




February 13, 2017

To: Chairman McGinn and Committee Members

From: Scott W. Hildebrand, City Administrator 

Subject: SB 247 – Hillside Cemetery District

The City Council of the City of Valley Center has requested that I provide testimony in support of the amendments to SB 247, which affects the Hillside Cemetery District, located just outside the nearby City of Sedgwick.

In 2004, the City of Valley Center opened a municipal cemetery. At that time, the City Council was aware that some residents of the City of Valley Center were still a part of the Hillside Cemetery District. However, because of the nominal amount of the taxation from the district, nothing was done at that time to request removal of those residents from the District. Over time, the City of Valley Center has grown, and more residents have reserved plots in the Valley Center Cemetery.

With few exceptions, the Hillside Cemetery District is no longer relevant, or a direct benefit to residents of Valley Center.

In 2017, discussions took place between representatives from the City of Valley Center, and the Hillside Cemetery Board. It was agreed that both parties should work towards a sunset provision which de-annexes any properties in Valley Center from the Cemetery District. Both parties realize this may take a period of time.

The initial presentation of SB 247 contained some language which did not have a practical application. However, all parties are still on the same page, with an agreed goal as soon as timing is determined.

The City of Valley Center supports the Committee as it determines an appropriate sunset and moves to pass this bill, which provides for the de-annexation of all Valley Center residents from the Hillside Cemetery District.