PRESS STATEMENT

October 15, 2014

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STATEMENT REGARDING SAN BERNARDINO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

Attribute to Mayor Davis:

On August 14, 2014, the City of San Bernardino announced that a tentative long-term agreement had been reached with the San Bernardino Police Officers Association (SBPOA). That agreement was unanimously passed by the City Council and approved by the SBPOA membership. Both parties affirmed to Judge Jury in federal bankruptcy court that a tentative agreement had been reached through mediation. Last week’s announcement by union leadership that the City has misinterpreted the terms of this agreement is simply not true.

Under the guise of “clarification,” the union now seeks to change the terms of the agreement and add additional burdensome costs over the life of the contract. This action took place after the agreement was approved by both sides. A deal is a deal and the fact that union leadership, through their announcement, would attempt to set aside a judicially mediated agreement and renegotiate is disturbing. The City believes our police officers understand the critical need for a long-term agreement that helps the City successfully emerge from bankruptcy. It is unfortunate that union leadership now demands more than what they agreed to in the mediation process. The City cannot afford the SBPOA’s additional demands but is willing to go back to the table through the mediation process.

Because of Judge Zive's mediation confidentiality requirements, the City cannot publicly discuss the terms of the approved agreement or the new demand by union leaders to change the agreement. The terms of the judicially mediated agreement were favorable to both sides and in the best interests of the City, its residents, and employees.

It is the City’s hope that union leadership will correct their action, honor the agreement, and resume discussions with the City in good faith through the mediation process.

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Mayor:
R. Carey Davis