

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

November 16, 2010

For years, the City of Vernon has been the subject of repeated investigations, audits, voter irregularities, and criminal prosecutions of City officials. The failure of the City to right its course in the wake of these scandals have led some officials to call for the disincorporation of the City, while others have called for the annexation of Vernon into adjacent municipalities.

The difficulty in achieving either of these remedies is the same difficulty that originally created Vernon’s problems—the City’s approximately 90 residents who are eligible to vote reside in City-owned housing and are financially beholden to those in power. As one reporter artfully stated, “*normally the residents select their elected officials, in Vernon, the elected officials select the residents.*”

A permanent solution is required so that those who vote for the City’s future, or the City’s future leaders, are independent voters not beholden to the Vernon City government. In this case, the best way to achieve fair elections in this case is a fair selection process for the City-owned and City-controlled housing units.

MOTION

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors direct County legislative advocates to pursue legislation authorizing a Constitutional Amendment that would:

1. Specify that no more than 10 percent of a Charter City's owned or controlled housing could be occupied by city employees, or individuals with a conflict of interest, and;

2. Authorize a county or its Community Development Commission to competitively bid the housing units for charter cities that exceed the 10 percent threshold, and:

3. Provide a mechanism to relocate any displaced families or individuals.

GH/ch