

December 5, 2021

City of National City
Mayor Alejandra Sotelo, Solis and
Member of City Council
1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA 91950

Re: Request to Implement District Voting under the California Voting Rights Act

Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to ask you adopt a resolution to transition from at-large to district based elections as soon as possible and hold district elections for election year 2022.

The Filipino-American community, of which I am a member, represents the 2nd largest ethnic group in the City. The City also receives substantial private investment in the City because of it. This substantially contributes to the City's economy and culture.

However, the City's at-large elections have resulted in vote-dilution and political disempowerment. The community has been denied adequate representation on the City's five-member council for decades. Despite comprising nearly 1/5 of the population, the City's "at-large" voters have elected only one known Filipino-American candidate to its council in the 20 years, and just two in the last 55 years. Furthermore, the at-large elections have denied the community the fair opportunity to just influence the outcome of an election.

The disempowering of minority voters and communities of interests is the reason why 13 out of 18 cities in the County have already transitioned to district voting. This includes the City of San Diego and cities smaller and less racially polarized than National City.

Please comply with the California Voting Rights Act immediately.

Sincerely,



Ellen Nobles, President
Olongapo City Bayanihan Club
National City, California