

Communication from Public

Name: Voices of the 10th

Date Submitted: 02/07/2022 02:01 PM

Council File No: 21-1203

Comments for Public Posting: February 27, 2022 The Honorable Nury Martinez Council President, City of Los Angeles Los Angeles City Hall 200 N Spring Street, Suite 470 Los Angeles, CA 90012 SUBJECT: Council District 10 Dear Council President Martinez: The suspension of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas was not required by the City Charter. Instead, the move to suspend him was a discretionary use of power, which served to disenfranchise the constituents of Council District 10 and deny the Councilmember his due process under the law and a presumption of innocence. According to an article in a local newspaper, dated February 3, 2022, you have met with residents and leaders throughout the community in preparation of appointing a voting member to the City Council to represent the 10th Council District. Firstly, we ask that you be more specific about the individuals with whom you met. The undersigned Voices of the 10th are among some of the most active members of Council District 10, representing a cross section of community groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood councils, and none were contacted by your office. In addition, faith leaders representing the South Los Angeles Clergy for Public Accountability requested a meeting with you in a letter dated January 28, 2022, to which you responded on February 4 after making a decision to move forward with an appointment. Lastly, a temporary appointment is not the only option and it certainly should not be made without an open vetting process consisting of objective and verifiable criteria applicable to everyone under consideration to ensure representation that is accountable to 10th District constituents. Respectfully, we hereby request a meeting with you before any action is undertaken on this matter to discuss: 1) Reinstatement of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas to the 10th District City Council seat. 2) Absent his reinstatement, the duration of any appointment. 3) Transparency between the City Council and the constituents of Council District 10. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response. Respectfully, Voices of the 10th Diane Anderson, Leimert Park Iman Bahati, Leimert Park Anna and Mason Bendewald, Harvard Heights Deborah Collier, Leimert Park Mirna and Kwame Cooper, Wellington Square Norma Jean Davis, West Adams Tammy Dickerson Dyan Golden, Jefferson Park Sandy Hamilton,

Crenshaw Manor Lena Hobson, Leimert Park Shelley Hughes,
Leimert Park John R. Jackson, Leimert Park David Johnson,
Leimert Park Gwen Jones, Leimert Park Donna Jones, West
Adams Khansa Jones, Leimert Park Ona Jones, Leimert Park
Wanda Knight, Leimert Park Jason Lewis, Leimert Park Karen
Mack, Mid-City Eulanda Matthews, Esq., Leimert Park Alison
McBeth, Mid-City Harry McElroy, Leimert Park Steven Meeks,
West Adams Irving Meyer, Lafayette Square Daniel Millner,
Village Green Blanche Octave, Leimert Park Johnnie Raines,
Leimert Park Aneetha Rajan, Crenshaw Manor Charles Reese,
Leimert Park Paula Ricketts, Leimert Park Torrence Brannon
Reese, Leimert Park Diane Robertson, Esq., Leimert Park Bevery
Rowe, West Adams Robert “Mateo” Rubio, Leimert Park Cynthia
Singleton, Village Green Nick Spano, Mid-City Denise Stansell,
West Adams Robyn Stern, Leimert Park Hon. Daniel K. Tabor,
Leimert Park Stephen Thomas, Leimert Park Dwight Tribble,
Mid-City Wendi Washington, Leimert Park

February 7, 2022

VIA EMAIL(Nury.Martinez@lacity.org)

The Honorable Nury Martinez
Council President, City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street, Suite 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: Council District 10

Dear Council President Martinez:

The suspension of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas was not required by the City Charter. Instead, the move to suspend him was a discretionary use of power, which served to disenfranchise the constituents of Council District 10 and deny the Councilmember his due process under the law and a presumption of innocence.

According to an article in a local newspaper, dated February 3, 2022, you have met with residents and leaders throughout the community in preparation of appointing a voting member to the City Council to represent the 10th Council District.

Firstly, we ask that you be more specific about the individuals with whom you met. The undersigned Voices of the 10th are among some of the most active members of Council District 10, representing a cross section of community groups, homeowners associations and neighborhood councils, and none were contacted by your office.

In addition, faith leaders representing the South Los Angeles Clergy for Public Accountability requested a meeting with you in a letter dated January 28, 2022, to which you responded on February 4 *after* making a decision to move forward with an appointment.

Lastly, a temporary appointment is not the only option and it certainly should not be made without an open vetting process consisting of objective and verifiable criteria applicable to everyone under consideration to ensure representation that is accountable to 10th District constituents.

Respectfully, we hereby request a meeting with you *before* any action is undertaken on this matter to discuss:

1. Reinstatement of Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas to the 10th District City Council seat.
2. Absent his reinstatement, the duration of any appointment.
3. Transparency between the City Council and the constituents of Council District 10.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Voices of the 10th

Diane Anderson, Leimert Park
Iman Bahati, Leimert Park
Anna and Mason Bendewald, Harvard Heights

Deborah Collier, Leimert Park
Mirna and Kwame Cooper
Norma Jean Davis, West Adams
Tammy Dickerson
Dyan Golden, Jefferson Park
Sandy Hamilton, Crenshaw Manor
Lena Hobson, Leimert Park
Shelley Hughes, Leimert Park
John R. Jackson, Leimert Park
David Johnson, Leimert Park
Gwen Jones, Leimert Park
Donna Jones, West Adams
Khansa Jones, Leimert Park
Ona Jones, Leimert Park
Wanda Knight, Leimert Park
Jason Lewis, Leimert Park
Karen Mack, Mid-City
Eulanda Matthews, Esq., Leimert Park
Alison McBeth, Mid-City
Harry McElroy, Leimert Park
Steven Meeks, West Adams
Irving Meyer, Lafayette Square
Daniel Millner, Village Green
Blanche Octave, Leimert Park
Johnnie Raines, Leimert Park
Aneetha Rajan, Crenshaw Manor
Charles Reese, Leimert Park
Paula Ricketts, Leimert Park
Torrence Brannon Reese, Leimert Park
Diane Robertson, Esq., Leimert Park
Beverly Rowe, West Adams
Robert "Mateo" Rubio, Leimert Park
Cynthia Singleton, Village Green
Nick Spano, Mid-City
Denise Stansell, West Adams
Robyn Stern, Leimert Park
Hon. Daniel K. Tabor, Leimert Park
Stephen Thomas, Leimert Park
Dwight Tribble, Mid-City
Wendi Washington, Leimert Park

cc:

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