



# Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

-1480A-

Delegate Proposal No. 547

Date: July 3, 1995

It is proposed that a constitutional amendment be prepared that does the following:

Provides for a stable and effective local government as follows:

1. Charters three municipalities: Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Saipan and the northern islands.

2. Provides for an elected Mayor who shall be at least 30 years of age, qualified to vote in the municipality, and a resident of the municipality for at least two years prior to taking office. Persons convicted of a felony are permanently disqualified.

3. Provides for a four year term for Mayor, and a limit of two ~~consecutive~~ terms. Vacancies would be filled by a special election if more than one-half of the term remains; otherwise the next highest vote-getter shall be appointed by the governor within 30 days.

4. Specifies the following duties for the Mayor:

(1) administers all Commonwealth government programs, Commonwealth public services, and Commonwealth appropriations for the municipality, and appoints all resident department heads except:

- . ~~Department of Public Safety~~
- . Department of Public Safety *Public Health*
- . Department of ~~Environment and Health Services~~
- . Department of ~~Health Services~~ *Labor + Immigration*

These excepted functions and the appointment power over

excepted positions may be delegated by the Governor to the Mayor in whole or in part.

(2) administers and coordinates all disaster control and emergency mobilization measures in the municipality

(3) recommends legislation for enactment by the Municipal Council and calls special sessions of the Municipal Council when necessary

(4) exercises the veto power over legislation passed by the Municipal Council

(5) administers department and agencies of local government established by local legislation

(6) administers and operates all parks and recreation areas within the municipality.

5. Provides for an elected Municipal Council of five members. Council members shall be at least 25 years of age, a registered voter in the municipality, and a resident of the municipality for at least two years. Persons convicted of a felony are permanently disqualified.

6. Provides for a four year term of office for Municipal Council members and a limit of two consecutive terms. Vacancies would be filled by a special election if more than one-half of the term remains; otherwise the next highest vote-getter shall be appointed by the governor within 30 days.

7. Specifies the following powers and responsibilities for the Municipal Council:

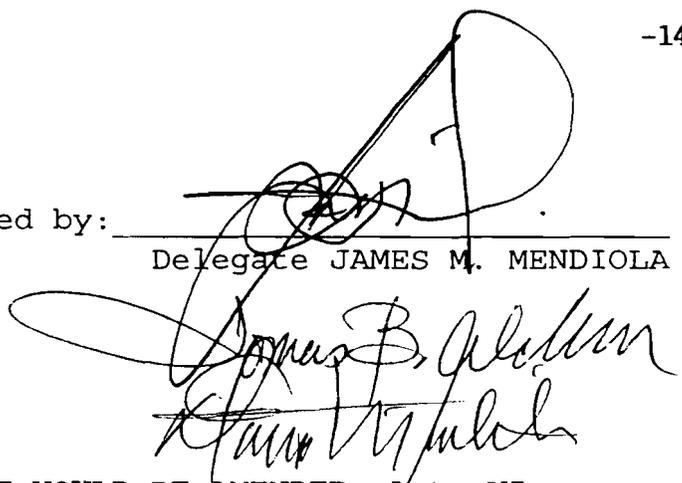
(1) enacting local legislation, which affects only the municipality

(2) confirmation of resident department heads and appointment of the heads of local departments or agencies made by the Mayor

(3) overriding the veto of local legislation by the Mayor

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate JAMES M. MENDIOLA

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Mendiola", is written over the printed name and extends upwards into the margin.

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AMENDED: Art. VI

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED: None