



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laguna Niguel City Council Appoints New City Council Member to Fill Existing Vacancy

Laguna Niguel, CA – At the Tuesday, June 14, 2023, Special City Council Meeting, the Laguna Niguel City Council appointed Foster “Gene” Johns to serve as a City Council Member.



Foster “Gene” Johns will serve as a City Council Member until the results of the November 5, 2024, City Council elections are certified. “I am honored to be appointed to serve the residents of Laguna Niguel, and I want to thank the City Council for placing their trust in me to be a strong leader for the community,” said Johns. “I believe that Laguna Niguel deserves a strong and dedicated City Council that will continue to protect and preserve public safety, fiscal health, the pro local business climate, and the natural beauty of the community. I look forward to working collaboratively with the City Council to accomplish these goals.”

On May 16, 2023, the Laguna Niguel City Council directed City staff to begin the application process to appoint an individual to fill the City Council vacancy caused by the May 10, 2023, resignation of former City Council Member Sandy Rains. The City Clerk’s Office coordinated the application process similar to the City Council Commission and Committee recruitment and appointment process. The City Council interviewed twenty applicants during the June 14, 2023, Special City Council Meeting, resulting in Mr. Johns’ appointment.

Newly appointed Council Member Johns served over 31 years as a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, in which 24 of those years, he served as cross-designated Task Force Officer assigned to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He commanded a Task Force Group nationally recognized for disrupting and dismantling drug cartel operations. His expertise has been nationally recognized and was often called upon to instruct various law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. Newly appointed Council Member Johns retired in Laguna Niguel seven years ago, and since retirement, has sought opportunities to volunteer in civic and community organizations in the city. He recently served as a Commissioner for the City’s Traffic and Transportation Commission, and is an active member of the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce, Niguel Botanical Preserve, and Laguna Niguel Lions Club.

"On behalf of the entire City Council, I am proud to welcome Foster "Gene" Johns as our newly appointed City Council Member," said Mayor Kelly Jennings. "His extensive law enforcement background and dedication to protecting communities is both admirable and invaluable, aligning perfectly with our City's core value of prioritizing public safety. As we move forward, the entire City Council is committed to working together in a positive, respectful, and constructive manner, that focuses on the well-being and high quality of life that our residents expect and deserve."

The administration of oath for newly appointed Council Member Johns will take place on June 20, 2023, during the Regular City Council Meeting. He will be eligible to run for a full term on the City Council in the November 2024 General Election.

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