



united states commonwealth of the northern mariana islands

Office of the Mayor

P.O. Box 107
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

PH NO. 1

Phone: 6208/6280

JOSE S. RIOS
Mayor of Saipan

July 8, 1985

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Chairman, Committee on Local
Government
Second Northern Marianas
Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity accorded the Mayor's Office to comment on several proposals regarding general matters on local governmental institution now before your committee.

As I have expressed publicly, I will only be discussing the issues concerning the island of Saipan for I believe that it is only fair for me to speak on matters affecting my jurisdictional municipality.

In view of the above, I will forego Delegate Proposals 40-85, 73-85, and 91-85.

The first proposal of general concern is Constitutional Amendment Proposal No. 2-85. The amendment to restrict eligibility of Mayor to persons of Northern Marians Descent may be unconstitutional. The Covenant establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political Union with the United States take into consideration the individual rights under the United States Constitution. In essence the Commonwealth is governed by the United States Constitution and its amendment as the supreme law of the Commonwealth. Having this in mind, I strongly feel that the proposed amendment is unconstitutional and should not be considered by the Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention.

In regard to Amendment Proposal No. 74-85 and 75-85, I have no objection to both proposed amendment to our Constitution. I wholeheartly support the two amendments.

Delegate Proposal No. 98-85 to include the amendment "or elsewhere" regarding the election of the Mayor is somewhat in bad taste. The present provision is sufficient to make sure that no person convicted of a felony by a Commonwealth Court, a court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or any other court within the jurisdiction of the

United States may become Mayor unless granted a full pardon. The word "elsewhere" may not be appropriate for there are many countries that do not recognize individual rights nor believe in due process.

On Delegate amendment Proposal No. 107-85 to abolish the Office of the Mayor for the Third Senatorial District and hereto replace it with Precinct Commissioner generally is not acceptable. I do not support the deletion of the election of the Mayor for the island of Saipan. The election of the Mayor for the island of Saipan should continue and be treated just like Rota, Tinian and the island north of Saipan. I believe the people of Saipan want a strong Mayor, a Mayor who can be depended on for the delivery of public services on local level. With the re-establishment of Precinct Commissioner, and as part of the Mayor Office, the Mayor of Saipan can act immediately to fulfill its duties and responsibility as calls for in the CNMI Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to suggest the following amendment to Delegate Proposal No. 107-85 as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of Article VI of the Northern Marianas Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Election of Mayor. The qualified voters from Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, the island of Saipan, and the islands north of Saipan shall elect a mayor for each Island or group of islands.

Section 2. A new subsection "(c)" is hereby added to Section 2 of Article VI of the Northern Marianas Constitution to read as follows:

"c) As part of the Mayor of Saipan and directly responsible to the Mayor shall be the elected Precinct Commissioners for the island of Saipan. The qualification and term of office of the Commissioners shall be the same as that of the Mayor's. The precinct Commissioners shall be elected by precinct. The Precinct Commissioners are herewith charged with the responsibility of cooperating with the Mayor, of carefully determining the needs or desires of the people of their respective precinct and forwarding such needs or desires to the Mayor. The Precinct Commissioner will also perform other duties as may be assigned them by the Mayor. The salary of the precinct Commissioners shall be \$16,000.00 per annum. Upon the recommendation of the advisory commission on compensation provided for by Section

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona

7/8/85


Page 3

10 Article II, the legislature may change the salary of the precinct commissioners. Neither salary may be change during a term of office."

I hope that the above amendment be incorporated as part of the re-establishment of the precinct commissioners for the island of Saipan.

On Delegate Proposal No. 118-85, I wish not to offer any comments for I believe our people have not expressed a desire to have a Municipal Council for the island of Saipan. The precinct commissioners for the island of Saipan is what our people really want for Saipan.

Sincerely,


Jose S. Rios
Mayor of Saipan



United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jose S. Rios".

Jose S. Rios
Mayor of Saipan

1. Section 3, Article VI
Responsibilities of Mayor

DP NO. 109-85

The Mayor or Chief Commissioner shall maintain its responsibilities as described under Section 3, a, b, c, d, e, f, g + h. ~~Except if~~

The Mayor or Chief Commissioner shall supervise the precinct commissioners.

The Mayor or Chief Commissioner shall delegate authority and responsibilities to the precinct commissioners to ~~administer and oversee that~~ ~~assure that~~ the public services provided to each precinct are adequately and equally provided.

The office of the Mayor or Chief Commissioner shall have ~~at least not more than five (5) staff~~ three (3) staff.

The Mayor or Chief Commissioner shall serve a four (4) year term.

2. Precinct Commissioners

The precinct commissioners shall be the report to the Mayor or Chief Commissioner with regards to public services for each precinct.

The precinct commissioners shall call periodic meetings to inform the public anything that they should know with regards to their respective precinct.

The precinct commissioners shall be the contact persons to disseminate information to their respective precinct, especially during the time of emergency, i.e. typhoons, construction of public ~~for~~ facilities, ~~to~~ and anything that will concern the public.

Each Precinct Commissioners shall have at least not more than four (4) staff. (Commissioner, assistant commissioner, a community worker and a secretary).

~~The salary shall be described by law.~~

The salaries of the commissioners and staff shall be described by law.

The assistant commissioners and other staff shall be a civil service position.

The precinct commissioners shall be elected by precinct and shall serve for a four (4) years term.

Organizational Chart Local Government

