



April 27, 2009

Deputy Mayor Don Higginson  
and Poway City Council Members  
Poway City Hall  
13325 Civic Center Drive  
Poway, CA 92064

Subject: City Council Appointments

Dear Deputy Mayor Higginson and Council Members:

As a citizens group representing over 200 South Poway area residents, SOUTH POWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SPRA) would like to express our concerns regarding the pending appointment process to fill the open mayoral seat and subsequent open city council seat.

Ideally, in our view, any open seat should be filled through an election process. A special election may cost the city money and it may be time-consuming. But Poway is OUR city and voters deserve to have their voices heard in a democratic election process to select representatives on our City Council.

However, due to the city's current budget crisis and several urgent issues, an appointment process may be the only rational way for the city to move forward. In view of pending City Council appointments, we would like to express our deep concerns regarding this process. The biggest concern of most SPRA members is the potential for an "heir-apparent" with automatic incumbent status in a future election. Appointed City Council members who automatically turn into favored incumbents tend to skew the normal election process. We no longer want this to occur in Poway. Powegians want – and deserve -- a clean, fair and untainted process in all future elections. Thus, SPRA strongly and respectfully requests that appointment to our Poway City Council only include individuals who will unequivocally and publicly commit to not running in the next general election.

**SOUTH POWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

CONNIE MESSINA ~ CHAIRPERSON • BILL PARMLEY ~ VICE CHAIRPERSON  
ELDA PARMLEY ~ TREASURER • KAREN KNECHT ~ SECRETARY  
ADDRESS: 12643 OAK KNOLL ROAD, POWAY, CA 92064 • PHONE: 858-248-2145  
E-MAIL: [spra.poway@hotmail.com](mailto:spra.poway@hotmail.com) • WEBSITE: [www.SouthPowayResidents.com](http://www.SouthPowayResidents.com)

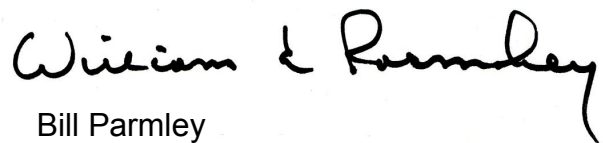
Deputy Mayor Higginson  
City of Poway  
April 27, 2009  
Page 2

Thank you for considering the views of SPRA and our members regarding this important Poway issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,



Connie Messina  
Chairperson



Bill Parmley  
Vice Chairperson (acting)



Elda Parmley  
Treasurer



Karen Knecht  
Secretary (acting)

cc: Betty Rexford - Poway City Council Member  
Merrilee Boyack - Poway City Council Member  
Jim Cunningham - Poway City Council Member  
Rod Gould - Poway City Manager  
Linda Troyan - Poway City Clerk  
Steve Dreyer - Editor, POWAY CHIEFTAIN  
Gary Warth - Reporter, NORTH COUNTY TIMES  
J. Harry Jones - Reporter, SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE