Statement on Shutdown of Last Night's City Council Meeting

San Bernardino – The regularly scheduled city council meeting for February 6, 2019 was abruptly halted when three council members stormed out of the meeting, resulting in a loss of quorum. Council Members Fred Shorett (Ward 4), Henry Nickel (Ward 5), and James Mulvihill (Ward 7) left the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m. last night. Among the items on the agenda left to be heard were proposals to improve the current standard of care for the animals at the city's animal shelter, the implementation of community oriented policing, and the reopening of police substations throughout the city to help tackle the outbreak of violent and organized crime.

"It is completely unacceptable that a minority of council members would hold the city's business hostage over personal politics," said Mayor John Valdivia. "We have important city business to conduct, including addressing the horrific rise in homicides and violent crime in our community. Innocent people are suffering at the hands of criminals, our residents don't have the luxury to simply walk out and neither should their elected officials."

Last year the City of San Bernardino experienced 49 homicides, primarily related to gang violence. This year officers have already responded to six homicides, an average of one a week. The proposal to implement community oriented policing and reopen police substations is intended to make organizational changes at the police department using proven models endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce crime rates.

"The election is over, now is the time to govern. Our residents deserve a functioning city council that is aggressively tackling the tough challenges facing our city. We don't always have to agree, but we should always show up and do our job. I intend to call a special meeting on Monday and I hope that all city council members will return to complete our unfinished business."

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