

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**March 2, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Council Chamber
117 Macneil Street
San Fernando, CA 91340

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Steven Veres called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present:

Council: Mayor Steven Veres, Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Esqueda,
Councilmembers Ernesto Rubio Hernández and Maribel De La
Torre

Staff: City Administrator José E. Pulido, Assistant City Attorney Melissa
Crosthwaite, and City Clerk Elena G. Chávez

Absent: Councilmember Nury Martinez (on maternity leave)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Veres

INVOCATION Mayor Veres

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to approve the agenda. By consensus, the motion carried.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

Miguel Angel Aruizu, S.F. Mall merchant, said he's concerned about businesses (i.e., bridal, furniture, and beauty salons) competing with one another and the unfair business practices.

Jaime Lopez, S.F. Mall merchant, asked that the City control the types of business licenses issued.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2009
Page 2**

Carlos Echerrique and Emma Carrillo, S.F. Mall merchants, asked about a possible moratorium on bridal shops.

Anna Marie Zarate agreed with the speakers and said that a local merchant is unfairly taking business away from the bridal shops.

Jose Martinez, S.F. Mall merchant, in the business for 13 years, also agreed with the speakers.

Onesimo Gonzalez, S.F. Mall merchant (bridal and photography shop) requested that the Council establish a moratorium on bridal (and related) shops.

Clara Jensen, S.F. Mall merchant, reported that they are struggling and can't sell due to the stiff competition.

Lorena Nunez, S.F. Mall merchant, said there are about 26 bridal shops in a small area competing and struggling to survive, and they would like the City Council to step in and help.

Leslie Aisenman suggested that the public be notified of discussions regarding re-naming First St. back to Robert F. Kennedy Dr.

Tina Vanija expressed disappointment and asked why it was so important to change Robert F. Kennedy Dr. back to First St.?

Sharron Aisenman received a call from the owners of a business on Maclay Ave. who said they've been targeted by certain City Council candidates.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Mayor Veres, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to approve the remaining Consent Calendar items:

- 1) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER NO. 09-031
- 2) APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	Veres, De La Torre, Esqueda, Hernández – 4
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Martinez – 1

Tom Ristau (new Director of Recreation and Community Services) thanked the City Council for giving him the opportunity and is looking forward to becoming a member of the San Fernando team.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2009
Page 3**

City Councilmembers welcomed him aboard.

NEW BUSINESS

3) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2008-2009 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Finance Director Lorena Quijano presented the agenda report and staff responded to various questions from Councilmembers.

Mayor Veres suggested that the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Standing Committee immediately begin working on next year's budget and get with staff in identifying all possible savings so we know exactly where we stand as we move forward with employee contract negotiations and other outstanding items.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Councilmember Hernández, to adopt the Resolution amending the FY 2008-2009 City Adopted Budget. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, De La Torre, Esqueda, Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

4) AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE SAN FERNANDO CITY CODE RELATING TO COMMISSIONS

Assistant City Attorney Melissa Crosthwaite presented the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre, to introduce by title only and waive further reading of "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of San Fernando Amending the San Fernando City Code Regarding the Planning, Recreation and Community Services, Historical, Transportation and Safety, and Cultural Arts Commissions." The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, De La Torre, Esqueda, Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

5) CHANGE THE NAME OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY (RFK) DRIVE BACK TO FIRST STREET

Mayor Veres allowed for additional public statements regarding this item.

Leslie Aisenman urged the City Council to not jump into a decision but to allow, and engage in, a formal hearing.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2009**

Page 4

Chuck Dirks, L.A. Mission College Professor, said that Robert F. Kennedy has been part of our community and believes he should continue to be honored.

Ruben Rodriguez, Executive Director of Pueblo y Salud, said it's a matter of remembering the people that have made a difference in the community.

Ralph Arriola offered to bring a campaign film of RFK to share with everyone.

Margarita Lopez, Sylmar, said that if it's just a matter of money, then why not hold fund raisers to pay for the street signs?

Sylvia Ballin asked that this issue be taken very seriously.

Elvira Orozco spoke against changing the street name back to First Street.

Joe Ruelas asked why the sudden urgency to tear down what's already been done and said that he hopes the City Council will do the right thing.

Ed Rose, Mission Hills, said that Robert F. Kennedy was a man whose values and visions were followed and his memory should not be taken away.

Alex Reza, Newhall, believes that we are facing a moral crisis in removing the names of RFK and Cesar Chávez.

Leslie Aisenman said it was a good suggestion to raise funds to pay for the street signs.

Motion by Councilmember De La Torre, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda, to: 1) direct staff to bring back an ordinance renaming Robert F. Kennedy Drive back to First Street; and 2) to agendaize (for a future meeting) the naming of the bike path (from Hubbard Street to the Pacoima Wash) after Robert F. Kennedy. The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES:	De La Torre, Esqueda, Veres – 3
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	Hernández – 1
ABSENT:	Martinez – 1

6) PARK AVENUE WAY FINDING

By consensus, this item was assigned to the Education, Parks, Arts, Health and Aging Standing Committee for review and follow-up.

7) MORATORIUM ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

Motion by Councilmember Hernández, seconded by Councilmember De La Torre to adopt by title "An Interim Ordinance of the City of San Fernando Prohibiting the Establishment of

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2009**

Page 5

Marijuana Dispensaries In Any Zoning District Within the City and Declaring the Urgency Thereof.” The motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Veres, De La Torre, Esqueda, Hernández – 4
NOES: None
ABSENT: Martinez – 1

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

8) REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

a) Housing, Community & Economic Development and Parking

Mayor Veres reported that the committee will be meeting with Gangi Development (senior housing proposal) and to discuss the Housing Element.

b) Budget, Personnel and Finance (BFF)

Councilmember De La Torre reported on items discussed last Friday.

c) Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Water Energy and Waste Management

No update - Councilmember Martinez is on maternity leave.

d) Public Safety, Veteran Affairs, Technology and Transportation (PVTT)

Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda – nothing to report.

e) Education, Parks, Arts, Health and Aging (EPAH)

Councilmember Hernández reported on items discussed at their last meeting and he announced that the committee will be meeting every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. (Community Room).

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember De La Torre: 1) mentioned a comment made earlier, said that it’s “funny season” and you can’t control what others do during election time; and 2) requested that the meeting adjourn in memory of a 96 year old resident who lived on Harps St.

Councilmember Hernández: 1) invited the S.F. Mall merchants to the Economic Development meeting on Monday to provide input; and 2) thanked those that spoke and shared their stories regarding Robert F. Kennedy.

Mayor Pro Tem Esqueda thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked staff to look into what could be done in helping the businesses.

**SAN FERNANDO CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2009
Page 6**

Mayor Veres: 1) thanked the San Fernando Mall merchants for coming to the meeting (said that Councilmembers could talk to them personally afterwards); and 2) gave an update regarding the local little leagues.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant to the City Administrator Brian Haworth reported that Monday's Study Session will be held at the Aquatics Center.

City Clerk Chávez reminded everyone to join and watch the ballot-counting process tomorrow night.

Community Development Director Paul Deibel reported on federal neighborhood stabilization funds available through the County and talked about the upcoming Housing, Economic Recovery Ownership program for eligible first-time home buyers.

ADJOURNMENT (8:54 P.M.)

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of March 2, 2009 meeting as approved by the San Fernando City Council.

*Elena G. Chávez
City Clerk*