

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**HAND-DELIVERED**

January 21, 2020

**HONORABLE TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

Speaker

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: Veto of Bill 259-35 (COR), "An Act to Amend § 13106 and Add a New § 13106.1 to Chapter 13 of Title 3, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Permanent and Temporary Vacancies in the Municipal Offices of Mayor and Vice Mayor; And to Amend §§ 40110, 40124, and 40127 of Article 1, Chapter 40, Division 4, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Filling Vacancies of Mayors, the Establishment of a Municipal Planning Council (MPC) Within Each District of Guam, and Filling Vacancies in the MPC"**

Dear Madame Speaker:

I agree with your legislative counsel and I am therefore exercising my executive responsibility to veto Bill 259-35. There are provisions of this bill that encroach upon the core functions of the Executive branch. And I am unwilling to sign any legislation into law that compromises the delicate balance between the three branches of government.

For nearly four months now, the village of Yona has been able to address the needs of its people with the help of the Mayors' Council of Guam. And although it has done so without the physical presence of a mayor, this is a unique issue that can be addressed. Bill 259-35 is the Legislature's attempt to address this issue. While I understand the desire to do the right thing, the right thing must also be done the right way. That is the central reason for this veto.

In fact, prior to 2013, Guam's laws provided a sound and organic process towards filling vacancies in the municipal offices of Mayor and Vice Mayor. This process was used several times and

To: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Fr: Governor of Guam  
Date: January 21, 2020  
Re: Veto of Bill 259-35 (COR)

---

Page 2 of 2

provided Guam's villages with strong and reputable leaders in the interim. With this letter, I am transmitting a bill which proposes that we utilize the process that has so effectively served our villages in the past. I hope that the Legislature will agree with this view and consider my proposal in its next session.

*Senseremente,*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**

*Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Proposed Bill

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*