



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Fair Oaks Ranch Countersues Newly Annexed Residents**  
*Annexation Lawsuit*

**March 1, 2018.** At their March 1<sup>st</sup> City Council meeting, the city council of Fair Oaks Ranch took formal action to instruct their City Attorney, Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal & Zech, P.C., to file a counter suit in response to litigation brought by seven new residents of the city who were annexed on November 29, 2017. The council instructed the City Attorney to seek reimbursement of the city's legal costs for defending the lawsuit.

Fair Oaks Ranch mayor, Garry Manitzas commented "Subsequent to being provided legal service a week ago, we discussed our response in executive session at the next council meeting. The city will take timely action to respond to this lawsuit. I am certainly going to push for us to vigorously defend our actions and seek to recover the legal costs our citizens are paying."

City Manager Tobin Maples commented that the city followed the law precisely in completing the annexations. Maples commented, "The Local Government Code is very specific in prescribing the means and methods for a City initiated involuntary annexation. Further, I'm disappointed in the false narrative being promoted that we "fast-tracked" the annexation. The Local Government Code dictates the timeline and details exactly what the City must do and when the City must do it. The lawsuit does not include a complaint that the City violated the prescribed timeline so it is perplexing to hear the process was "fast-tracked." We followed the law and I truly believe the City is in a good position."

Manitzas said that the vast majority of citizens supported the annexations to put tools in place to manage growth responsibly and protect the community's quality of life. He went on to say, "The past three election cycles have made it abundantly clear that our residents want an updated comprehensive plan with zoning regulations in place. Many existing residents and some in the ETJ spoke in favor of the annexations at our public hearings. Interestingly, one-third of those speaking against annexation were neither residents of our city nor our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. Our citizens have spoken and the council has listened."

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