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CITY OF DOWNEY

# PRESS RELEASE



## Downey Council responds to false accusations from Fire Union

**Downey, CA, October 23, 2013:** Responding to the Fire Union's draft lawsuit that suggests the City is violation of its Charter, the Downey City Council issued a statement today rejecting the allegations. In part, the Fire Union asserts that contracting out the City's jail services violates the 1998 Charter Amendment requiring a two-thirds advisory vote of Downey citizens before fire or police services can be outsourced.

"We are shocked and surprised by the fabricated claims in the draft lawsuit. The claim of the City violating the 1998 Charter Amendment by contracting jail services is absolutely false. More importantly, in 1998, the Charter Amendment was adopted in a public and transparent process by an overwhelming majority of the voters," said Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Vasquez. ."

"The City Council is immensely proud of our more than 150 sworn police officers and fire fighters. It's a complete fiction to think that the non-sworn contractors who briefly monitor folks temporarily in our custody is somehow a violation of our Charter," stated Mayor Mario A. Guerra.

At a cost of more than \$100,000 to Downey taxpayers, the Downey Fire Union will cause residents of the City of Downey to face a ballot question in June 2014 to determine whether they wish to amend the 1998 Charter Provision and "allow the contracting out of police and fire services without voter approval."

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