



SENATOR JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ DPA

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31st Guam Legislature • *I Mina'trenai Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

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February 7, 2011

The Honorable Edward B. Calvo
Governor of Guam
Hand Delivered

Rear Admiral Paul Bushong, U.S.N.
Commander Joint Region Marianas
Hand Delivered

Dear Governor and Admiral:

I originally drafted this letter to urge you to have the meetings of the Civilian-Military Coordination Council (CMCC) open to the public and the media. The original announcement of the upcoming CMCC meeting, which is now confirmed as February 10, and confirmed by Mr. Eddy J. Reyes of the Guam Buildup Office, had an incorrect date. Mr. Reyes also now informs us that the meeting will be open to the public and the media.

Formerly the meetings of the Civilian-Military Task Force (CMTF) were open to the public and the media. Further, the first, and thus far only, meeting of the CMCC, held at the Top of the Mar, was also open to the public and the media.

As a reminder, under these circumstances, five working days prior to the meeting there must be proper notification in the local media, which contains the required ADA assistance data.

As I understand it, the Navy and the Government of Guam jointly chair the CMCC. Therefore, the Guam open government law applies. If it were only a military meeting, especially if held behind the fences, then the military has the option for closing off meetings. However, since you are co-chair, then the local open government law applies. You may recall the embarrassment your predecessor faced just a few months ago when an attempt was made to close the meeting of the Advisory Council for the Programmatic Agreement. The media had a field day when some of our senators were turned away from the door at the Adelup conference room. Your predecessor's Deputy Chief of Staff finally reversed course and admitted the senators and the activists.

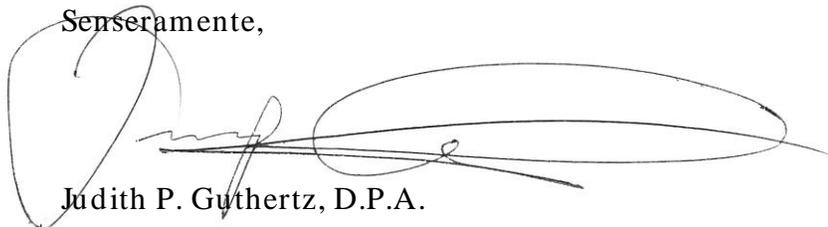
The last administration also saw the embarrassment of the military getting Government of Guam employees to sign non-disclosure forms which violated the Guam open government law. I urge you to make sure that your officials do not fall into that trap.



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Finally, I would like to urge the military not to exercise its prerogative to close the CMCC meetings, should they happen to be held on base. I am not in any way challenging their right to do so, should it be necessary, but would suggest the sense of transparency and good faith dealings that this would provide would be of benefit to both parties.

Senseramente,



Judith P. Guthertz, D.P.A.