February 19, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY CHIEF ABBOTT.

ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

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

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA

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

ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

2. DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION PUBLIC HEARING — CHIEF ABBOTT: Chief Abbott introduced the topic of the California Voters Rights Act (CVRA) and why the District would be voluntarily moving to District-Based elections to the Board and public. He noted that district-based election process helps reflects the communities we serve, encourages a broader citizen engagement, allows the District to inform the community about key issues the District faces and allows the District to fully comply with the CVRA. Chief Abbott proceeded with his presentation, including basic maps of the District and the described the impact of District-Based elections. Based on 2014 election data, Caucasians represent 57% of the population and 63% of the vote; Latinos represent 37% of population and 19% of the vote; Asians
represent 2% of the population and 11% of the vote; African-Americans represent 1% of the population and 6% of the vote. In addition, 10% of the District population does not speak English well or at all and 23% of our community is at or near the Federal poverty level. Chief Abbott discussed some of the requirements for the CVRA and provided examples of non-compliant models. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief Abbott opened the meeting up for questions and discussion.

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

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

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

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

Audience member Tom Frew presented concerns regarding there being no professional demographer involved with the preparation of the statistics and maps. He felt their expertise would drive the statistics, they would have an interactive computer program and ensure accuracy of data. Chief Abbott noted NCFPD will be following the course of the Fallbrook
Regional Healthcare District (FRHD) who is using and demographer and whose district and constituency is nearly identical to NCFPD's.

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

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

A question arose regarding how other communications would be received from individuals. It was noted the website has an email link to provide comments or requests clarification.

Ms. Maldonando Stamos cautioned against giving those inquiries more weight than the comments and concerns expressed by individuals willing to come to the meetings. Director Van Doorn noted the Board is in a listening mode and wants to hear all concerns and does not want anyone to feel disenfranchised. Although the website now has a FAQs section for this issue, Chief Abbott offered to update any questions or concerns that came through the email onto that site for all to review. The suggestion was favorably received.

**STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **COMMENTS:**
- **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF:** No comments.
- **BOARD:** No further comments.
- **BARGAINING GROUPS:** No comments.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No further comments.
ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Stephen-Porter
Board Secretary

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