

MOTION

On October 13, 2021, the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office indicted Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas on felony crimes related to public corruption. Charter Section 211, Suspension Pending Trial, provides that "pending trial, the Council may suspend any elected officer against whom felony criminal proceedings" have been initiated for such crimes.

As acknowledged in the letter sent by Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, the City Council must be able to "conduct its business with minimal distractions."

Councilmembers have a duty to serve this City and their district and to make decisions on behalf of the people that elected them into office. Any action that erodes public trust or calls into question the integrity of the institution requires the Council to act to preserve that trust.


The trial on the indictment has yet to take place and a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty; however a Councilmember who has been charged with public corruption cannot continue to exercise the powers of City office and preserve public trust.

Unless suspended under Charter Section 211, a Councilmember cannot be prohibited from exercising the powers of City office, including, but not limited to, attending Council and Committee meetings, executing contracts, utilizing discretionary funds, and engaging in constituent services.

I THEREFORE MOVE that, pursuant to Charter Section 211, the Council must accept Ridley-Thomas letter and immediately suspend him from the office of Councilmember of the 10th District of the Los Angeles City Council.

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:




OCT 19 2021