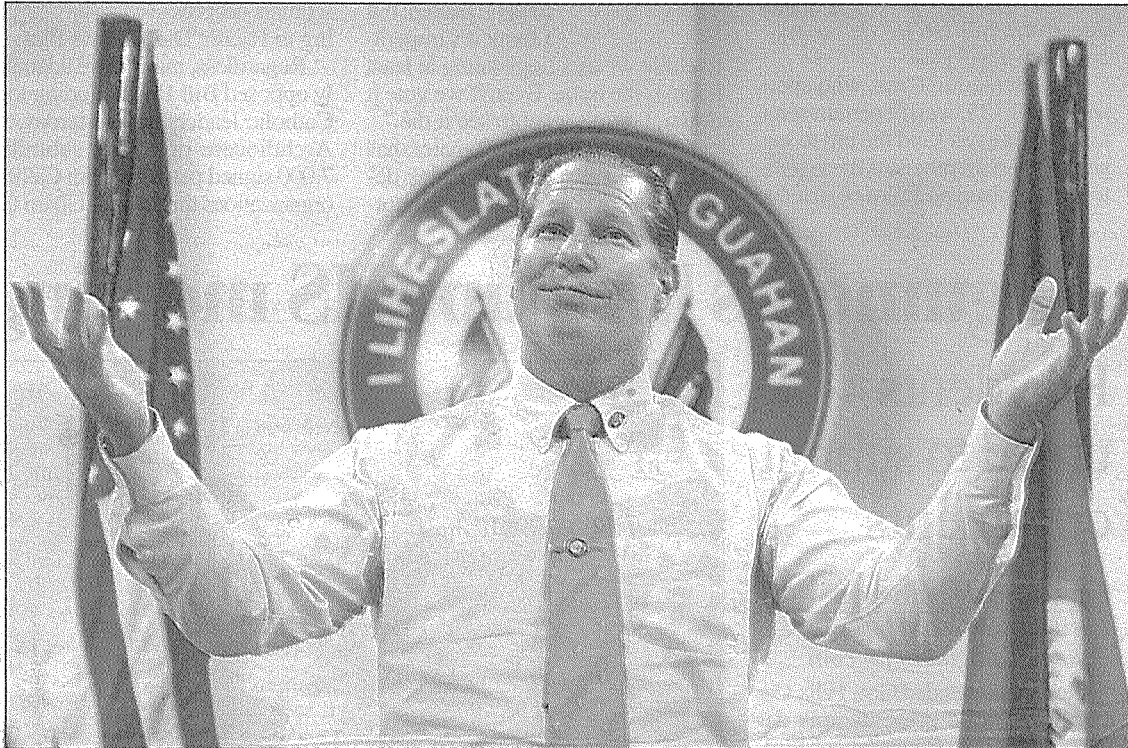


# Rector to step down



Jacqueline Hernandez/Pacific Daily News/jhernande7@guampdn.com

**Effective noon today:** Sen. Matt Rector announces his resignation during a press conference yesterday at the Guam Legislature. His resignation takes effect at noon today.

## Mesa: 'Win' for community

**By Amriha Alladi**

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The announcement by Sen. Matt Rector yesterday that he will resign as senator is a "win" for the people of Guam and a demonstration of democracy, said the two residents who jump-started the investigations into Rector's criminal record and ethical standards.

Port Authority of Guam board Chairman Monte Mesa, who filed his complaint against Rector in his



**Hara**



**Mesa**

capacity as a resident, said yesterday Rector's resignation is proof that the people's voices can be heard if they follow the proper procedures.

"I think that the people of Guam in this case got the ... proper resolution and belief in the system in government that it does work," Mesa said. "That's a win for the community, and this government is for the people."

"I think that it's great that he stepped down in a gracious way instead of going through the painful process that would cost the people of Guam more money," he added. "I think he's realized he has not lived

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## GEC says investigation to continue

**By Brett Kelman**

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Sen. Matt Rector, whose year-long stint in the Legislature has been dominated by controversy, officially resigns today.

Rector announced he would step down during a press conference yesterday that followed a long, closed-door meeting with other lawmakers. Rector said he was proud of the work he accomplished as a senator.

"This does not mean the fight for the quality of life for working families will end," Rector said. "We will continue to work hard on the issues that are important to our people."

The Guam Election Commission must decide if a special election must be held to replace Rector.

Rector's resignation stems from a past crime that has thrown his eligibility to be a senator into question.

In November, Rector admitted he was convicted of misdemeanor burglary in 1981 and documents released by the Legislature's



▲ Matt Rector yesterday announced he will resign from his senatorial post at noon today.

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# Complaints: Investigation could set precedent

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up to the promises that he made."

Rector had been facing scrutiny due to his dual role as senator and as president of the Guam Federation of Teachers union. Mesa had filed a complaint against Rector in October, calling into question Rector's use of government funds and his role as senator to further his union's interests.

Even with Rector stepping down as senator today, Mesa said Rector can further the interests of the working class.

"He'll continue his profession as 'champion' as he says he is for the

working person," Mesa said. "He can still be a proponent of that."

But his role as a senator was certainly not appropriate, according to Sinajana resident Eloy Hara, a member of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities.

"Rector did it to himself," Hara said. "My personal belief and feeling is he was never qualified to be a senator."

Hara had filed another complaint against Rector in December with the Guam Election Commission, and later with the Ethics Committee, after the freshman senator admitted to being convicted of misdemeanor burglary in California when he was

19. That record has since been expunged, according to Rector.

Yesterday, Hara and Mesa both said it was reassuring to know their concerns as residents had been given some weight.

"The results of this particular case speaks loudly on that point, ... and I believe that (Rector) did the right thing at this point of time," Mesa said.

"I guess when (the) official robbery conviction of moral turpitude (was) facing him, then he realized that he in fact committed two more crimes," Hara said, referring to Rector falsifying the affidavit when he signed up to run for senator and another affidavit to get a permit to own

a concealed weapon.

Hara's just glad it's over.

Or is it?

According to Mesa, the Legislature should complete its ethic investigation so it's recorded in the proper fashion and a clear precedent is set for future legislative action.

He said there's possibly some work to be done to refine some of the rules and regulations regarding requirements to be upheld by elected officials.

"It has not been challenged in the past and this is a new chartered course for the incident that was not thought of at the time," Mesa said regarding conflict-of-interest rules.

Whether the two investigations continue, Hara said he's completed his civic duty.

"I felt the system was failing. The (election commission) was sitting on their butts, saying, 'Well, there's no formal complaint.' Really it was their job to investigate, even if there was no formal complaint," Hara said.

But Hara triumphed in the end.

"I don't have personal gain in this other than, personally, we all learn from it," Hara said.

"As arrogant as he might have been, when the reality finally hits him, I think he's still a wise man that at least he knows when it's time to get out of the hot seat," Hara added.