

LAST MINUTE AGENDA INFORMATION

II

05/27/09 Special Meeting

(Agenda Related Writings/Documents provided to a majority of the City Council after distribution of the Agenda Packet for the May 27, 2009 Special meeting.)

ITEM NO. **DESCRIPTION**

1	FILLING A VACANT COUNCIL POSITION. (0430-05). a. E-mail correspondence from Serge Dedina, received May 27, 2009.
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Jacque Hald

From: Serge Dedina
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 3:03 PM
To: Jacque Hald; jimjanney@oappkg.com
Cc: Dwayne Fernandez; Fred Olande; Candy Unger; Steve Futterman
Subject: For City Council meeting May 27

From:
May 27, 2009
Serge Dedina

Imperial Beach, Ca 91932

Dear Imperial Beach City Council:

Unfortunately we cannot attend tonight's special city election to determine how to choose a replacement council member for the position vacated by the loss of Fred McClean.

Here are my concerns at what appears to be an effort to subvert a constitutional right to due process by the City Manager to make sure our American system of free and fair election are honored. Having lived in countries that do not have elections or any notion of democracy, I cannot emphasize how important it is to hold an election rather than having a very political appointment process.

Here are some of our other concerns:

1. Lack of notification: The residents of Imperial Beach have had little or no notification of this critical meeting. Despite the deadline for taking action, there should have been a better effort to notify the public.
2. It appears that in an effort to influence the City Council to appoint a position that is normally subject to constitutionally protected free and fair elections, the city manager has already directed the City Clerk to post public notices in the press about applying for a council seat. This would be appear to be a violation of state law since the council has yet to take a vote on this issue. It is critical that matters related to elected officials are decided by officials accountable to the electorate rather than unelected bureaucrats such as the City Manager.
3. The council should decide to hold a special election. You should not contribute to the erosion of democracy in our community by appointing someone. It is important that a new council member reflect the will of registered voters rather than whim of the City Council. I find it odd that the City Manager finds that elections are too expensive, but yet had no problem recommending spending hundreds of thousands on lobbyists and PR firms. I suggest that you cut the City Manager's salary by \$75,000 to help pay for the election.
4. Democracy is not cheap and should not be devalued by appointing someone to represent constitutionally protected registered voters and American citizens in the City of Imperial Beach.

Sincerely,

Serge Dedina

5/27/09 special meeting
Last Minute agenda
Submitted by S. Dedina

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CITY CLERK OFFICES