33 P.M.)

Mayor Hernández announced that the action is to authorize the City Administrator to present the terms of a contract for the position of Interim Chief of Police. If agreed upon, bring back to the City Council on Thursday (March 15, 2012).

ADJOURNMENT (5:34 P.M.)

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, March 15, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of March 13, 2012 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk