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REQUEST TO APPEAR

CITY CLERK, FRESNO CA

BEFORE THE FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

NOTE-ALL REQUESTS MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN

On April 1, 1980 the Fresno City Council adopted a policy relating to procedures to be used for those persons wishing to appear before the Fresno City Council, as follows:

SCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS-APPEARANCES ON PRINTED AGENDA

Submit this form, or a written letter to the City Clerk, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721 requesting to be placed on the agenda for a scheduled time. The letter should state the subject matter, provide supporting material, if any, and state the action you wish the City Council to take. Your request will be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer and placed on the agenda no sooner than ten (10) days after a receipt of your written letter in order to provide an opportunity for City staff to prepare comments for Council consideration. The policy is to limit your presentation to three (3) minutes pursuant to Ordinance 96-67. The City Clerk shall provide copies of your written request to the Fresno City Council.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

You may address the City Council at the conclusion of the Council meeting and the policy is to limit your presentation to three (3) minutes pursuant to Ordinance 96-67. Please be present at the conclusion of the Council meeting if you wish to be heard.

REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

NAME	Dee Barnes
ADDRESS	2607 Fresno Street, Suite D, Fresno, CA 93721
TELEPHONE NO.	(559) 779-1981
	DATE 10/19/2012
LETTER	Please see the attached letter.

Email

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Fresno City Employees Association

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October 19, 2012

Fresno City Council
2600 Fresno Street, Room 2097
Fresno, CA 93721-3614

RE: Effort to Privatize Residential Solid Waste

Dear Council Members:

During the Ray Appleton Radio Show on September 21, 2012, District 6 Council Member Lee Brand said the following in response to my question about taking the issue of residential solid waste privatization out to the voters:

“When you are elected, you are elected to make tough decisions. So you are abdicating your responsibility if you say I’m going to push everything out to the ballot and let the voters decide. The voters can decide because they can elect us or not elect us if we are doing a bad job.”
www.kmjnow.com/pages/podcast_ray (34:10 time)

There are some major problems with that statement. Only one of the five elected officials supporting privatization will be subject to reelection. Residents were not informed of the plan to privatize prior to the June Primary Election when Mayor Ashley Swearingin and Council Member Lee Brand were both elected to their second four year term. They will not be able to run for reelection in 4 years due to term limits. Council Members Andreas Borgeas and Larry Westerlund will both be leaving Council in December. District 7 Council Member Clint Olivier is the only one eligible to run again and will be subject to being removed from Council in 2014. Why is this item scheduled to be decided before January, when 2 new Council Members who will be subject to reelection will take office?

How many times have we heard current Council Members, the Mayor, employees, residents, and the media talk about the costly and poor decisions made by previous Council Members? In fact there have been several policy changes and a movement to change the City Charter to require a super majority vote on debt financing decisions. Now there is a push to allow only 4 out of 7 Council Members to make a decision that will impact the residents forever and could eventually be considered in the same category as the baseball stadium, the Met, and Granite Park.

This decision has far reaching consequences for Fresno City residents and our community and should not be decided by only 4 elected officials who will not even be around to answer for their bad decision.

Respectfully,

Dee Barnes
FCEA President

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