

December 21, 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
Agenda Item #3**

Mayor and City Council,

I am a business owner, doing business in National City. Please adopt a resolution to transition from at-large to district-based elections as soon as possible.

The City's at-large elections have resulted in vote-dilution and political disempowerment for the Filipino American and other minority communities. Our community has been denied adequate representation on the City's five-member council for decades. It has been denied the community the fair opportunity to just influence the outcome of an election.

At-large elections also have an adverse impact on a variety of communities of interest. For example, it does not result in representatives being elected from different geographic regions of the city. This could result from a majority of councils residing in the same neighborhood and focusing on the needs of that particular neighborhood.

The disempowering of minority voters and communities of interest is the reason why 13 out of 18 cities in the County have already transitioned to district voting.

Last, the transition now would save the city the costs of litigation. Other cities have had to pay millions of dollars, only to not prevail. National City can use its resources in more productive ways to help its citizens.

Sincerely,

Femie V. Cupit
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