



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS**  
**PUBLIC INTEGRITY DIVISION**

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March 21, 2016

Honorable Council Members  
Huntington Park City Council  
6550 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255

Re: Alleged Brown Act Violations; P16-0011

Dear Honorable Council Members,

We have received a complaint alleging a violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act (the Act) by the Huntington Park City Council in regards to the special meeting held on December 23, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. As explained below, we believe that the notice for the special meeting was deficient and did not comply with California Government Code section 54956. Specifically, we find that although the notice was posted slightly more than 24 hours in advance of the meeting, it failed to identify the business to be transacted or discussed. Accordingly, pursuant to California Government Code section 54960.1, we request that you cure and correct this violation.

On Monday, December 21, 2015, at 10:32 p.m., the Huntington Park City Manager (city manager) sent an e-mail to the Huntington Park City Council members, advising them that “the Mayor has called for a special meeting on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.” No mention was made of the business that was going to be transacted or discussed at the meeting.

On Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 8:20 a.m., the city manager authorized the Huntington Park City Clerk (city clerk) to post the “Notice of Call for the Special Meeting” (notice). The city clerk posted the notice prior to 8:25 a.m. The notice stated, “NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park will be held on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, CA 90255.” No description of the business to be transacted or discussed was included, and no agenda was attached to the notice. At 10:23 a.m. on December 22, 2015, the city manager authorized the city clerk to publish the agenda. The city clerk then posted the agenda at approximately 10:25 a.m., less than 24 hours prior to the December 23, 2015 City Council meeting.

California Government Code section 54956 specifically provides that written notice for a special meeting “shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting as specified in the

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notice. **The call and notice shall specify** the time and place of the special meeting and **the business to be transacted or discussed.**" (Emphasis added.) Accordingly, even though the notice was posted prior to 8:25 a.m. on December 22, 2015, specifying the time and place of the special meeting, the notice was deficient in that it failed to include an agenda, or describe the "business to be transacted or discussed," as required by the Act.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, pursuant to California Government Code section 54960.1, we are requesting that you cure and correct this violation by providing the public with adequate notice of the items to be discussed, and allow for public discussion prior to taking action on the items. Additionally, it has come to our attention that you may have already publicly reconsidered item #3 on the Agenda, "Discussion and /or Action on Agreement with HP Tow for Towing and Vehicle Storage Services for the Huntington Park Police Department and the City of Huntington Park." If this is correct, then no further action need be taken in regards to this item.

We expect that this letter will assist you to understand and comply with the requirements of the Brown Act, and that no further action by our office will be necessary. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions. We thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your concern for open government pursuant to the Brown Act.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY  
Los Angeles County District Attorney

By 

Sean Hassett  
Assistant Head Deputy

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<sup>1</sup> We note that only one member of the public spoke during this meeting. During her comments, no other members of the public were observed to be in the audience.