

Via Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail

January 31, 2013

Mayor Tait and Members of the City Council
200 S. Anaheim Boulevard
Anaheim, California 92805

Re: Resignation in Lieu of Termination

Dear Mayor Tait and Members of the City Council,

It is with great sadness that I am forced to submit this letter of resignation.

On January 29, 2013, you met with me in closed session prior to the start of the public portion of the agenda to discuss my performance. You had no criticisms regarding my performance, and, in fact, complimented me on several new initiatives that I intended to bring forward during the next twelve months. Thereafter, following the conclusion of the regular agenda of the City Council meeting, you recessed to closed session to continue discussion regarding the performance evaluations of the City Council appointees. You called me back into closed session and Council Member Brandman stated that a majority of Council had, "decided to go in a different direction," and offered me the opportunity to resign. Specifically, Council Member Brandman presented me the following offer: I have until 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2013, to turn in my letter of resignation, which resignation will be effective April 30, 2013. I will then be placed on paid administrative leave commencing February 1, through April 30.

The offer presented by the majority has forced me to make a life-altering decision in only 48 hours – the City has been more compassionate and fair in its discipline of employees, including termination for cause, than the manner in which the majority of Council has dealt me this final blow. Nonetheless, having given this as much consideration as possible under the circumstances, I hereby accept, in full, the terms of the offer presented by Council Member Brandman and tender my resignation, effective April 30, 2013, involuntarily and in lieu of the public dismissal that I would face had I not accepted the offer. In accepting this offer, I do not waive any of my benefits as an Anaheim employee or any of my legal rights.

After 16 ½ years of exemplary service to the City of Anaheim, with approximately four of those years serving as City Attorney, I am devastated at the manner in which I am being treated. The City's Human Resources Director once stated that the City of Anaheim prided itself on not needing a contract with its City Attorney, unlike virtually all other cities, because of the degree of fairness and professionalism with which the City treats this Office. This action by the majority of Council completely belies that statement. I have provided legal advice on a number of highly politicized, sensitive matters, and my advice has been objective and well reasoned, as evidenced

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by the opinions of outside legal counsel, when obtained. The public deserves this level of professional, objective and ethical conduct from me, as well as from all other city employees and officials.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the City of Anaheim for the last 16 ½ years. I am fortunate to have worked along side so many talented City employees, and, in particular, the staff of the City Attorney's Office and the City's executive team. I am particularly proud of the fact that I was the first Latina to serve as the Anaheim City Attorney and as a member of the City's executive team.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this world-class City, and wish the City much success and prosperity.

Respectfully,


Cristina Talley

c: Kristine Ridge, Human Resources Director