

10-1686

OCT 27 2010
PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

Recent revelations concerning governing practices in the City of Vernon have brought to light significant questions concerning what it means to actually be a city and the responsibilities that individual cities have in our larger community of cities and counties.

Every city and county in the State has a responsibility to provide a range of housing opportunities for residents in the region, including the availability of housing. A significant source of funding for housing comes from redevelopment agencies to build affordable housing. This is required by State law. But Vernon, between 1999 and 2008, withheld about \$10 million that otherwise would have been designated for affordable housing. This is a critical failure in our current affordable housing crisis.

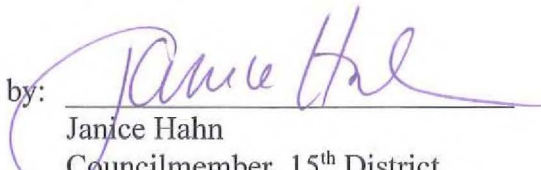
These and other findings have raised the most fundamental question of all: what does it mean to be a city? By virtually any measure, Vernon does not appear to be operating as a city and recent comments by State legislators show that this is a serious issue that must be addressed.

On-going investigations by the District Attorney, the Grand Jury, and the Attorney General indicate that the seriousness of these issues must be addressed. Further, a plan must be in place going forward that addresses governance of the Vernon area after disincorporation. The State has a long-standing policy of discouraging unincorporated islands and an action to disincorporate Vernon should not result in a new unincorporated island.

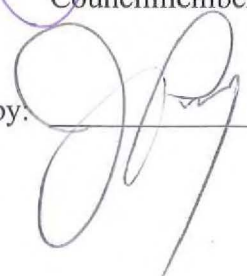
Broad governmental powers such as taxation, managing elections, and maintaining health and safety must be handled with the greatest respect for the public these powers are intended to serve. The time has come for the status of Vernon as a legitimate governmental agency to be reconsidered and its governmental authority to be annexed to the City of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst to prepare a feasibility analysis of the annexation of Vernon into the City of Los Angeles, including a review of the actions necessary to implement this action, an economic impact analysis, and consideration of other relevant actions and impacts.

Presented by:


Janice Hahn
Councilmember, 15th District

Seconded by:



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