



City of Huntington Park Press Release

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Court of Appeal Grants Stay, Allowing Huntington Park to Proceed with Council Appointment

With Legal Restraint Lifted, City Moves to Restore Full Representation and Uphold Community Expectations

HUNTINGTON PARK, CA — On April 4, 2025, the Los Angeles Superior Court, with the Honorable Barbara Meiers presiding, issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the City of Huntington Park from filling a vacancy on its City Council. The City subsequently appealed the order, and on April 21, 2025, the California Court of Appeal granted a temporary stay, suspending enforcement of the Superior Court's ruling.

Pursuant to the appellate court's order, the City will move forward with appointing a new Councilmember at a Special Meeting of the City Council on April 23, 2025.

The City has remained committed to due process and transparency at every stage of this matter. We continue to respect the judicial process and acknowledge Ms. Castillo's legal right to seek review of the Council's decision. However, it is important to clarify that the Council's action to declare the seat vacant was taken in accordance with longstanding state and municipal law—specifically, California Government Code § 36502(a) and Huntington Park Municipal Code § 2-9.02(a) — which require councilmembers to reside within the jurisdiction they serve.

This determination followed public complaints and an independent investigation conducted by the Huntington Park Police Department. The investigation—based on documentation, verified evidence, and witness statements—substantiated that the former councilmember no longer resides in the City of Huntington Park.

"As Mayor and members of the City Council, we have a civic duty to uphold the laws of our great City," said Mayor Arturo Flores. "The sole purpose of the upcoming Special Meeting is to serve the interests of our community by appointing a new Councilmember who resides within the City. Any attempt to discredit this legal process is an attack on our democratic institutions—and we must not stand for it."

Proceeding with the appointment—rather than holding a costly and time-consuming special election, preserves the City's ability to function effectively and without delay, while honoring the public's trust in local governance.

For additional information, please contact the Communications and Community Relations department office at (323) 582-6161.

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