



# Item 1 - Suero-Gabler

March 21, 2022

City of National City Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis  
Members of City Council  
1243 National City Boulevard  
National City, CA 91950

Re: Please Read During Public Comment Regarding Agenda Item 1 – National City, California Ordinance to Establish and Implement by-District Elections

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

APAC is proud to stand in solidarity with those who courageously advocated for district voting and we are excited to see the victorious fruit of our labor; an Asian Empowerment District created in National City.

**We respectfully request that you include the following verbiage in the Ordinance:**

1. There shall be an election in 2022 for the newly drawn Asian Empowerment District and the newly drawn Western part of National City. The Fil-AM/AAPI has been underrepresented in the National City Council for decades and the Western side (north and south) has never been represented by a Councilmember who actually resides in that area.
2. The Mayor would remain at-large representing the City as a whole.
3. The first by district election would occur in November 2022 with the current terms of Mayor Sotelo-Solis, Councilmember Morrison, and Councilmember Rios ending. Councilmember Morrison and Councilmember Rios may be considered for re-election depending on the final map adopted, which office they choose to pursue and the location of their residence.
4. For Councilmember Bush and Councilmember Rodriguez who are currently in office at the time of the Ordinance codification, they shall continue in office until the expiration of the full term to which they were elected and until a successor is qualified. At the end of the term, each Councilmember thereafter, shall be elected on a by-district basis.

APAC is a community-based, non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to cultivate civic engagement to forward the voices of San Diego’s Asian Pacific American community.

Thank you kindly for your consideration. Please add this correspondence to the record.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

Mitz Lee  
Co-Founder, APAC

[Redacted Signature]

Cynthia “CK” Suero-Gabler  
Vice Chair, APAC  
Chair, APAC District Voting Now Sub-Committee

# Item 1 - Castro

**From:** [THELMA DE CASTRO](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Special Meeting--Districting 3/21/2022: Agenda Items 1,2, and 3  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 1:41:57 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The random drawing to determine which Districts will be numbered will potentially politically disempower the API and western district for another two years. On the other hand, the random drawing could result in political chaos by forcing Councilmembers Bush and Rodriguez to run in 2022, even though their terms are not finished until 2024. If that occurs, then the City Council may be forced to appoint Councilmembers to fill any vacancies and there will be significant lobbying, publicly and behind the scenes. This is far more political and polarizing than simply allowing the API and Western districts to run for election in 2022, where no candidate will be impacted

The practical solution is to simply let the API and western districts run. Not only is that less politically polarizing, but it will also satisfy the demands of the API community and reduce the probability of expensive litigation for the city.

Thank you,

[Thelma Virata de Castro](#)   
[she/her/hers](#)  
[www.thelmaviratadecastro.com](http://www.thelmaviratadecastro.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** NATIONAL CITY DISTRICT VOTING NOW  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 12:28:47 PM

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## Item 1 - Reyes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Honorable Mayor Solis and Council Members,

Good morning!

I believed that the very reason why you adopted district voting is so that the city won't get sued for not complying with the Voting Rights Act. The Filipino Americans / Asian Americans engaged to put you on notice to abide by the law so that a disenfranchised segment of our city's population will enjoy fair representation.

You have acknowledged that fair representation and accountability to the people of our city is NOW.  
Enough of the disenfranchisement and instead follow through with a fair, transparent and equitable process.

To leave the process to chance - this random drawing - whether we get to see the benefits of district voting now is a process to flex muscle and punish the Filipino community for pushing district voting.

Two of the Councilmembers are not up for re-election, while the other two are. Those two CouncilMembers whose seats are up for election reside within the preferred API district and the West Side district where no Councilmember resides. Choose these two districts to be up for election in 2022, while letting the districts represented by the other two be up in 2024 when their terms are up anyways.

This is the most practical process instead of politicising and making things complicated. Please put your duty to your constituents first before your own political and self interest.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comment.

With gratitude,

Signed  
Myrna Reyes, Kapwa Filipino  
Community Volunteer



Resending 3/21/2022 @12:28 PM  
Initially sent 3/21/2022 @10:21 AM

**From:** [Marianne Delatorre](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Special Meeting 3.21.22  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 1:00:34 PM

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## Item 1 - DeLatorre

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Marianne Delatorre and I am a resident of National City voicing my opinion on the sequencing of district elections. I applaud the Mayor and fellow council members for listening to the community in this process. In the aftermath of last Tuesday's vote for a map, it was decided in closed session that the sequencing of upcoming district elections would be a "random draw". This decision caused immense confusion and frustration among community members, myself included, due to the momentum organized around two specific districts: Old Town National City and the AAPI/Filipino Empowerment District, which were highly anticipated for the first district elections. The process and outcomes of a random draw selection is unclear. I say this in regard to how voters will understand how seats will go up (will there be any appointments, special elections, etc.) Last meeting's minutes and this meeting's agenda have neither defined nor outlined the expectations. I am hopeful that this meeting will provide us clarity and direction to move forward with, in order to adequately organize our communities, especially the National City AAPI/Filipino community. The last thing wanted is for our communities to be disempowered having been activated around the civic engagement process. Understandably, this is the first time that we are doing districts. There is a lesson here in calling for better transparency and deliberate explanations for the community to understand the transition from at-large to district elections.

Thank you,  
Marianne Delatorre

## Item 2 - Castro

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