

1 **February 19, 2019**

2 **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Luevano called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY CHIEF ABBOTT.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Harris, Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Van Doorn.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, District Counsel James and Board Secretary
11 Stephen-Porter. In the audience were: members public and of the Association.

12
13 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

14 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Luevano addressed the audience and inquired whether
15 there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. Audience member Joe
16 Beyer introduced himself and thanked the Board for holding the hearing. He noted the
17 recent public outreach by the District and thanked the Board for their efforts. There being
18 no further comments, the Public Comment Section was closed.

19
20 **ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

21 2. **DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION PUBLIC HEARING – CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott introduced the
22 topic of the California Voters Rights Act (CVRA) and why the District would be voluntarily
23 moving to District-Based elections to the Board and public. He noted that district-based
24 election process helps reflects the communities we serve, encourages a broader citizen
25 engagement, allows the District to inform the community about key issues the District faces
26 and allows the District to fully comply with the CVRA. Chief Abbott proceeded with his
27 presentation, including basic maps of the District and the described the impact of District-
28 Based elections. Based on 2014 election data, Caucasians represent 57% of the population
29 and 63% of the vote; Latinos represent 37% of population and 19% of the vote; Asians

30 represent 2% of the population and 11% of the vote; African-Americans represent 1% of the
31 population and 6% of the vote. In addition, 10% of the District population does not speak
32 English well or at all and 23% of our community is at or near the Federal poverty level. Chief
33 Abbott discussed some of the requirements for the CVRA and provided examples of non-
34 compliant models. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief Abbott opened the meeting
35 up for questions and discussion.

36 Discussion ensued regarding the map presentation. There were requests to have more
37 street details on the map so that anyone reviewing the map could determine where the lines
38 were being drawn.

39 FF/PM Itzaina inquired about the process if two or more current Board members fell into the
40 same re-configured District or if no one ran in a particular District. If two or more members
41 elections commenced at the same time, interested members would run against each other.
42 If no one ran, the position would be filled as it would for any other non-filled seat, with the
43 Board conducting interviews and selecting a person to serve.

44 Audience member Leticia Maldonado Stamos thanked the Board for voluntary stepping up
45 to comply with the CVRA and making the process a positive experience. She requested
46 more definition in the boundaries and noted the color choices make the map somewhat
47 difficult to read.

48 Discussion ensued regarding District divisions, constituency and the need to have at least
49 one District that represents the Latino community, as it is the under presented community of
50 interest. Ms. Maldonado Stamos gave an overview of the rationale behind the CVRA, noting
51 that it allows communities to feel included and to elect a candidate of its choice who
52 represents its interests. Director Van Doorn noted the Board was there to gather information
53 and do the will of the community. He encouraged the audience members to invite others to
54 attend the next meeting.

55 Audience member Tom Frew presented concerns regarding there being no professional
56 demographer involved with the preparation of the statistics and maps. He felt their expertise
57 would drive the statistics, they would have an interactive computer program and ensure
58 accuracy of data. Chief Abbott noted NCFPD will be following the course of the Fallbrook

59 Regional Healthcare District (FRHD) who is using and demographer and whose district and
60 constituency is nearly identical to NCFPD's.

61 Discussion ensued regarding how many districts may arise to be Latino; with it noted that
62 currently, the initial discovery shows that there would be a downtown Latino district. Issues
63 of gerrymandering, cracking and packing and methods to avoid these downfalls were
64 discussed. Discussion ensued about the anticipated additional increase of 5000 population
65 east of the freeway.

66 Audience Member Joe Beyer opined that close coordination with FRHD was a good move.
67 He noted in some other instances, the Boards had included the Board members names on
68 the draft maps and he cautioned against adding those names. He thanked the Board for
69 the recent information about the District in the news, it was helpful in informing the public of
70 District needs and actions. He also noted that he appreciated both morning and evening
71 meetings to allow everyone to attend. With regards to the anticipated population east of the
72 freeway, he opined it was too distant to anticipate the impact at this time.

73 A question arose regarding how other communications would be received from individuals.
74 It was noted the website has an email link to provide comments or requests clarification.
75 Ms. Maldonado Stamos cautioned against giving those inquiries more weight than the
76 comments and concerns expressed by individuals willing to come to the meetings. Director
77 Van Doorn noted the Board is in a listening mode and wants to hear all concerns and does
78 not want anyone to feel disenfranchised. Although the website now has a FAQs section for
79 this issue, Chief Abbott offered to update any questions or concerns that came through the
80 email onto that site for all to review. The suggestion was favorably received.

81 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 82 ● **COMMENTS:**
- 83 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF:** No comments.
- 84 ● **BOARD:** No further comments.
- 85 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** No comments.
- 86 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No further comments.

87

ADJOURNMENT

88
89 A motion was made at 9:50 a.m. by Director Hoffman and seconded by Vice President Harris
90 to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on February 26, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. The motion
91 carried unanimously.

92 Respectfully submitted,

93
94 

95 Loren Stephen-Porter

96 Board Secretary

97 Minutes approved at the Board of Director’s Meeting on: February 26, 2019

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

