

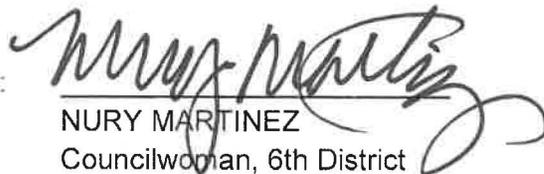
MOTION

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 if he is acquitted or the charges against him are dismissed.

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. Therefore, in February, the Council appointed Mr. Herb Wesson to serve as a voting member of the Council, providing direct representation to the residents of Council District 10. As a result of recent court rulings, however, District 10 residents are once again left without direct representation on the Council.

Following the court’s ruling, Ms. Heather Hutt was named as the caretaker for Council District 10. Ms. Hutt has a long career of public service and has previously served as the State Director for then-Senator Kamala Harris – the first Black State Director in California’s history – and as District Director for former State Senator Isadore Hall. Ms. Hutt is born and raised in Council District 10 and meets all other Charter requirements to serve as the voting member of Council District 10. Given the uncertainty of when and how Mr. Ridley-Thomas’s trial is to be resolved, the Council should now appoint someone to hold the office of Council District 10 as a voting member to directly represent the constituents of Council District 10.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council appoint Heather Hutt to hold the office of Council District 10 unless Mr. Ridley-Thomas is acquitted or the charges against him are dismissed, whichever comes first.

PRESENTED BY:   
 NURY MARTINEZ  
 Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:   


ORIGINAL

AUG 26 2022  
