

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO HELD IN
THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1976.

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The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P. M., by the presiding officer, Mayor Lila Cockrell, with the following members present: PYNDUS, BILLA, CISNEROS, BLACK, HARTMAN, ROHDE, TENIENTE, NIELSEN, COCKRELL: Absent: NONE.

76-16 The following discussion took place:

MAYOR LILA COCKRELL: The meeting will come to order. We have several different items that were pending today. There were some that had been posted for an Executive Session and some that had been posted as a "B" Session, the Water Rates discussion. At this time I believe that we have a request to proceed with either in Executive Session or in open session with consideration of the item that has been requested consideration of the method of appointment of the Mayor Pro-Tem. Do you wish to have this in Executive Session or open session?

MAYOR PRO-TEM RICHARD TENIENTE: Mrs. Cockrell, it is my wish that we have this in open session, and if this is the first item of business, then I would like to make this statement at this time.

I think that before we start on the discussion, I think I would like to clarify some points.

I would like to be sure that all the charges that are made by Councilmen that has been reported by the press are discussed in an open session. I have been charged with having misused my position as Mayor Pro-Tem and having been influenced by special interest groups and by developers.

Specifically, Councilman Rohde has made statements as to my being in a power broker position. He has made statements that the office of Mayor Pro-Tem needs integrity and this can only be interpreted as me not giving the office that integrity. It can be interpreted no other way.

I would like to also find out from the Council members that seem to be dissatisfied how the new proposed Planning Commission members are developer or builder-oriented, and how their election can be attributed to me and me alone. Connie Truss for instance, is far from being a developer, and he received seven votes for that position. A Black woman who has a background in urban planning was also elected. Three Mexican-Americans were also elected, Roy Garza, Joe De Los Santos and Gus Cardenas. Now the fact that there were nine persons nominated and only five vacancies makes it obvious that four could not have been placed on that new Planning Commission. The charge that this election was a divisive move on my part is utterly false and is not true and unfounded. If this had been the case, we could have immediately gone to after having voted this item into an "A" Session because we still had "A" Session in progress, we could have voted on it, and it could have been an ordinance immediately. But this was not the case because those were not our motives.

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I felt that it was important at that time that the Mayor be present to carry this issue out, and so we delayed it for one week. We did not railroad anything through Council as we have been accused or as I have been accused.

I don't feel that the title of Mayor Pro-Tem is a position which gives any Council any extra power. I do know that I have at all times attempted to work with our Mayor and at no time have I been divisive nor have I at any time tried to minimize her leadership and her role. The fact that this title can be removed will in no way minimize my activities because I will continue to fight for the principles and the ideals that I think are necessary that will carry out the wishes of the people that elected me to Council. I understand that the majority of five can decide this issue, and I will certainly have to yield to that majority but before this is done, I definitely want any charges any allegations of wrong doing to be brought out in the open before the citizens that are here today and I would like to hear from the Councilmen that are charging me with this at this time.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Thank you, Mr. Teniente. At this time it is my desire to make some comments to the Council. While this Council was elected on different platforms, I feel that in many ways this Council has been able to work very well together, and I think we have been very fortunate in maintaining very good inter-personal relations. At this point, obviously, we have some friction, and it is my strong advice to the Council that at this point we do our best now just to concentrate on the issue of what the Council's desire is about whether the Mayor Pro-Tem shall remain as a permanently designated office or whether the office shall be a rotating office. I strongly advise that we not have any more divisive comments among the Council members.

I wish personally to express my appreciation to the Mayor Pro-Tem. He has been very cooperative with me and has assisted my office greatly, and Richard I want you to know that. I also wish to state that I think that the Council members are an extremely hard working group of individuals and have all gone beyond the call of duty in terms of giving of their personal time and effort in trying to work for the benefit of the City as they have seen it. And, I am very eager for the Council to be able to move forward in a very constructive way, we have almost completed our first term of office, and I would like very much for us to make a determination on how we see this as an issue but not on the basis of any personality issues and is there any comment at this time? Reverend Black.

REVEREND CLAUDE BLACK: Madam Mayor, I would like to comment on this because I think I can move it out of the area of personality. In the last Council, I advocated a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem which was accepted by that Council and that I thought operated and was very effective. I thought it provided each Councilman with an opportunity to share in the ceremonial experiences of the Council. I brought the same idea to this Council at the beginning of its session, and, of course, this matter was rejected at the time.

We have had a chance to experience the single Mayor Pro-Tem - while I am not commenting on any charges, I do think that if you see indications of clouds you may not have rain and I say that to Mr. Hartman. But, it is an indication that there might be rain. That clouds can indicate the possibility of rain. I think that we can escape the possibility

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of any problems that of a wonderful unity that has been expressed in this Council by moving from the single Mayor Pro-Tem for the final year of this Council session to a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem and I do this on the basis of the position I held at the beginning and that position was that the Mayor of our City is elected by all of the City. It is extremely difficult and I might say that almost impossible for a prevailing Mayor Pro-Tem not to find himself in the position that my friend, Councilman Teniente, finds himself in now. And that is to find himself charged with the matter of utilizing power that could be divisive. It is almost impossible when it is a continuing experience. Whereas, if we had it as a rotating experience one does not hold the job long enough to find himself in that kind of position. And it was that very reason that I advocated it in the first place, and it is for that very reason that I certainly recommend that the Council adopt a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem beginning numerically with Dr. Nielsen and going on back through the numbers for two months, for a two month period on the part of each of the Council members.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Mr. Pyndus.

MR. PHIL PYNDUS: Councilmen and Mayor Cockrell, inasmuch as I had originally voted with Councilman Black, with regards to a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem, I would like to be the one to second his motion if we are to make a motion at this time. I feel that I was unable to persuade the majority of the Council in the beginning that each Councilperson elected individually by the people of San Antonio. Each Council member should share in regards to the position of Mayor Pro-Tem. In no way cast any suspicion or any charges upon our present Mayor Pro-Tem who has worked very diligently, and I don't think that we have an issue of members of the Planning Commission. I think this is simply an issue of rotating the term of Mayor Pro-Tem and in order to second the motion if this motion is acceptable I would like clarification as to the rotation process.

REVEREND BLACK: I'm recommending in my motion that we begin with Dr. Nielsen for the first two months. We move from - of course, the Mayor has a position and Councilman Pyndus. Then we have Councilman Billa, Cisneros, myself and Mr. Hartman.

MR. PYNDUS: You are just following a natural rotation counter clockwise.

REVEREND BLACK: That's right.

MR. PYNDUS: I would second that motion.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Mr. Rohde, then, would not have a term. Is that correct?

MR. AL ROHDE: Yes, that's correct and I feel more comfortable with that situation. That is my wish and desire.

MR. BOB BILLA: Naturally, I voted with the majority the last time and I have no objection to a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem. I don't see any real significance in being Mayor Pro-Tem. I think that what has happened today and what has happened in the past few days is absolute evidence that the Mayor Pro-Tem has no power and it would seem to me that the move is a vindictive move and I can look at it and view it in no other way and when I view the subject of is this going to help San Antonio, here we are discussing something about the Mayor Pro-Tem, each one of us has one vote

and it has all come about because the majority of the Council prevailed on an issue. The issue was made public before the ordinance was even passed and it has gotten out in the open and it just seemed like a pure act of invictiveness on the part of some individuals. Now, if we had thought that this thing was not going to work in the first three months of our term, then it should have been brought up. But I think the timing of it is very important and it would seem on that basis it is only an act of invictiveness and you are just switching the power base from one group of people to the other. I can't see it having any benefit to the City of San Antonio even though I voted against, or I voted for it, I mean, and it would even have the privilege that is if it is indeed a privilege to serve as a Mayor Pro-Tem. As far as social functions and civic functions are concerned, I believe I participated in many ribbon cuttings and you and the Mayor Pro-Tem, of course, have stepped aside and given all of us an opportunity to participate in those particular things. I agree with Reverend Black. He has his view points, and I am very sympathetic to his view. But I think the timing was wrong. It is just going to create further divisiveness not only in the Council but in the community.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Dr. Nielsen.

DR. D. FORD NIELSEN: I would like to remind my esteemed colleague, Reverend Black, that there is great benefit to rain in clouds. You know that as well as I do. I hope this Council can operate not under the theology of guilt but under the theology of grace. Each one of us is very important here - each one of us. All nine, every one of the 800 and some thousand citizens in San Antonio. Also there is a flaw in your argument. That is that it is not exactly the same as it was two years ago, Claude. We discussed this. The last Council's Mayor was not elected directly by the people. The Charter calls for (a) Mayor Pro-Tem and I don't think you will find any other city in the country that rotates the Mayor Pro-Tem. It still seems to me that if not vindictive at least a clear move on the part of those who are politically strategizing for the next election which seems to me reductionistic and really does not help the working together of this Council. I'm telling every citizen that's what it strikes me. A symbolic political strategizing for the next election. I cannot support it, and if it passes, I will abide it, I will yield my position and it doesn't make much logical sense to me why you start with eight and then go one, two, three. I don't understand that at all but if that's the way the majority wants it, I'll yield my term to Mr. Teniente.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Does any other Council member wish to comment?

MR. ROHDE: Before we vote, Richard, I reject your charges you made against me, because I did not accuse you of misusing your power.

MR. TENIENTE: I have not made any charges. I am just answering what you have answered in the paper and you have at no time tried to correct it.

MR. ROHDE: This is the public eye and I really want to do it in a nice respectful way. I have never questioned your integrity. I have never charged that. I have got the notes here. I have been very clear about this. I came in to talk to you about the problems we had yesterday as a fellow Councilman and I feel that integrity and candor has to be a keystone of communication between Council members to do a public business. If that breaks down and collapses, we are in trouble. I feel this, that if a Councilman wants to vote the way he wants to, and he acts

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the way he wants to, he is not responsible to another Councilman. He should not be put into a punishment situation. He is only responsible to the voters of this City. That is the way I view it. And the thing of it is this is an independent group of people here and they are here to do things that are good for the City and for all citizens of San Antonio. I can assure you, Councilman Billa, one of my closest friends that I reject you. There is no seven days in April in this plan at all. It's come out probably from an indignation of the Hartman situation and these don't plan when indignations come out. It just happens. I resent what you said about being political. There is no political power struggle in this matter at all, my good friend. Well all right, that's all right.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, Gentlemen. I am going to ask

MR. ROHDE: I am going to answer it, that's my answer to it and I want to say this that all three of these men who can talk about the thing here they are still my good friends and we are going to have a close personal relationship and I am going to keep it that way.

MAYOR COCKRELL: I want to just interject again that I am very appreciative of the contribution that each one of you have made. It is my desire that this Council will be able, whatever decision is made, will be able to pull together and I will hope that we try to avoid any further personal remarks.

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: Okay, Mrs. Cockrell, it is very important however, that certain quotes that were in the newspaper be either answered with false or an apology or true and then if they are true I want the charges cleared. This is the reason I wanted an open meeting, because they are false. They are utterly without foundation, and if they are not true why was there not a retraction statement made by Councilman Rohde and I don't expect Reverend Black to answer for that but

MR. ROHDE: Richard, if you give me a set of the circumstances, I will be glad before the night is over with to answer them but I want a certain study. You didn't give me a copy of your talk and I want to know what you are charging me with and I will be glad to do it.

REV. BLACK: Madam Mayor. It seems to me that in some ways we have allowed -- even the responses have not been to the substance of the issue. We have talked about motives. This is not in the substance of the issue. The substance of the issue is whether or not a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem would serve best at this point - the working relationship of this Council. I will not dignify the charges of motives by trying to answer that. I am simply going to deal with the substance. I began with it two years ago. I think that the change of the way which the Mayor is elected even makes it more substantive in this Council than it did in the first Council because it provides for the kind of participation, the lack of some of the things we see being expressed as having a potential. I said, and Councilman Nielsen knows that I said that it had this potential in the very beginning. I believe that the evidence of it is at least expressed in the press and, therefore, I think that we can best handle this by going into the rotating Mayor Pro-Tem.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, certainly Mr. Billa.

MR. BILLA: If there is a motion and a second, I'd like to offer a substitute motion. The motion is that we postpone this until we have a regular session and all citizens concerned. It seems to be such a magnitude that I think we ought to hear from citizens that are concerned about it.

DR. NIELSEN: I second the motion.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, it has been moved and seconded that the matter be postponed until -- did you give a stated time?

MR. BILLA: Well, tomorrow.

DR. NIELSEN: I thought this was to be a "B" Session to deal with the water.

MAYOR COCKRELL: It has been moved and seconded that the matter be postponed until tomorrow, was that the motion? Until tomorrow. All right, the motion to postpone is

MR. BILLA: I'd rather it be a week from tomorrow

MAYOR COCKRELL: A week from tomorrow. Well let me just be sure. I am sorry that is the point that has escaped me. Is the City Attorney here? I think the motion to postpone is not subject to debate. But I wanted to see if the City Attorney has Robert's rules of order.

MR. BILLA: It would be a week from tomorrow to give citizens, I mean everybody wants the democrat process to prevail but it seems that this becomes such a magnitude that we shouldn't decide it amongst ourselves.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Just a second, let me get a ruling. Mr. Parker, is the motion to postpone subject to debate, do you recall?

CITY ATTORNEY JIM PARKER: I do not recall.

MAYOR COCKRELL: I don't recall, but let's assume that, I think it was not subject to debate.

(INAUDIBLE)

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, we have a motion to postpone until a week from tomorrow. By way of explanation without making any comment on this. Legally, may I ask the City Attorney is it possible legally to vote today?

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: Yes, Madam. It is posted.

MAYOR COCKRELL: It is posted so it can be voted today or it can be postponed. All right. We have a motion to postpone until a week from tomorrow. The Clerk will call the roll.

The motion to postpone failed on the following roll call vote:
AYES: Billa, Nielsen; NAYS: Pyndus, Cisneros, Black, Hartman, Rohde;
ABSTAIN: Teniente, Cockrell; ABSENT: None.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, the motion failed, we then go back to the original motion which is

CITY CLERK JACKSON: Read the following: A Resolution providing for a Mayor Pro-Tem for the period from May, 1976 to April, 1977.

Be it resolved that the following members of the City Council are hereby designated as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of San Antonio to serve through the months indicated at the pleasure of the City Council. In May and June, 1976, D. Ford Nielsen; July and August, 1976, Phil Pyndus; September and October, 1976, Bob Billa; November and December, 1976, Henry Cisneros; January and February, 1977, Claude Black; March and April, 1977, Glen Hartman.

DR. NIELSEN: I wish to offer an amendment to the motion that for the first two months that my name be deleted and the name of Richard Teniente be substituted.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, there is a motion, is there a second to that motion?

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: I would not accept this I would like to speak to that, if I may.

MAYOR COCKRELL: We have a request from the person. Dr. Nielsen, is that at the request of Mr. Teniente, is that agreeable with you? Yes, fine, thank you. All right. Then the motion, is that agreeable with the second person to withdraw the motion? All right. Well, then the motion is withdrawn. We then have a motion and a second on the adoption of the ordinance.....

MR. PYNDUS: Mayor, should provision be provided that if a Council person declines to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem whether the time involved should be split between those who will serve. Should that be included in the ordinance to make it correct?

REV. BLACK: I think it has to be decided by the City any way.

MR. PYNDUS: It is understood that if Dr. Nielsen

DR. NIELSEN: I've already declined.

MR. PYNDUS: It would move to put up the remaining ones who would serve.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. The question has then been - may I ask the City Attorney, since Dr. Nielsen has indicated that he has no desire to be given a term, then should the ordinance be rewritten then.

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: We can either redraft it now or you could wait until such time as the occasion arises.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Pass it in this form and if the majority wishes and then have the amendments for their period of time.

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: (Inaudible)

MR. PYNDUS: Should it not be amended now to make the provision in case though and that would settle it?

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: That's at the Council's option.

MR. PYNDUS: I mean word it to such extent easily that in case one declines the time will be split between the remaining Council people.

MAYOR COCKRELL: (Inaudible)

DR. NIELSEN: Madam Mayor, while we're redrafting the ordinance if there are some citizens here who would like to speak on this, we are so great and open about this participation, I don't know if there are or not, I have no idea, but if there are, I'd like to hear it.

MR. PYNDUS: Another question. If we merely deleted Dr. Nielsen's name as he has requested, and let the motion go through that Dr. Nielsen declines.

MAYOR COCKRELL: The ordinance would still be amended to -

REV. BLACK: I would suggest that we go on with the motion.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. It's been moved and seconded that the motion as has been stated with a second be passed. Is there any further discussion by the Council.

MR. JOHN SCHAEFER: Madam Mayor, you've been asking for input from the citizens I have only one question. It's obvious that there is political exposure involved in the Mayor Pro-Tem position and as such the fact that one person may get that exposure and another does not is important in that there is not enough time remaining for each individual Councilman to serve. It's also a political fact of life that the exposure as Mayor Pro-Tem just prior to an election would be more advantageous than a year prior to the election. It would be my question as to of the power structure even possibly the legality of setting these particular positions for each member in advance and it would be my suggestion as a citizen that these positions be determined by lot so that no charges of political maneuvering or favoritism can be placed

MAYOR COCKRELL: Thank you, Mr. Schaefer. The only experience I've had with this, I was on the last Council and at that time the Council did determine the order in which it proceeded and as I recall it started with Mayor Becker who was in Place No. 3 and then the next person was Place No. 4 whom I believe was Reverend Black and then it just proceeded around numerically. Mr. Hartman.

MR. GLEN HARTMAN: Madam Mayor, inasmuch as the comment from the citizen who I think indicated that there would be some difference with regard to political exposure. I certainly have no - I don't see any problem with regard to drawing by lot or such other means as may be appropriate. I'm not that concerned about being Mayor Pro-Tem at any particular time.

REV. BLACK: I'd like to call the previous question because I don't think that makes that much difference.

DR. NIELSEN: I think, Madam Mayor, why don't we since there's confusion on about whether I'm going to serve or not, just pass the motion that there may be a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem and we can work out these details later.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. Will you read the caption again? May I ask the City Attorney, is it possible to have the motion considered without designating who will fill the term - the order of the persons to fill the term.

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: Anything you do has to be in writing at the time you do it.

MAYOR COCKRELL: I see. Could it be amended to delete the names of the persons by simply establishing that there will be a

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: You could delete certain sections of it if it is your intention at some subsequent time to add something to it.

MAYOR COCKRELL: That would designate obviously, yes, yes. Would you read that portion..... The suggestion has been made that the exact order perhaps not be spelled out but that the item be yes, would you read that?

CITY CLERK JACKSON: The caption reads "A resolution providing for a Mayor Pro-Tem for the period from May of 1976 through April, 1977". The section in the ordinance then says "the following members of the City Council are hereby designated as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of San Antonio to serve during the month indicated at the pleasure of the City Council and it spells them out individually."

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: We would have to change the entire wording.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. Well, at this point there is a motion and there's a second on passage of this ordinance. This has been the nature of discussion on the ordinance and while we've had several discussions, we have not had any other additional motions and so I guess we'll proceed to call the roll on this motion and then

MR. PYNDUS: I'm not comfortable with that. How long will it take to change that thing so that it will read correctly?

CITY ATTORNEY PARKER: (Inaudible)

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. May I just suggest this? Just informally, if the Council would desire to have those persons willing to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem draw a lot right now for their place and position. The problem is at this point it would appear that we would know that the motion of the rotating Mayor Pro-Tem is going to pass although we have not had the final vote. Would it be agreeable to those persons who are willing to serve to draw out numbers in a lot and have that written into the ordinance?

MR. PYNDUS: I have no problem in that.

MAYOR COCKRELL: What is your feelings? All right. May we then have an indication or we have had two members of the Council indicate that they did not desire to serve a term. Is there any other member of the Council who does not feel that he would be willing to serve? In that case, there appear to be five persons and one will then have a term

Dr. Nielsen, you wouldn't be willing to

DR. NIELSEN: No, madam.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. In terms of the order in which their terms will be established, may we ask that

MR. BILLA: Mrs. Mayor, will it simplify - I withdraw my name to serve and that since there are four of us

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, it has been suggested originally that there would be six persons who would serve two months each. We have now some persons that have withdrawn and it appears that there are now four persons who are willing to serve, in which case, that means a three month term for each. Is there any way that either of you or both of you would reconsider and serve a term?

MR. BILLA: Mayor, I would say this. I think that it really doesn't matter to me, I don't attach any significance to being Mayor Pro-Tem and I think we started out one way and I think we're wasting a lot of time. It would just simplify the process. Let those that vote for a term. Thank you.

MAYOR COCKRELL: If we may then, since it has to be changed in the ordinance there are four persons who have indicated they are willing to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. May we draw Place 1, 2, 3, and 4 and have the ordinance then corrected.

MR. BILLA: Mayor, may I say further that my withdrawing doesn't mean that I'm not willing to serve my City. I still have one vote.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. Fine. Mr. Jackson, will you draw the names? 7

CITY CLERK JACKSON: Mr. Hartman is first. Mr. Pyndus is second. Dr. Cisneros is third. Reverend Black is fourth.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. We will ask that this ordinance be corrected. Ask that this ordinance be corrected and be brought back. With the consent of the Council may we have a motion to temporarily lay this on the table so that we may proceed with other business and return to it when the ordinance is completed.

On motion duly made by Mr. Pyndus and seconded by Reverend Black the matter was tabled temporarily until the ordinance could be retyped. The roll call vote was as follows: AYES: Pyndus, Billa, Cisneros, Black, Hartman, Rohde, Teniente, Nielsen, Cockrell; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

76-16 At this point the meeting was recessed to go into "B" Session to discuss water policy matters with the City Water Board.

76-16 Following discussion of water policy the Council Meeting resumed and the following conversation took place:

MR. PYNDUS: I would like to call for the ordinance that has been prepared. I move that the ordinance be moved from the table.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, we have a motion to remove from the table the ordinance that had been temporarily laid on the table. Is there a second to the motion.

DR. CISNEROS: I second the motion.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, it has been moved and seconded that the item be removed from the table that had been pending earlier. Is the Clerk ready with the caption?

DR. NIELSEN: Madam Mayor, I would ask very candidly that this whole thing be postponed. I think it's grossly unfair to not only some elected officials but the whole thing would be that we do this without anything but I guess official two days prior notice. It's my fault. I didn't know that it was a regular "A" Session item but I would ask that we delay this matter for one week or until week after next.

On roll call the motion was passed and approved by the following vote: AYES: Pyndus, Billa, Cisneros, Black, Hartman, Rohde, Teniente, Nielsen, Cockrell; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None.

MAYOR COCKRELL: The Clerk will now read the caption.

The Clerk read the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION
No. 76-16-20

PROVIDING FOR A MAYOR PRO-TEM FOR THE PERIOD
FROM MAY, 1976 THROUGH APRIL, 1977.

* * * * *

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. That the following members of the City Council are hereby designated as the Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of San Antonio, to serve during the months indicated at the pleasure of the City Council:

May, June, July, 1976:	Glen Hartman
August, September, October, 1976:	Phil Pyndus
November, December, 1976, January, 1977:	Henry Cisneros
February, March, April, 1977:	Claude Black.

SECTION 2. These designations are made pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter of the City of San Antonio and supercede Resolution 75-23-40.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Thank you. Is there a motion for adoption?

REV. BLACK: I move for adoption of the resolution.

MR. PYNDUS: I second the motion.

MAYOR COCKRELL: It has been moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted. Is there discussion on the motion?

DR. NIELSEN: Can we hear from some citizens who wish to speak?

MR. DARIO CHAPA: Thank you Mayor and Honorable Councilmen. I didn't know that this action was going to be taken today, so I didn't have much time to prepare what I wanted to say. But I'm here to speak in behalf of LULAC as its Director of this District that we are totally against the removal of Mr. Teniente from Mayor Pro-Tem on a permanent basis. We feel that it might be misinterpreted as being capricious and vindictive, and encouraging more divisiveness of the community. We feel Council to unite in harmony and that the removal at this time of Mr. Teniente will be considered a direct slap at the Mexican-American community. I urge that you not act in haste but to postpone this action until you get more input and feeling of how the community of which your action will be affecting feels about this action. I implore that you do not act in haste, that you give this matter more time because this is a very serious matter and, like I said, I'll repeat, a direct slap at the Mexican-American Community. Thank you, very much.

MR. FRANK ALVAREZ: I wanted to request to be heard at this meeting, if I may.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Would you state your name please?

MR. ALVAREZ: My name is Frank Alvarez and I'm Director of Barrio Betterment and Development Corporation. We operate our centers on the Westside of San Antonio where we service an area that is inhabited by approximately 200,000 people. I can't help but want to come before the body today to reinforce the feelings and the sentiments that have been

expressed by Mr. Dario Chapa, District Director of LULAC. I think that those of us who have worked very closely with the particular area of town that we serve have the unique, not necessarily ability to foresee or foretell or look into the future, but I think we are perhaps closer than those who are a little bit further removed from the feelings and sentiments of the people that we serve. To this effect I would like to say that it has been a feeling of pride for the population in that area of the City that since we have not, for whatever reasons in the past, which I do not wish to go into at this time, but I think a lot of us here are aware of, we have been unable to have during all these many years, a Mexican-American Mayor of this City, that the next best thing for us is having a Mayor Pro-Tem. I feel that any action taken by this body to remove the person who is now Mayor Pro-Tem of San Antonio who also happens to be a Mexican-American, would be a cause of great divisiveness also. I think that the action that is taken here today will not be soon forgotten. The population, not only the entire population of the City of San Antonio but the Mexican-American population in particular. Thank you, very much.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Thank you sir. Is there anybody else?

MR. BILLA: Mayor, I'd just like to say this. I think it's very sad. Just last Thursday, the Council majority could have made a decision and voted on the issue and I'm just sorry the majority now can't show the same consideration because some people reversed themselves on an issue that has been made public when it should have been private.

MR. NICK PENA: Madam Mayor.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Yes sir. I would appreciate it if you would keep it very brief.

MR. PENA: I would just like to, of course, the rapidness of this situation forces us to come before this body and express our concern in this matter of the Mayor Pro-Tem. I am very familiar with a lot of the Councilmen here and we are very familiar with the workings of the Mayor Pro-Tem in the community. As a representative of LULAC I think that there will be terrific implications if we act, as Mr. Chapa stated, in haste as we are doing today. All we are asking is that we be given a little time for consideration. That it be postponed or recessed for a week at least so that the community can relate to this matter in a reasonable way. Otherwise we are going to be like the Reverend Black just a few minutes ago reiterated, there will be clouds. It will cloud the situation and there will be rain and you will have protests. We cannot stand any more kind of protests. We have enough with the water situation coming up. I'm sure that these people that are concerned with the water district will make things very difficult to resolve. This matter may come up again may make things worse and this Council will not be able to work as a business body and representative of this community. I ask that you act reasonably and that you reconsider this matter very carefully. Thank you.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Thank you. Is the Council ready? Are there any other comments from Council members? I mean any further discussion?

DR. NIELSEN: Might I offer as a consensus that we do delay this?

MAYOR COCKRELL: That was, I think, voted on earlier.

DR. NIELSEN: I think strictly speaking that a consensus could be offered.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Any further comments?

MR. PYNDUS: Yes, madam. I really had hoped that we settle this issue on a parliamentary basis and procedure only. Originally I voted for a rotating Mayor Pro-Tem and I hold my position. I appreciate the concern the Mexican-American community has expressed for Mayor Pro-Tem Teniente, but I think this is not the issue. I would like to place the issue on a rotating basis. That's where it belongs. It is not on personality and I think that you should look at it as such and accordingly help bring the community together yourselves. I ran on a ticket that had four Mexican-Americans on it and they were repudiated and they were repudiated by the Mexican-American community as well as the other areas of town. So I think that we are not speaking of personalities in this issue and I'd like for you to look at it as squarely as we are trying to. I do not think it is an area where we are moving in haste. I think it is a decision we are as far as procedure is concerned and there is no advantage to waiting and I would urge the Council to move with this action immediately.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, now then, let me see, is there any other Council member who is ready. Is the Council now ready? We have heard from you, sir, and I think the Council needs to decide if there is any further All right, the Clerk will call the roll.

On the following roll call vote, the Resolution was passed and approved by the following vote: AYES: Pyndus, Cisneros, Black, Hartman, Rohde, Cockrell; NAYS: Billa, Nielsen; ABSTAIN: Teniente.

MAYOR COCKRELL: I will vote yes and the reason is that in the very beginning of this Council term I did support the rotating system. I do wish to state, as I have already stated, that I have appreciated the cooperation of Mayor Pro-Tem Teniente, and I would like to as the Council's concurrence with my preparing a Resolution of Appreciation for his services

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: I haven't died, Mrs. Cockrell.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Let me state, Mr. Teniente, that on an occasion when I performed services that you felt were beneficial that you were the first one

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: I would hope that that would not be the case at this time. Thank you for your gesture anyway.

MAYOR COCKRELL: I did accept a Citation that you had initiated in expressing appreciation of my services and I would like very much to offer it

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: I see this as nothing other than a political move and you can call it whatever you want. It is a political maneuver on the part of some who because of their inability to accept certain type of Council majority votes and because of their possibly juvenile attitude in certain meetings or have garnished enough votes and have just worked to bring about this change. No one can tell me that it is not anything other than just a political move by that which I have been accused of doing and that is trying to bring a political group, political block, it's nothing other than just that. I think that whatever title may be stripped from me, my drive and my attention to the matters of the citizens will certainly not change.

DR. NIELSEN: I'd like to say, Mayor, that in response to my initial statement as far as the politics is a symbol thereof, I just received some information that will, of course, probably be proven or disproven in the next few days but I'm even more convinced now that there was a high degree of politics involved in what went on and is symbolic especially because we didn't do this in a regular session. I'm not talking about a conspiracy. I'm just saying that a clear political move made this Politics is healthy. I just think that the method used and the purpose of this will be known in a few days.

MR. BILLA: I concur.

DR. NIELSEN: Thank you.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Now then, we have some other items that are pending.

CITY MANAGER SAM GRANATA: I suggest that we go into Executive Session but Mr. Ellison has asked for about two minutes for a general statement if he can.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. Fine. Mr. Ellison.

MR. RAY ELLISON: Mrs. Mayor and Councilmen, I appreciate you offering to recognize me a while ago. I didn't have anything to say a while ago but I feel like I have now. This is the first time I've been before the Council I guess in ten years. I'm sorry to come up right after you just had the type of vote you had or I don't feel like I should get involved in that and I'm not. But I think our City, we're looking at it a little in the wrong way really. We talk about we have no industry here or can get no industry here and we recognize that Kelly and our military are our most important things to the whole City. The military is the most important thing in the whole City as far as I'm concerned. But we do have military people retiring in San Antonio and it's a very large industry and I feel like we should take advantage of being able to have these people come to this town. They do spend their money in this town. When they buy homes, a lot of people get some jobs to put these homes up. Now if we can offer a home for less money in the City of San Antonio than there can be one offered in Florida or California or other places, it's just one plus as far as we're concerned, as far as the City is concerned. I think if an industry does come to town, we're going to do everything in the world to try to get industry here. Now there is an awful lot of people retiring out of the Air Force right now and the Army that are making San Antonio their home. We'd like for them to continue to make their homes here in San Antonio. I'm missing something when we say that the only industry we can bring in is all different types of industry, I'm missing something. I don't know what it is but we have one of the best opportunities that the City of San Antonio ever had to bring in retired people, bring their dollars in to be in your banks and your savings and loan and will do more for San Antonio, and I hope we get San Antonians together more than anything I know of.

I'm not probably making myself real clear but if I think that if we could all get together and really strive toward bringing retired people into this town. And when we talk about bringing a retired person into this town, the only reason he's going to come here is for a good climate and a good place to live and be able to live here under a budget that he can afford. Most military people coming from anywhere do not have the biggest budget in the world to use. I have nothing to say about the water or anything else. It's the first time - I don't talk very good in front of a crowd

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MAYOR COCKRELL: You've made a lot of good points here and I certainly think that we're very concerned in anything you have to say. Thank you. Now then some of us unfortunately have to leave and catch a five o'clock flight and we have to leave and get out to the airport. There's one item I do want to run by the Council and that is that one of the purposes of going to - I'm leaving for Washington in connection with a hearing with the Justice Department on the Voter Rights Act. One thing that I would like to be able to report, which believe so far as I know is the feeling of the Council and that is that this Council would certainly be more than willing to initiate action to call together another citizens' committee to look at Charter Revision so that the issue of the method of selecting Council members can again be laid before the voters. As you all know, under our City Charter, there was a Charter change that was proposed in November of 1974 and at that time the voters turned down the method of electing Council members which would have had seven by district, three plus the Mayor at large and under the City Charter we are prohibited from having another Charter election until after two years has elapsed and then combined with the State - new State Voter Requirements, it would mean that no election could be held prior to January as I understand from the City Attorney. Because of this, January will be the first time we could have a Charter election in the City but I would like to at least report to the Justice Department that the Council would certainly be willing to entertain proceedings with a Charter revision election that would be looking at the issue of the method of selecting Councilmen as well as any other items of Charter change. And that we would be willing to lay this issue before the voters.

REVEREND BLACK: Madam Mayor, I would like to move the adoption of your recommendation.

MR. HARTMAN: Second it.

MR. PYNDUS: I would like to speak in opposition to the idea, Mayor Cockrell. I feel rather strongly that we're being intimidated and I do not personally favor single member districts. I think our voters have put the issue to test and it has not passed. To rush into a Charter revision, to rush into a proposed revision to meet this rather erroneous and indescribable federal action, I just don't feel that I could lend my support to it and I would like to add that.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right. Let me just clarify that what I see. I personally feel it is necessary to oppose any threat to the City's annexation powers and ability. At the same time, I feel that although the voters have had the opportunity to vote on the issue once, that it certainly should have the opportunity from periodic times to review several areas of the Charter and this is one that is under continuing discussion in the community and I feel that they should have the opportunity to review it again. Now, Mr. Teniente.

MAYOR PRO-TEM TENIENTE: Yes, Madam Mayor, I'm not speaking at Councilman Pyndus, but a minute ago he was rushing into one item and now he talks about not rushing into this other. I think, as you say, we will not be able to have an election until January so the consensus is as I've read it in the past, the majority favors single member districts. I would like to see if possible, if you could word it a little stronger in your deliberation with these people to assure them that the majority of the Council would if at all possible, would put them into a single member district even before.

DR. NIELSEN: Madam Mayor, I know that you know the seriousness and the amount of work and effort that Charter Revision calls. I think you were involved in very deeply last time and without making it

sound as if your effort is not that serious. I would hope there would be another alternative such as a statement from the Council that a majority do favor single member districts, if that is some sort of lever or whatever. But just to set up a Charter revision commission, as a response to this, let's find a better alternative, okay.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Well, we have to work only within our legal ability and that's the main point.

DR. NIELSEN: Wait, wait, Madam Mayor. Now this has other implications besides legal ability. You and I both know that there's a great deal of politics involved in this also and let's be very candid about it, okay. And if that's what's happening, then it seems to me a responsible statement from the Council realizing that is just as effective as setting up another - I don't know that it would even pass, Mayor.

REVEREND BLACK: I would agree with what he's saying. I think you've got to go through the process that thing that makes it a real - in other words, you don't want to just throw before this group something that they know you're just trying to put them on. You know, we're not trying to put them on, we're trying to say we have a real process here and we want to take that process seriously.

MAYOR COCKRELL: All right, at least, if we can say for sure that we do see the possibility or the probability

DR. NIELSEN: That we are seriously considering yes,

MAYOR COCKRELL: We cannot make any guarantees about the results because the voters have the right to vote.

DR. NIELSEN: But I would predict at this particular time if it come to a vote that it would not pass.

REVEREND BLACK: But you got an economic threat, which is a different kind of climate for what you had before. You have got a situation that says

DR. NIELSEN: It depends on whose economics you are talking about, Claude.

MAYOR COCKRELL: Is there anyone other than Mr. Pyndus who would object to the Council moving toward a Charter election in January, the first possible date on this issue along with any other Charter issue? Okay.

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76-16 There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 P. M.

A P P R O V E D

Lila Cockrell
M A Y O R

ATTEST:

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G. V. Johnson Jr.
C i t y C l e r k

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