

MOTION

The Los Angeles City Council suspended Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas on October 20, 2021, after the U.S. Attorney's Office filed a multiple-count felony indictment on October 13, 2021. Council took this action pursuant to Charter Section 211 (titled "Suspension Pending Trial") in a properly noticed special meeting and after public comment, consistent with the Brown Act. The suspension created a temporary vacancy in the office of Council District 10. The vacancy is temporary because Mr. Ridley-Thomas would be eligible to resume his elected duties before the remainder of his unexpired term if the Council lifts his suspension following his acquittal or when the charges against him are dropped.

After the suspension, the Council President named Mr. Ridley-Thomas's chief of staff as the caretaker for Council District 10 to manage the day-to-day affairs of the District. A caretaker may not, however, act as a voting member of the Council. Council District 10 has, therefore, lacked direct representation at Council meetings since Mr. Ridley-Thomas's suspension. Initially, Mr. Ridley-Thomas's trial date was tentatively set for December 2021. Given the imminent trial date, Council was prudent to delay appointing someone to fill the office of Council District 10. However, at the joint request of Mr. Ridley-Thomas and the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. District judge handling the case later ordered the trial date moved to August 9, 2022. The trial date could potentially be delayed even further. The Council should now, therefore, appoint someone to hold the office of Council District 10 as a voting member to directly represent the constituents of Council District 10 for such period as is likely sufficient for Mr. Ridley-Thomas's trial to be resolved.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council, pursuant to Charter Section 409, appoint Herb Wesson to hold the office of Council District 10 through December 31, 2022, or until Mr. Ridley-Thomas is acquitted or the charges against him are dropped, whichever comes first.

PRESENTED BY: 
Nury Martinez
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


FEB 16 2022



SECONDED BY: _____

GIL CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District