

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere apology for recorded remarks I inadvertently made to Commissioner Chan during the March 7 meeting recess of this Board. My words then were poorly chosen.

Many people who later heard my taped remarks found the statements very offensive and appalling. They are right and I regret unintentionally denigrating anybody or any group of people by what I said. Although that was not my intent at the time, I understand now why people so strenuously object to the words I used joshing around with my longtime friend, Commissioner Chan -- himself a first generation immigrant to this country.

For what I said, I sincerely apologize. I was wrong. What I said does not reflect my views now nor ever about Hispanics as an ethnic group. I am lucky to have Mexican Americans in my own immediate family. I have the highest regard for the work ethic of all Mexican Americans - including those who we are fortunate to have working hard here at Fire District One as firefighters and paramedics. They do a superb job. We just need more Mexican Americans on our District's uniformed and administrative workforce. My facetious jesting was out of place. Regrettably, my words reflected poorly on this agency that I have spent over a decade serving with people I respect and care about. For this you all have my deepest regret.

severed
K Meador