

City of San Leandro

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Two San Leandro Councilmembers Found to have Interfered with Work of Former City Manager; Censure Hearing Date Set

An investigation by an independent law firm has found that two San Leandro Councilmembers interfered with the administrative responsibilities of former City Manager Fran Robustelli in violation of the City's Charter.

As a result of the findings, a majority of the San Leandro City Council voted 4-1 at their meeting on November 4, 2024, to initiate a censure hearing against Vice-Mayor Fred Simon and Councilmember Victor Aguilar, Jr. to determine what form of discipline, if any, is warranted. The four members of the City Council who voted in support of the hearing include Mayor González and Councilmembers Ballew, Bowen, and Viveros-Walton.

The City Council will conduct the hearing on November 18, 2024. The process is dictated by the Council's "City Council Internal Discipline Policy" of the City's Administrative Code.

In early May 2024, then-City Manager Fran Robustelli filed a complaint against Vice-Mayor Simon alleging he interfered with her responsibilities as City Manager. As a result, and at the direction of the City Council, the City Attorney hired an independent firm, Botterud Law Workplace Investigations of Pasadena, CA, to investigate the allegations. During the investigation, the scope of the investigation expanded to include Councilmember Aguilar.

On October 30, 2024, the investigative report was delivered to the City of San Leandro and substantiated most of the allegations made by Robustelli. The complaints centered around threats to Robustelli's employment and performance evaluation. The investigative report and related information are available on the City's website at www.SanLeandro.org/Records.

"When we learned of these allegations, the City Council took action to direct the City Attorney to retain an independent firm to conduct an impartial investigation," said San Leandro Mayor Juan González. "The results of that investigation are being posted to the City's website, providing the public with transparency. The next step in this process, as called for in the City's Administrative Code, is to conduct the hearing on November 18th. The results of that hearing will also be made public," he added.

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Note to Editors: The investigative report, the City's "City Council Internal Discipline Policy" and related correspondence can be found on the City's website at www.SanLeandro.org/Records.