



CITY OF
San Fernando
Historic & Visionary

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
September 3, 2008

CONTACT:
Michael Estrada, City Attorney
(213) 626-8484

Recall Petitions Qualify For Ballot
*City Clerk Finds Sufficient Signatures on Recall Petitions
for Councilmembers Hernández and Ruelas*

On September 3, 2008, Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk for the City of San Fernando, announced that recall petitions for San Fernando City Councilmembers Jose Hernández and Julie Ruelas had sufficient signatures to qualify for a recall election.

Both of the recall petitions were submitted to the City Clerk's office on July 21, 2008. The recall petition for Councilmember Hernandez had 2,250 signatures on it; the petition for Councilmember Ruelas had 2,220. To qualify for the ballot, each petition needed 1,771 valid signatures from registered voters in San Fernando – 25% of the total number of registered voters in the City.

City Clerk Chávez, as allowed by state law, checked a random sample of 500 signatures on each petition to see if they were the valid signatures of registered voters in San Fernando. Based on these samples, Chávez found that there would be 2,048 valid signatures on the petition for Councilmember Hernández and 2,030 valid signatures on the petition for Councilmember Ruelas.

“These samples showed that the petitions had more than enough signatures to meet the 1,771 signature requirement,” said Chávez, “so, under the state Elections Code, I am required to certify these petitions as sufficient to qualify for the ballot.”

The next step in the recall process is for the City Clerk to formally certify the petitions to the City Council at their September 15th meeting. The Council will then have 14 days to call for a recall election.

Under state law, the City Council has the option of scheduling the recall election between 88 and 125 days after the date the Council calls for an election. “The recall election would fall between late December 2008 and early February 2009,” said Chávez.

In a recall election, voters will be asked whether the Councilmembers should be recalled from their office. The Councilmember will retain their offices unless a majority of voters vote “Yes.” In that event, voters would then choose a successor to the office from a list of candidates who have qualified for the recall ballot.

- end -

