

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS;
HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES; AND ELECTION REFORM



I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE

News Release
For Immediate Release

FOIA Council Members Appointed

March 21, 2014— Members of the media and residents were appointed today to the Guam Freedom of Information Council that was established last week by Senator Rory J. Respicio.

Just today Respicio appointed Pacific Daily News President and Publisher Rindraty Limtiaco, Guam Business Magazine Publisher Maureen N. Maratita, Senator Thomas C. Ada and Santa Rita Resident Barry Mead. Legislative Executive Director Vince Arriola appointed former journalist Bernadette Sterne Meno as his designee. The Attorney General of Guam or his designee along the Administrator of the Judiciary of Guam or his designee has also been invited to be on the Council. Governor Eddie Baza Calvo has also been notified that he is invited to appoint members to the Council as well.

Legislative Rules Resolution 330-32(COR) was authored by Respicio and established the Guam Legislative Freedom of Information Advisory Council to encourage and facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Council will identify which government of Guam agencies are not in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Government Law and they will issue advisories and opinions. The Council also will provide public training on the local Sunshine laws and will publish documents and guidelines as needed. Members will also review all local Sunshine laws and make suggestions for changes in legislation to make our government more open and transparent to the people of Guam.

“It is time we shine the light back on our government,” Respicio said. “This Council will serve as the first step toward returning the government to the people of Guam and not just a select few. After all, open government is good government and as leaders we must always protect and defend our public’s right to know.”

The Council’s first meeting will be announced at a later date and all meetings will be announced pursuant to the open government law, broadcast live on the legislature's channel, and open to the public. For more information on the Council please contact 472-7679. Citizens wishing to file a complaint regarding the lack of government transparency can email foia.council@guamlegislature.org.

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UNSWORN DECLARATION: I hereby declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, under penalty of perjury of the laws of Guam, this declaration being sworn and made in lieu of an affidavit pursuant to Title 6 Guam Code Annotated §4308, at the place and date identified herein.

Rory J. Respicio