



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
PATRICK J. MORRIS**

**CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Common Council Members, City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk  
FROM: Mayor, Patrick J. Morris  
SUBJECT: Conduct of Council Member Chas Kelley  
DATE: June 3, 2010

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Yesterday afternoon I had a very upsetting and deeply disappointing experience with Councilman Chas Kelley. Let me explain.

Chas Kelley attended the agenda briefing for the June 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and handed the City Clerk a Request for Council Action he wanted added to the council agenda. The item involved the naming of five parks. He told her he wanted the item placed on the Consent Agenda. After the meeting Rachel Clark approached me, showed me the item and suggested that this was not an appropriate Consent Agenda item.

The action that Councilman Kelley was proposing was to name five new parks (the existence of which are unknown) after individuals that he has selected. The Council previously decided, on April 5, 2010, that no action would be taken to name any public facility until a formal policy was adopted by the Mayor and Common Council. In its action the Council did exempt those five parks that Council Kelley had previously named (Tom Minor Park, Jack Riley Park, Ronald Reagan Park, Freddie Spellacy Park and Chancellor Park).

I engaged Chas in the lobby of the Mayor's office and told him that because of the Council's prior action I believed his proposal should be on the discussion agenda (Staff Reports) and not on the Consent Agenda. He responded that the Council had already acted on this item, allowing him to name five new parks in addition to those he had already named. I told him that I believed the Council's intent in its April 5<sup>th</sup> action was to exempt those parks that he had previously named, not five future parks he was now bringing forward.

Chas became agitated and angry and in a loud voice said, "This is just a power play because you are angry that I named the City Council Conference Room after Esther Estrada." I responded, "The issue is about policy and process, not about who is to be honored. The names you have

proposed for future parks are all worthy people, but the Council has decided that the naming of public facilities should follow an agreed upon process, not the desires of a single councilperson.” Chas shouted, “You are an ass {pause} hole!” I said, “Chas that is terrible language.” He shouted back, “You are an ass-hole!” I responded, “You shouldn’t use that kind of language.” As he stormed away he yelled, “I can call you anything I want, you are an ass-hole!” Sadly, it appears last week’s workshop, where the Council discussed a Code of Conduct has not altered the conduct and language of Councilman Chas Kelley.

This is not the first time I have witnessed or heard reports of public officials in our city losing emotional control and acting with incivility towards each other or members of the public, especially in the face of conflict or disagreement. Such a loss of emotional control and incivility is simply unacceptable. As city leaders, it is incumbent upon us to hold ourselves to the highest standard of civil behavior. We must model the behavior we expect from our employees, our residents, and the public generally. If we cannot maintain emotional control and engage in civil discourse, then the public, employees, and others lose faith in our city government and its ability to lead and rationally solve problems.

I would hope the Common Council takes this opportunity to move quickly and aggressively to adopt the Conduct of Conduct and Operating Guidelines that were presented to us at our recent retreat. Adoption of this code and guidelines would at least represent a strong statement of the standards of conduct we set and expect of ourselves.