



The People are the City



City of Placentia

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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CITY OF PLACENTIA ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT

The Placentia City Council has reached a settlement agreement with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) to address concerns related to the California Voting Rights Act and the Placentia at-large voting system by placing a ballot measure before the voters of Placentia to determine whether to amend the City's Charter to change the process of electing their council members from at-large to by-district. This measure will go before the voters in 2017. A full presentation of the process will be made to the public and City Council at a City Council meeting prior to the measure being placed on the ballot.

If approved by the voters, the proposed ballot measure to amend the City Charter to establish district-based council members will be implemented by the November 2018 election. If the measure passes, the district boundaries would be determined through a detailed community meeting and public hearing process based on criteria established by law and detailed in the settlement agreement.

After a threat of litigation was received from MALDEF on behalf of Joseph V. Aguirre, the City Council approved the settlement agreement in a closed session after which it was executed by both parties. "By fostering dialogue and listening to the concerns presented by MALDEF, we were able to negotiate a quick and appropriate resolution to avoid expensive and protracted litigation to our City," said Interim City Administrator Damien R. Arrula. "Many cities have spent millions of dollars on litigation under the California Voting Rights Act and still have been forced to establish districts and hold new elections. Our team has resolved this matter in a fiscally prudent way by settling for \$20,000 in fees paid to MALDEF.

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