

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the citizens of Port Isabel spoke loud and clear. Commissioner Jeffery Martinez was elected, and I was re-elected.

Due to the actions of those who wish to ignore the will of the people, Commissioner Zamora, Commissioner Martinez and I have been forced to go to court to ensure that the voice of the people is heard. A district court found in favor of Commissioner Zamora and myself, we were reinstated and I was also re-elected.

The Port Isabel City Charter allows any two commissioners to call a special meeting. On Friday, Commissioner Zamora and I called for a meeting, which was posted, and then taken down by those who wish to ignore the will of the people. Subsequently, Commissioner Martinez and I re-posted this meeting.

Threats have been made against city employees, in an attempt to prevent us from carrying out our duties, and city funds have been used for this purpose without a vote by the city commission. That is wrong.

Earlier today, the city attorney, without authorization from the city, attempted to overturn the district court order granting us the ability to conduct our duties by filing an emergency appeal with the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. In response to that action, we requested this emergency meeting, because the city attorney did not have authority to file that appeal, and that needed to be made clear.

A few minutes ago, we were informed that the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals denied the city attorney's appeal. This is the second time in a row that a court has found in our favor, and this ruling makes this emergency meeting unnecessary.

Throughout this struggle, Commissioner Zamora, Commissioner Martinez and myself have only sought to carry out the will of the people of this city, and to serve their interests.

With the ruling we just received, we will hold tonight's special meeting, and work to move our city forward.

*Marti Cortez*