

**California Voting Rights Act Community Working Group
Report to City Council**

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INTRODUCTION

On March 5, 2018 the City of Palm Springs received a demand letter from Shenkman & Hughes on behalf of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.¹ The letter alleges that the City is in violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) by its use of at-large elections and requested the City voluntarily move to a district-based election system or face litigation. The City does not admit that the current voting system is in violation of the CVRA but nonetheless agreed to move forward to a district-based election system in the spirit of the CVRA. An agreement was reached with Shenkman & Hughes to allow for an extension from July 19, 2018, an original time frame of 3 months, to December 31, 2018, an increase to over 5 months, to complete the transition to district elections. On April 19, 2018 the City Council passed a resolution indicating its plan to adopt a district-based election system.²

In the resolution the City resolved to “gather and study demographic data, secure the broadest and deepest community involvement ... and create CVRA-compliant districts that better serve the City as a whole.”³

On May 16, 2018, the City Council adopted a Statement of Principles to guide the process of transitioning to district elections:

Goals

- Maximize the goals of the CVRA, including civil rights, equality, and inclusion.
- Prioritize the creation of majority/minority districts.
- To the extent practical, keep organized neighborhoods intact.
- Maintain the principle that the best interest of the City as a whole remains the first responsibility of all elected officials.

Process

- Evaluate our current structure of government and demographics, compare with and learn from other comparable cities and recommend the structure of government that best achieves the goals of the CVRA and the long-term needs of our city.
- Encourage and work through communication platforms to obtain participation from as many residents and stakeholders as possible in the process.

¹ 2018-03-05 Letter - Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

² Resolution No. 24406

³ Resolution No. 24406, Section 4, p. 3

The CVRA Community Working Group

The CVRA Community Working Group was created at the request of Council to advise the City on the steps the City must take to implement the requirements of the CVRA to eliminate and prevent minority vote dilution, and as a means to gather information from the community and conduct research on district elections. In addition, the working group was broadly tasked by the City Council with conducting research and providing recommendations on the following:

- Evaluate what steps the City must take to implement the requirements of the CVRA to eliminate and prevent minority vote dilution;
- The form of government the City should adopt as it transitions to district elections;
- How to combine the transition to even year elections with the transition to district elections;
- What voting methods would work best with a transition to district elections including; plurality voting, primaries, runoffs, and ranked choice voting as potential options;
- The steps Council should consider implementing to reduce barriers to running for city council and working on city council;
- The steps Council should consider implementing to reduce barriers and increase diversity in our boards and commissions.

As part of the process the Working Group was tasked with providing this report to Council. The Working Group began regular weekly meetings on May 1, 2018. The Working Group held a total of 12 community outreach events, including a meeting in Spanish. All input provided to the Working Group from residents and community stakeholders was taken into consideration in the writing of this report. We conducted extensive research as to best practices adopted by similarly sized cities as they transitioned to district elections and contacted individuals with experience in government to solicit input about barriers to running and serving in elected positions. Specific documents used in preparing the report are listed in the footnotes and reference section at the end of this document. All other documents provided to the Working Group can be found at www.psdistricts.com.

During this process the Working Group found that many residents, ourselves included, were unaware of the vast history of communities of color in Palm Springs. This information is important not only in the context of the CVRA's purpose of addressing ongoing vote dilution and discrimination⁴ but also in support of community building.

⁴ California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) §14025 et. seq.

History

Communities of color – largely Latino, African American, and Filipino, – have lived and worked in Palm Springs since as early as 1910.⁵ The growth of these communities coincided with the growth of the City as a Hollywood destination. By the 1930s the population had increased dramatically. Communities of color worked mainly in the agricultural, service, and labor industries of the City. Many of the hotels and residents of the time provided housing for their employees. For those that did not, the communities began settling in a tract of land known as Section 14.

Section 14 is a square mile tract of land in the center of the city with borders of Alejo Road, Indian Canyon Drive, Ramon Road, and Sunrise Way. The land, owned by the Agua Caliente tribe, allowed for only short lease terms making it undesirable for wealthier residents. Communities of color continuously populated the tract; building homes with whatever materials they could, until the 1960s. After World War II, amid rising land value and the proximity to downtown, the City began to “clean-up” Section 14. This process led to mass evictions and the forced removal of the residents. Throughout the 1950s and 60s homes in Section 14 were burned to the ground to further remove residents from the land.⁶ This systematic removal of communities of color from Section 14 is what led to the creation and settlement in what is now Desert Highlands, Gateway, the Veterans Tract, Demuth Park, Lawrence Crossley, and Golden Sands neighborhoods. The effects of these actions are still felt within the City.

This Report

This report is the product of several months of meetings, conversations with the community, and research conducted by a diverse cross-section of Palm Springs residents. The recommendations comply with the requirements and goals of the CVRA and Council. In this report district maps are discussed only in terms of whether four or five districts meet the goals of the CVRA and Council. The Working Group conducted its work and makes these recommendations independent of the City Council and city staff.

Further Work on Maps

The CVRA Working Group intends to review district maps submitted by the public and the demographer for compliance with the goals of the CVRA and the City Council, including

⁵ This date is based on available historical records and focuses on non-Native communities. Native Americans were in Palm Springs prior to 1910 and it is likely other groups, specifically Mexicans, were in Palm Springs prior to that date as well.

⁶ The Desert Sun, October 19, 2017, ‘It was beautiful for the white people.’
<https://www.desertsun.com/story/money/real-estate/2016/09/22/palm-springs-segregation-section-14/88835270/>

providing an in depth discussion of communities of interest and strengths and weaknesses of specific maps after Council's decision on whether four or five districts will be created and at the pleasure of the City Council. We are also available to assist the city with setting up meetings to obtain public input on the maps the city council selects for further consideration again at the pleasure of the City Council.

FIVE DISTRICTS VS FOUR DISTRICTS

The Working Group unanimously concludes that the Palm Springs City Council should establish five electoral districts for councilmembers with the position of Mayor selected by the City Council from among its members, rather than four electoral districts for councilmembers and an at-large Mayor. While there are arguments in favor of both approaches, we conclude that five electoral districts will produce better government, be more consistent with the Palm Springs City Charter, and better advance the goals of the CVRA.

Background Principles

The Mayor of Palm Springs is elected as a member of the City Council and has no power or authority different from that of any other councilmember. As the City Charter explains, “The elective officers of the City shall consist of a city council of five members, one of whom shall be the Mayor” and the Mayor “may make and second motions and shall have a voice and vote in all city council proceedings.” In other words, the Mayor is one of five co-equal city council members. The Mayor also has ceremonial duties, though even those are not exclusive. The charter explains: “The mayor shall be the head of the City for all ceremonial purposes” and “shall serve as the primary, but not exclusive, spokesperson of the City.”⁷ Managerial authority in Palm Springs is held by the City Manager, who is accountable to the City Council as a whole.⁸

In meetings and discussions with members of the community, we learned that many residents of Palm Springs do not realize this fact about how the city government operates and assume that the position of Mayor involves superior authority. That is understandable — many of us grew up thinking about mayors as executives who have managerial authority. That is how the position works in most large cities. But in Palm Springs, as with the majority of cities⁹ of our size around California, the Mayor is simply one member of City Council and stands on an equal footing with other councilmembers except for ceremonial duties.

This fact about the Mayor of Palm Springs will not change with the establishment of districts. There is no proposal under consideration to alter or eliminate the position of City Manager or to create a new executive position of mayor with direct managerial authority in the city. No matter which option the City Council chooses when it establishes districts, the Mayor of Palm Springs will still be one of five members of the council with no greater power than other councilmembers.

The Working Group considered two options: a five-district council with a mayor selected from the council, and a four-district council with an at-large elected mayor. We did not consider expanding the size of the Palm Springs City Council beyond five members. A council of more

⁷ Palm Springs City Charter Article III, §§ 301–302.

⁸ Palm Springs City Charter Article IV § 400 (“There shall be a city manager who shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. . . . The city manager shall serve at the pleasure of the city council.”).

⁹ Cities CVRA Summary sheet

than five members would put Palm Springs out of step with almost every other city of our size in California, and the City Attorney advised the Working Group that such a change would require a separate amendment to the City Charter.¹⁰ We therefore limited our work to an evaluation of the five-district and four-district options.

Good Government and the City Charter

The Working Group concludes that it is more consistent with the Palm Springs City Charter, and also more conducive to good government and principles of political accountability, to establish five districts and have the council select the mayor from among its members. Our conclusion is based on the following considerations.

Advantages to a Five-District Council with a Mayor Selected by the Council

- A five-district council with a mayor selected from the council will preserve the principle that the Mayor of Palm Springs is a co-equal member of the Palm Springs City Council with no greater powers or authority than any other councilmember. A four-district council with an at-large elected mayor, in contrast, would create disparities. Mayors would be likely to claim greater authority in the Council by claiming a superior electoral mandate, since they would be elected by the city at large. The ability to say they are “speaking for the city” to a greater extent than any other member of the Council could invest Mayors with superior influence. As both a formal and a practical matter, this would be a significant departure from the foundational principle in the Charter that the Mayor of Palm Springs is a co-equal member of the council.
- A five-district council with a mayor selected from the council would also help to inform and educate the people of Palm Springs about their government. As noted above, under the current system in which all five members of the Palm Springs City Council are elected at large, there is a lack of awareness among many members of our community concerning the ceremonial nature of the position of Mayor. That situation undermines political accountability. If members of the public believe that the Mayor of Palm Springs is an executive with managerial authority, they are likely to give unearned credit to Mayors for good city management and impose unearned blame on them for managerial problems. Establishing a five-district council with a mayor selected from the council would educate the public about the ceremonial nature of the Mayor of Palm Springs. In contrast, establishing a four-district council with an at-large mayor threatens to exacerbate public confusion, reinforcing the incorrect belief that the Mayor of Palm Springs has powers different from other

¹⁰ See Memorandum dated July 17, 2018 from City Attorney Edward Kotkin to California Voting Rights Act Working Group, at 3 (“The City should not move to more districts than five (5), or to a system that included more or less Council members than five (5). Council action including a change in the number of City Council Members would necessitate a Charter amendment.”).

councilmembers. Indeed, people in Palm Springs would be right to be confused. Why would the Mayor be elected at large, and why would they be called on to vote separately for a district councilmember and for an at-large mayor, if those two positions have the same authority?

- The principle of co-equal members of city council is also important for the accountability of the Palm Springs City Manager. The City Manager exercises all administrative authority for the city. If problems arise, it is the full Palm Springs City Council that must ensure accountability. In a five-district council with a mayor selected from the council, it will be clear that the City Manager will have to answer equally to all members of the Council. In a four-district council with an at-large elected mayor, in contrast, a City Manager might find safety in a strong relationship with a Mayor who could deflect or shield problems of maladministration by claiming superior authority and a superior mandate. Conversely, a City Manager who fell out of favor with an at-large Mayor might be more vulnerable to retribution. Confusion over the powers of the Mayor could thus impact the management of the city despite the Mayor's lack of actual managerial authority.
- The danger of confusion about the authority of the Mayor also extends to the city's business and commercial dealings. Establishing a five-district council with a mayor selected from the council would help to clarify for anyone having business with the city that the Palm Springs City Council is the authoritative body that makes decisions for Palm Springs, not the Mayor as an individual. Establishing a four-district council with an at-large elected Mayor, in contrast, would create the outward appearance of authority without any of the mechanisms of accountability that go along with executive power. There would be a danger that Mayors could put themselves forward as having the power to speak for the city in business and commercial dealings but then retreat to the claim that they are just one of five votes on council if questions arose about the propriety of those dealings.

Arguments in Favor of a Four-District Council with an At-Large Mayor

The Working Group also heard and considered arguments in favor of a four-district system with an at-large elected mayor.

- We heard arguments that it is more democratic to give people the chance to vote for two officials (a councilmember in their district and an at-large mayor) rather than just one — in other words, that having more positions to vote for is by definition more democratic. We find this argument unconvincing. It is a mistake to measure how democratic a system of city government is by counting the number of city council members each citizen votes for. By that reasoning, the move to district elections will make Palm Springs either 60% or 80% less democratic by reducing the number of officials each citizen can elect from five to either two or one. We believe that democratic values depend on the ability of all members of the community to

participate equally and fairly in a well-designed system of elected government, not maximizing the number of elected positions that each person can vote for. We have district-based elections in most other legislative components of our government, including both houses of the California legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives. Furthermore, this argument does not consider the impact of at-large elections on different communities in Palm Springs. One of the concerns with the current system of at-large elections is that they enable candidates to win office by focusing most of their efforts on the subset of people in Palm Springs who are able to contribute more money, have time to be more politically engaged, and have historically had higher voter turnout. A major goal of moving to district elections is to democratize the election process by making it necessary for candidates to engage a more diverse population within their respective districts. While people will be voting for just one councilmember, candidates will have to reach out to the people more broadly than they have before.

- The Working Group heard arguments that district elections carry a risk of factionalism — that councilmembers elected on a district basis will care primarily about projects and issues that affect their district and will engage in horse trading of favors and votes with other councilmembers. Having an at-large mayor, the argument goes, would ensure one “adult in the room” who would promote the interests of the entire city and help to manage and prevent factionalism. We disagree. The high level of political and civic engagement in Palm Springs gives us confidence that intense factionalism is unlikely. If intense factionalism does occur, we think it just as likely that an at-large mayor would use the appearance of greater authority and a superior mandate to exploit such factionalism to his or her political advantage. Good government requires a sense of public obligation and civic duty. That will be equally true with either a five-district or a four-district approach.
- The Working Group received feedback that there is civic value in giving voting residents of Palm Springs the chance to participate in at least one citywide election. Some residents said that they thought that kind of electoral exercise would be a unifying experience for the city, giving residents a sense of continued investment in what happens outside their districts and helping to prevent the kind of political silo effect that might result from the switch to district elections. The Working Group takes these ideas seriously and thinks they have merit. But we believe that they are significantly outweighed by the concern for promoting public understanding of how the City Council works, ensuring good government, and maintaining clear lines of political accountability.

Every system of government has tradeoffs. The Working Group views the loss of an opportunity to participate in a citywide election as a real tradeoff. If the City Council accepts our recommendation and moves to a five-district system, we recommend that the Council make it a priority to foster a shared investment in the politics and management of the entire city, both within government and in the public at large. Given the high level of civic and political

engagement among some residents of Palm Springs, including the extraordinary level of engagement from members of the community that we have seen in this process, we are confident that it will be possible to avoid political factionalism and preserve a citywide sense of purpose and cooperation in a five-district system.

The California Voting Rights Act

The Working Group concludes that a five-district system with a mayor selected from the council will better advance one of the key goals of the CVRA: to prevent dilution of minority voting blocs and increase opportunities for minorities to elect a representative of their choice.

- Based on the first set of proposed maps provided by the Demographer and other maps submitted by members of the community, it is evident that the creation of five districts offers the opportunity to promote the political power of historically disadvantaged minority communities to a substantially greater extent than does the creation of four districts.¹¹ The difference is particularly stark when looking at citizens of voting age. There are five-district options that create at least one and perhaps two districts in which historically disadvantaged minority communities have the potential to exercise significant political power. A five-district approach makes possible the creation of two districts in which historically disadvantaged minority communities are at least half the overall population and one district in which they are at least half the citizens of voting age. A five-district map with that composition would reflect the presence of those communities in the overall population. In a four-district system, in contrast, the proposed maps show historically disadvantaged minority communities forming a majority of the overall population in only one district, at most, and their ability to exercise political influence is even more tenuous when considering citizens of voting age. That result would fail to reflect the presence of those communities in Palm Springs fairly.
- The election of the Mayor on an at-large basis would work at cross-purposes with this important goal of the CVRA. In a community that has exhibited racially polarized voting, designating the Mayor to be elected on an at-large basis would perpetuate racially polarized voting for that one position. The Working Group takes no position on whether Palm Springs has in fact exhibited racially polarized voting, but it is clear that making the Mayor an at-large elected position would undermine the CVRA's goal of preventing dilution of minority voting blocs. Indeed, an at-large elected Mayor would risk imposing disproportionate harm on historically disadvantaged minority communities. If, as we think likely, moving to district elections for all other members of the City Council but electing an at-large Mayor would result in the Mayor being able to exercise outsized political influence, then minority communities

¹¹ 2018-09-11 Comparison of Four Districts and Five District Maps

would suffer a structural disadvantage in electing the official with the greatest political power. This would not merely be a missed opportunity to promote equality but a step backwards for historically disadvantaged minority communities.

- The options for giving fair opportunities to historically disadvantaged minority communities in a five-district approach can be accomplished at the same time that other important communities of interest are given full and equal consideration. The maps proposed by the Demographer and submitted by members of the community include options for keeping neighborhoods together, using natural features like major thoroughfares and waterways as boundaries, and having community resources like parks, schools, landmarks, the downtown commercial area, and areas of planned or projected development spread among districts and shared among multiple districts. While there is more work to do in receiving proposed maps and reviewing community input, the Working Group has a high level of confidence that there will be many options available in a five-district approach that promote the CVRA's goal of preventing dilution of minority voting blocs without any significant disadvantage to other important interests or to other residents or groups in Palm Springs.
- A four-district system, however, does create a particular risk under the CVRA. The CVRA defines a four-district system with an at-large elected mayor as an “at-large method of election.”¹² Under the CVRA, an at-large method of election “may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or abridgement of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.”¹³ A four-district council with an at-large elected mayor would therefore have to satisfy this non-dilution requirement of the CVRA. A five-district council with a mayor selected from the council would qualify as a “district-based election” system under the CVRA and would not present that potential problem.¹⁴ It is not the job of the Working Group to draw legal conclusions or to give legal advice to the City of Palm Springs, but we believe it is clear from the language of the CVRA that a four-district option carries legal risk. We are aware of one other city — Rancho Cucamonga — that responded to a CVRA challenge by adopting a system of district elections for city council with an at-large mayor. That approach apparently satisfied the plaintiffs in the CVRA challenge, who agreed to accept it as a settlement of the lawsuit. But that settlement does not serve as binding precedent and presumably does not even insulate Rancho Cucamonga from possible future challenges under the CVRA if a different person decides to raise a challenge. After seeking guidance from the Palm Springs City Attorney, we are aware of no legal

¹² See CVRA § 14026(a)–(b) (defining that term to include an election method that combines district-based elections with at-large elections).

¹³ CVRA § 14027.

¹⁴ CVRA § 14026(b).

authority holding that a district system with an at-large mayor is permissible under the CVRA in a city that has allegedly exhibited racially polarized voting. At the very least, a four-district system with an at-large mayor would present legal risks for Palm Springs, whereas a five-district system with a mayor selected by the city council appears to avoid those risks.

For all these reasons, the Working Group recommends that the Palm Springs City Council adopt a five-district council with a mayor selected from the council.

THE TRANSITION TO EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS

The Working Group has been advised by the City Attorney’s Office, that the State of California requires Palm Springs to adopt a plan to consolidate future local elections with even-year statewide elections and implement that plan no later than the November 8, 2022 statewide general election.¹⁵ State law also requires while moving to even year elections, no term of office shall be increased or decreased by more than 12 months.¹⁶

This means that Palm Springs must plan to move from odd year local elections to even year local elections at the same time it is planning to move from at-large elections to district elections. The City has several options that are compatible with both the California Voting Rights Act and State Law (see enclosed chart).

After reviewing the various options, the Working Group recommends the following option. Reduce terms by one year, delayed for two election cycles:

Elected Official	Term Commencement	Term End	New Term (-1 Year)
Geoff Kors	November 2015	November 2019	
J.R. Roberts	November 2015	November 2019	
Robert Moon	November 2015	November 2019	
Christy Holstege	November 2017	November 2021	
Lisa Middleton	November 2017	November 2021	
New Member 1	November 2019		November 2022
New Member 2	November 2019		November 2022
New Member 3	November 2019		November 2022
New Member 4	November 2021		November 2024
New Member 5	November 2021		November 2024

¹⁵ Elections Code Section 14052(b)

¹⁶ State Elections Code Section 10403.5(2)(b)

In the opinion of the Working Group, this is the best solution. It has the following advantages:

- It starts the transition to even year elections in 2019 at the same time the City begins the transition to districts.
- It does not require the council to extend their own terms beyond the 4 years they were elected to.
- It gives advance warning to all potential candidates that during the next two election cycles, terms will only be three years instead of four years.
- It accomplishes a complete transition to even year elections in 2024. In 2024 new city council terms will revert to the 4-year terms required by the City Charter.

METHODS OF SELECTING A MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

Provided that the City Council determines to support a five-district electoral system, it is our recommendation that the Mayor be appointed from amongst the City Council. The Working Group has reviewed rules, procedures, and practices of sampled comparable cities and based on best practices, we offer the following recommendations related to the selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

Recommendation

- **Rules and Procedures** Adopt a policy and procedure related to the appointment of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as a part of the City Council Rules and Procedures. This will allow the City Council maximum flexibility to modify or waive the rules of the selection process when necessary. The Working Group warns that codification of such rules may hinder the City Council in the event that such rules need immediate modification.
- **Method Appointment** The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should be nominated and appointed by a majority vote of the City Council. The Committee additionally warns against establishing a formal rotation procedure based on specific criteria. This will ensure that the members whom earned the confidence of the majority of City Council will serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Additionally, this will allow members to opt out of serving, and will avoid disputes if an individual is chosen out of rotation.
- **Length of Term** The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should serve one-year terms, with the ability to serve up to one additional consecutive term if appointed by the council. At the end of their term(s), both positions should rotate to other members chosen by the council. This will allow most Councilmembers an opportunity to serve in these roles.
- **Appointment Date** The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should be appointed at the first meeting in December each year.
- **Qualifications for Mayor** The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should serve at least one-year on Council before assuming the role of Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem. This will allow new city council members to have a full understanding of city council functions before assuming the role of mayor.

Alternatives

- **Rotational Policy** The City Council could choose to adopt a formal rotation policy aimed at giving each Councilmember an opportunity to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, with rotations based on tenure, highest vote getter, or other measures. However, in most instances these policies should allow flexibility for the council to override the rotation when deemed necessary.
- **At-Large Mayoral Term** If the City Council determines to support a four-district and at-large Mayor electoral system, the Working Group recommends that the Council consider a Charter amendment to provide for a two-year term for the Mayor. A two-year term will allow voters an opportunity to elect the Mayor at the same time they elect district representatives, further ensuring that all voters have influence in the Mayoral election. The Working Group notes that at least 18 California cities have opted for two-year Mayoral terms. However, there are also difficulties with a two-year term.

The foremost problem with a two-year mayoral election cycle is that it would require candidates to mount both citywide campaigns and substantial fundraising efforts biennially. This would create a substantial barrier to entry for candidates of more limited means.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

The California Government Code requires that any person who runs from a district reside in that district both at the time they pull papers, and during their entire term. Moving out of the district at any time during an office holders term make them ineligible to hold office. The City Charter is silent on this issue, and thus the Government Code prevails.

The Working Group recommends no changes to the Charter on this issue as this is settled policy in all California elections.

ASSIGNMENT TO DISTRICTS

In the next election, the three open seats will be district seats. The two remaining council seats will remain at-large until the following election, when they will convert to district seats. Districts will be assigned to the three open seats in the 2019 election and to the remaining two seats in the 2021 election.

Districts may be assigned between the two elections in such a manner that they mirror where incumbents who are up for election in that year reside, if possible and if equitable.

Elected Official	Term	At large/District
Christy Holstege	November 2017 -2021	At Large Representative
Lisa Middleton	November 2017 -2021	At Large Representative
New Member 1	November 2019 -2022	District Representative or At Large Mayor
New Member 2	November 2019 -2022	District Representative
New Member 3	November 2019 -2022	District Representative
New Member 4	November 2021 -2024	District Representative
New Member 5	November 2021 -2024	District Representative

DISTRICT ELECTION PROCESS

The Working Group reviewed four possible options for future council elections and the process each method follows in an election; primary, runoff, ranked choice, and plurality. This was further narrowed to ranked choice and plurality vote (which is the current system in place). The Working Group recommends that Council continue with the current plurality vote system as it transitions to districts and also recommends that Council take steps to begin the process of implementing ranked-choice voting. Each option will be set forth below beginning with the Working Group's recommendation.

Both plurality and ranked-choice voting support the goals of the CVRA by addressing minority vote dilution.

Plurality Election

The current election process designates the candidate with the most votes the winner. The candidate with the most votes only requires a plurality of votes to win. In an election with multiple candidates this means that a candidate can win an election with far less than a majority of votes. This is the most popular form of election and the most straightforward ballot. Maintaining this form will not require any voter education or updating of election systems. However, any district with more than two candidates may result in a candidate with a small percentage of votes to win.

Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked choice voting allows each voter to cast up to three votes for the candidates in their district. Each vote is categorized as first choice, second choice, or third choice on the ballot. After the election results are in, if a candidate has a majority of the votes they win. If not, then the candidate with the fewest votes is dismissed and the second choice vote for the voters who cast a vote for the dismissed candidate are counted. This process continues until one candidate has the majority of the votes.¹⁷

This method eliminates the need for a primary or run-off election since that process is a built-in part of ranked choice voting and thus eliminates the additional cost of a run-off or primary election. Ranked-choice voting eliminates the worry that only a small number of voters in each district will determine the election. In ranked-choice, each voter has the option to cast up to three votes, resulting in a winner that has a majority of the vote. Further, it provides voters with an opportunity to choose their preferred candidate without fear that their vote will be wasted. This increases diversity of candidates and voter participation, as voters tend to feel they have a greater voice in the process. The ability to vote for multiple candidates also reduces negative campaigning. Candidates are incentivized to appeal to a broader group of voters, while

¹⁷ For a visual example of ranked-choice voting, watch the short video here: <https://abc7news.com/politics/video-heres-how-ranked-choice-voting-works/3457115/>

they ultimately want to be a voter's first choice candidate; they also want to be a voter's second choice. Thus, candidates are less likely to participate in mudslinging tactics less they offend voters and lose a possible second or third choice vote.

In California, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro currently use ranked-choice voting with great success. As was seen in the San Francisco mayoral race, a diverse group of candidates ran for the open seat and 52%¹⁸ of registered voters participated in the election.

The Working Group recommends the City implement a ranked-choice voting system. The City may implement this system on its own or it can share the cost among several participating Riverside County Charter cities. The other Charter Cities in Riverside County are Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Indian Wells, Palm Desert, Riverside, and Norco. There may be practical questions of implementation that the City would have to consider, including costs, political consensus for the change, and any coordination with other cities or the county that would be productive. We leave it to the City Council to address those matters.

Ultimately, a ranked-choice voting system provides more opportunities to candidates and voters alike and encourages active participation in elections. The Working Group recommends the City Council follow the steps detailed below to investigate and implement a ranked-choice system.

Primary Election

Primary elections are elections that occur prior to the general election in which the top two candidates of the primary election advance to the general election. This process requires the City to hold an additional election in the spring of the election year. Not only is this an increased cost for the City, it also increases the cost to candidates as it lengthens the electoral time frame. Nominations for City Council would begin in February for a June primary and by 2020 that will shift to a nomination period beginning in December for a March primary. Further, turnout is historically low for primary elections which would result in only a small number of voters determining the top two candidates.

Runoff Election

Runoff elections are elections that occur after a general election between the top two candidates to determine the majority winner. Run-off elections require the election to be held within a certain time-frame (typically 80 to 110 days) after the general election and increase the cost to the candidates and the City in hosting an additional election.

¹⁸ San Francisco Department of Elections <https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-5-2018-election-results-summary>

Recommendation

The Working Group recommends that the City maintain the plurality election process while they simultaneously begin the process of investigating and transitioning to a ranked-choice election system. The ranked-choice system supports the goals of the CVRA by allowing for a greater diversity of candidates and empowering voters to participate in the electoral process and thus limiting minority vote dilution. While there is an additional cost to implementing ranked-choice voting, it is largely due to one-time costs of set-up and voter education and substantially less over time than primary or runoff elections. The process for implementing ranked-choice voting could take several years, thus the Working Group recommends that the City begin the process now instead of deferring to a future council.

The Working Group recommends that the City take the following actions:

- Contact other charter cities in Riverside County to determine if there is broader interest in moving to ranked-choice voting together. This would involve working with at least two or more interested charter cities to reduce costs and present a stronger argument to the County Board of Supervisors.
- Determine the process for submitting a request for ranked-choice voting to the County Board of Supervisors.
- Request the County determine the cost of updating the voting system including; software, new machines, voter education, and administrative costs.
- Determine the cost of the City obtaining their own voting system that supports ranked-choice voting.
- Determine the cost of a ranked-choice election after the accounting of one-time costs.
- Determine timeline of moving to a ranked-choice system.
- Submit a request for approval of ranked-choice voting to the County Board of Supervisors or alternatively, purchase a voting system that supports ranked-choice voting for the City.

REMOVING BARRIERS

In recent years Palm Springs has made national headlines for its impressive new social scene, excellent restaurants, charming city life, and most recently, the first all LGBTQ city government in the country. Building off this achievement and the goals of the CVRA, the Working Group recommends the following steps are taken to remove barriers from both running and serving on city council. Removing these barriers will allow for greater participation from diverse communities such as people of color, low-middle income residents, parents with young children, people with disabilities, young people, and others.

Removing Barriers to Running for Office

- **Salary Increase** Palm Springs is no longer the sleepy Hollywood hideaway of the 1940s. City Council members now serve full-time roles devoting time during standard work hours *and* evenings to fulfill their duties to the community. This makes holding an additional full-time or part-time job while on Council difficult. However, the annual salary of Council is a mere \$29,196.¹⁹ Once rent/mortgage, utilities, food, gas, and other basic expenses are calculated there is virtually nothing left for one person not to mention a family. This largely limits the pool of candidates to those that are independently wealthy or retired.

In order to encourage more resident participation in elections and a broader array of candidates, the Working Group recommends increasing the salary of the City Council from a stipend to a subsistence level salary. Some options for consideration for council members include, half the salary of a member of the California State Legislature (\$52,500)²⁰, the median household income for Palm Springs (\$46,052), or the current minimum salary for exempt workers in California (\$45,760).²¹ All salaries should be indexed for inflation, with an additional salary amount for the mayor at least commensurate with the additional \$12,304 the Mayor currently receives.

Using the standard lowest tier for exempt managerial employees (which currently requires an exempt employee to be paid at minimum, \$45,760 annually) would be appropriate as City Council members already receive a top managerial benefits package.²²

¹⁹ The Mayor is paid \$42,000 due to the additional responsibilities of attending events on behalf of the City.

²⁰ <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/cccc/Pages/cccc-salaries.aspx>

²¹ "Exempt" as defined under the California Labor Code.

²² For 2018, exempt employees must earn a fixed monthly salary that is double the minimum wage. The current minimum wage is \$11 per hour x 2 = \$880 weekly and \$3,813.22 monthly for a total of \$45,760 annually.

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/legal-and-compliance/state-and-local-updates/pages/california-new-minimum-wage-2018.aspx>

- **New Candidate Forum** The process of running for office can be confusing and time consuming. Information on which paperwork is needed, where to file, and in what time frame is needlessly complex. The Working Group recommends that the City hold a forum in each of the districts on how to run for office at least one month prior to when the nomination period begins. The forum should include a clear list of all required paperwork, a timeline for submission, requirements for financial reporting, and allow for a question and answer session. The City should consider the needs of each district in the creation of the forums and work with members of the community to guide the process. Consideration should be given to such things as time, location, type and manner of advertising, and childcare. The New Candidate Forums are a means of providing the necessary information to each community, instead of large-scale events that can be exclusionary and intimidating.
- **Nomination Signatures** The Working Group recommends that the required signatures needed to complete the nomination packet be reduced from 120 to 20 signatures. The large number of signatures currently needed to file for office is burdensome and six times the amount required by the majority of California cities. This limits the number of candidates before they even begin. There are many other barriers to running for office that may still prevent a candidate from continuing in the process. We recommend that they are at least allowed a foot in the door.

Removing Barriers to Serving

As discussed, Councilmembers are serving in full-time positions and require appropriate staffing, childcare, and car stipends.

- **Staffing** The Working Group recommends the City maintain the current executive assistant who is shared among the members and in addition add a personal assistant for each member and a shared legislative analyst to assist with the drafting of ordinances.

The personal assistant for each member will be hired on a contract basis and chosen by the member upon entering office. This person will act as a body double for meetings or events, assist with coordinating events and programming, and further tasks as determined by the member. The cities of Riverside and San Bernardino currently allow city council members to hire personal assistants.

The legislative analyst will conduct policy and legal research as well as draft ordinances as determined by the Council. The analyst will be under the purview of the City Manager and City Attorney but their work will be dictated by the needs of Council.

- **Car Stipend/Allowance** Councilmembers are expected to attend a great deal of events and meetings. Currently, members are reimbursed for mileage. However, due to the time-consuming nature of compiling mileage forms, many members forgo the reimbursement. The Working Group recommends the City adopt a set stipend or allowance for the wear and tear, gas, mileage, and general costs of maintaining a vehicle. The Working Group suggests an allowance of \$500 per month or a per-diem of \$25 per day.
- **Child Care at City Hall** Childcare costs have skyrocketed in the United States in recent years. In Riverside County the average cost for childcare is \$8,018 to \$12,410 annually, roughly 20 percent of an average family income. Further, in 2016 the Center for American Progress determined the Coachella Valley to be a 'child care desert' due to the need for childcare far exceeding the availability.²³ The Working Group recommends the City open an on-site childcare facility for staff and Council use with subsidized rates. In the alternative, the Working Group recommends that a provision be made to reimburse the day care expenses of members of the city council.

These recommendations make it possible for a broader swath of residents to consider and eventually run for office and ultimately, serve as a Councilmember. The recommendations ensure that the needs and voices of all residents are considered in the City's decisions and empowers residents to build a community that truly is like no place else.

²³ The Desert Sun, Looking for a daycare?, September 19, 2018
<https://www.desertsun.com/story/life/family/2018/09/19/coachella-valley-child-care-desert-lacking-providers/1075135002/>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING DIVERSITY ON PALM SPRINGS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

In order to truly represent the many interests of the City's residents, membership on the City's Boards and Commissions should reflect the diversity of the population. This will help build an applicant pool that will bring a range of perspectives and experiences needed to govern well. For this purpose, we should strive to increase diversity on Boards and Commissions to mirror the composition of Palm Springs residents. Therefore, the Working Group recommends the following:

Annual Survey of Demographic Markers

- Identify diversity measures including race/ethnicity, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, disability, full-time participation in the work force, and parents with children.
- Monitor the City's progress on diversifying the Boards and Commissions on an annual Basis. Assign responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the City Clerk and assign the Human Rights Commission the responsibility of oversight.
- Direct the City Clerk to file an annual report to the City Council to receive and file.

Additional Recommendations

- **Community Outreach** Develop and implement a recruitment program which increases outreach to the identified diversity measure groups.
- **Citizen's Leadership Academy** Establish an annual program to provide residents with a general overview of City operations, programs, and Boards and Commissions.
- **Interviews** Establish uniform interview questionnaires and allow candidates to prepare prior to interviews.
- **Orientation and Training** Develop an orientation and ongoing training program for Boards and Commissions, possible courses to include:
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Subject-Matter Specific Trainings
 - Conflict Management
 - Communication and Interpersonal skills
- **Evening Meetings** Modify Board and Commission meeting times to the evenings to attract working-age candidates.
- **Recognition Program** Develop and implement an annual recognition program for Board and Commission members, such as outgoing commissioner plaques given at a City Council meeting or a recognition event.
- **Consolidation** Evaluate existing Boards and Commissions to consolidate overlapping jurisdictions or eliminate boards and commissions which no longer convene.
- **Council Referrals** Refer matters to Boards and Commissions rather than establish additional City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittees.
- **Youth Liaison** Establish a youth liaison on each Board and Commission.

- **Work-Force Representative** Reserve one seat on each Board and Commission for someone who is an active participant in the workforce.
- **Appointment Policy** Create an appointment policy which does not rely solely on traditional measures of success or insider networks, but that recognizes unique perspectives, skills, and diverse backgrounds. In evaluating and appointing members to Boards and Commissions Council should actively work towards reflecting the full breadth and scope of the residents of Palm Springs. Council should endeavor with each new appointment to achieve a cross section of diverse communities in Palm Springs, as well as representation from within the new districts.
- **Members with Children** Create a welcoming environment for Board and Commission Members with children which includes allowing children at meetings when practicable. The need for daycare services is not only for members of Council and City staff as previously mentioned but also for members of the public serving the City.

CONCLUSION

With our charge from the Palm Springs City Council, the CVRA Working Group embarked on a process to hear from as many residents as possible, particularly residents from communities that have been historically marginalized and excluded from electoral politics in Palm Springs and institutional methods of outreach and engagement. Through this process, we formed the beginnings of a broad and diverse coalition with specific communities that have contributed deeply to the history and economic success of the City, namely Latino, Filipino, and African-American communities. It is the opinion of the Working Group that this process and engagement must continue.

While the City has supported efforts to hear directly from residents through vehicles like the Neighborhood organizations, this process made it immediately clear that these efforts are not enough to uncover the voices of cultural and ethnic minorities, and others like those from renters, people with disabilities, and people with young children. Furthermore, there are neighborhoods and housing tracts that are not “organized” within the ONE-PS model, and the city must take particular effort to build trust, engage, and hear from residents in those areas.

If the City is to continue its commitment to represent all residents, it will seriously consider installing the recommendations of all sections of this report, including the last two recommendations on removing barriers. However, these recommendations are just the beginning. Indeed, there are many ways to engage and hear from diverse communities and residents outside of removing barriers to run and diversifying Boards and Commissions. We recommend that the City Council take a close look at innovative ways to encourage more political participation and engagement (e.g. campaign finance reform, “democracy vouchers”).²⁴

The City has an opportunity to deliver on its tagline, “Like no place else,” by placing itself at the forefront of achieving racial equity and committing resources for a senior staff or department to explore and institute best practices in engaging communities of color, starting with the understanding that outreach is not a one-size-fits-all solution; there must be targeted ways to engage diverse communities, and trust is the foundation on which authentic engagement is built. That will take time, energy, resources, and commitment. We encourage the City to live up to this opportunity, and not make the mistakes of the past in failing to recognize the strength and value of a diverse Palm Springs.

²⁴ The Seattle Times, Do Seattle’s democracy vouchers work?, October 15, 2017

REFERENCES

- A. 2017-10-2017 The Seattle Times, Do Seattle's Democracy Vouchers Work, New Analysis says yes
- B. 2017-10-19 The Desert Sun, 'It was beautiful for the white people:' 1960s still cast a shadow of distrust over Palm Springs
- C. 2018-03-05 Letter - Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- D. 2018-04-10 Historic Site Preservation Board Staff Report on Communities of Color
- E. 2018-04-19 Resolution No. 24406
- F. 2018-07-09 Cities CVRA Summary Sheet and Excel Document
- G. 2018-07-17 City Attorney Memo to Working Group
- H. 2018-09-11 Comparison of Four Districts and Five District Maps
- I. 2018-09-19 The Desert Sun, Looking for Daycare?
- J. Secretary of State Ranked Choice Voting Guidelines
- K. Compiled Public Comments on Districting (the most recent comments to be provided by the City Clerk)
- L. SB 415 – the California Voter Participation Act

Do Seattle's democracy vouchers work? New analysis says yes

[Gene Balk / FYI Guy](#) Updated October 15, 2017 at 9:00 pm

The controversial program, which uses taxpayer money to fund city elections, was implemented for the first time this year in Seattle. A new analysis shows that compared with typical voters a more diverse group of people used the vouchers in this year's primary.

Nobody can accuse Seattle of shying away from controversy. From a \$15 minimum wage to allowing Uber drivers to unionize, we're not afraid to be the nation's guinea pig when it comes to progressive legislation.

Seattle also earned first-in-the-nation bragging rights for "[democracy vouchers](#)" — a new program to finance political campaigns using taxpayer money.

The program went into effect this year, and it's had a bit of a bumpy start. One City Council candidate has been [accused](#) of defrauding the program. A libertarian-leaning group has [sued](#), saying the program violates the First Amendment. And a [Seattle Times analysis](#) showed that the vouchers haven't gotten big money out of politics, as some proponents claimed they would.

But a new, early look at donor-participation statistics shows that the democracy voucher program does appear to live up to its name — that is, it is helping to democratize political giving in Seattle by diversifying the donor pool to better reflect Seattle residents.

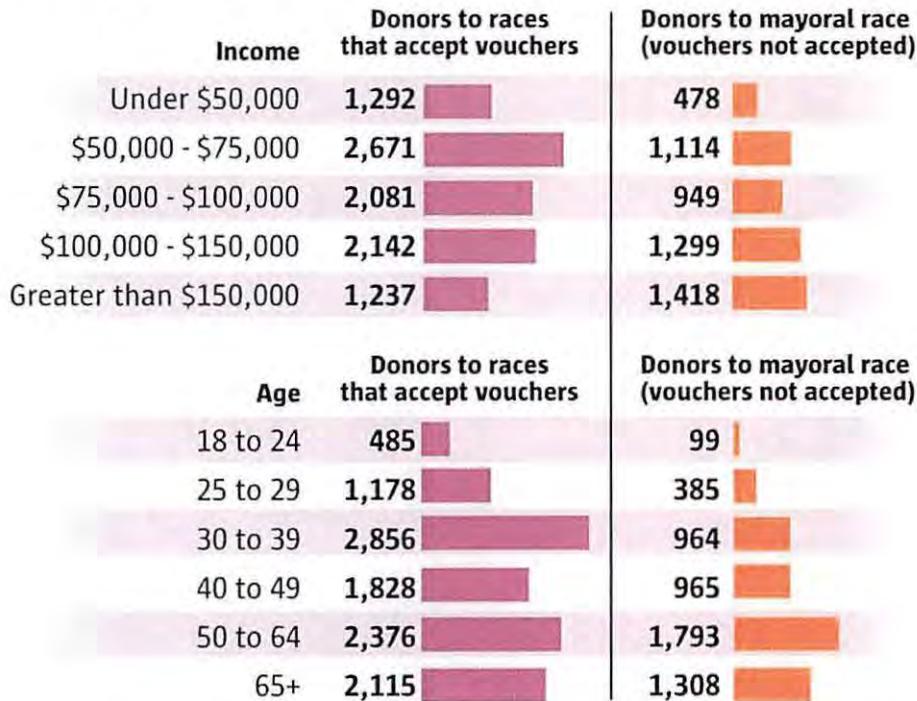
The data analysis was performed by two liberal political-advocacy nonprofits: Seattle-based [Win/Win](#) and Washington, D.C.-based [Every Voice](#). Both groups were major contributors to the Initiative 122 “Honest Elections Seattle” campaign that established the voucher program.

Voucher donations, just like all donations, are public record, so researchers know precisely who used the program. They worked up a demographic profile of the nearly 11,000 Seattleites who used vouchers through the Aug. 1 primaries. The vouchers could be used in three races — the City Council's two citywide seats and for city attorney.

The vouchers are not yet accepted for the mayor's race, and the researchers took advantage of the fact. They used that donation pool as a sort of control group, which could be compared with the people who used vouchers in other races this year.

Democracy vouchers

Donations made using “democracy vouchers” vs. donations to the mayor’s race, which did not accept democracy vouchers



Sources: Win/Win and Every Voice Center

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The contrast is striking, particularly in terms of income and age.

In the mayor’s race, more than half of the donations came from households with incomes of at least \$100,000. But among voters who used democracy vouchers, just 36 percent had household income at that level. And among poorer Seattle households — those with incomes below \$50,000 — donor participation was at 14 percent with democracy vouchers, compared with 9 percent without.

The voucher program also appears to have dramatically increased political giving by younger people. In the mayor’s race, 57 percent of donations came from people 50 or older,

compared with 42 percent among voucher donors. The voucher program had double the percentage of giving coming from people under 25 when compared with the mayor's race. In terms of race and ethnicity, the democracy vouchers also seem to have diversified the pool of donors. People of color made up 14 percent of donors using vouchers, compared with 11 percent in the mayor's race.

Gina Owens, who lives in the Central District, contributed to a political campaign for the first time in her life through the voucher program — and it felt great, she says.

"I've always been a voter," Owens said, "but my income has never been the highest in Seattle, so I always had a problem using my finances for campaigns, when I have to take care of home."

The born-and-raised Seattleite used two of her four vouchers during the primaries to support Jon Grant for City Council Position 8. Grant placed second behind Teresa Mosqueda, and advanced to the Nov. 7 general election.

"It feels like I'm more a part of the system," Owens said, who still has her two other vouchers to use in the general election. "People like me can contribute in ways that we never have before. We can participate in ways that Big Money always has."

Bill Baugh, data director for Win/Win, performed the analysis using data from Catalist, a private political data vendor that sells detailed voter information to Democratic candidates and progressive interest groups.

Catalist and similar companies — Republicans have their own firms — start with publicly available voter-registration lists. In Washington, this can be downloaded from the Secretary of State site.

"They use that as their baseline data, and they keep building and building any type of data they can on top of that," Baugh said. "There's lots of public data out there, like fishing licenses and that type of thing. A lot of magazines will sell your information — there's all sorts of weird data out there."

Catalist also designs algorithms to help research, model and predict things like race and income, which is what Baugh did with the Seattle voter data.

"It's not perfect; it is a model," he said. "They make some individual mistakes, but when you look at the bigger picture, it's pretty accurate."

The program, which was approved by voters in 2015 through Initiative 122, authorized a 10-year, \$30 million property-tax levy to pay for the vouchers. Eligible Seattle residents receive four \$25 vouchers in the mail, which they can donate to any candidate who agrees to participate in the program.

According to the city, the programs costs the average homeowner about \$11.50 per year.

EXHIBIT B

'It was beautiful for the white people:' 1960s still cast a shadow of distrust over Palm Springs

THOUSANDS OF WORKING-CLASS PEOPLE, MOSTLY BLACK AND LATINO, WERE FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES NEAR DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS IN THE 1950S AND 1960S. MANY OF THOSE FAMILIES NOW LIVE ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY IN A COMMUNITY THEY BUILT BY HAND.

Denise Goolsby and

Rosalie Murphy, The Desert Sun

Published 12:37 p.m. PT Sept. 22, 2016 | Updated 2:30 p.m. PT Oct. 19, 2017



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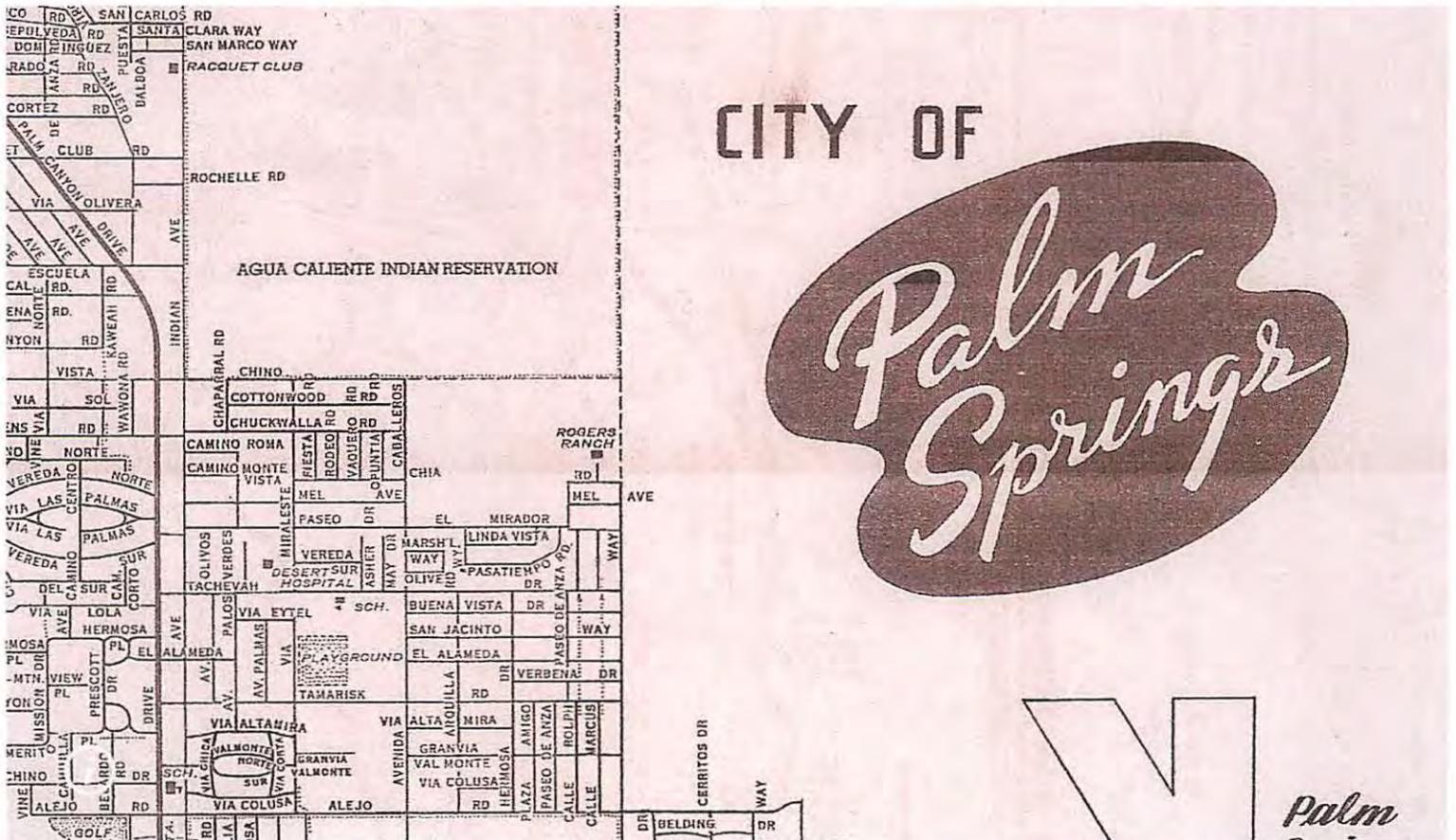
Comment

The most valuable square of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' checkerboard-shaped reservation is Section 14, a one-mile stretch of desert just east of downtown Palm Springs. It's home to the tribe's namesake hot spring, which is central to the tribe's traditional life and attracted the desert's first wellness resorts in the 1880s. Today, the land holds a sprawling casino, hotels, condos and the Palm Springs Convention Center.

But for two decades in the middle of the 20th century, Section 14 is where Palm Springs' simmering racial tensions boiled over. Archaic land leasing laws kept the Agua Caliente from developing their land until the late 1950s. Discriminatory housing practices kept African-American and Latino families from living in better-developed parts of the city. So the tribe's landowners rented Section 14 land to families of color, generating some revenue and giving the city's blue-collar workforce a place to live.

This was "the other Palm Springs," as an Agua Caliente Cultural Museum exhibit dubbed it last year, where the resort town's low-income workforce lived apart from the rest of the city — at least until the city's leaders sought to develop the land. Over the course of a decade, families were asked to leave, then ordered to leave, and ultimately, their houses destroyed. With nowhere else to go, they scattered to outlying parts of the city.

"We were in the heart of the civil rights movement, and at the very height of civil rights in America, Palm Springs was burning people of color's homes," McPeters said. "It's definitely a part of Palm Springs history and legacy that's a real dark spot, a dark time, but one that needs to be remembered... so we don't allow ourselves to ever repeat the horrors of our past."



Connie Perez

Connie Ortega Perez remembers her dad pitching a tent on a barren patch of Section 14 in 1928. The family had just moved to Palm Springs, a decade after fleeing the Mexican Revolution; within a month, sand and wind storms had blown their makeshift home apart.

They began construction on a stronger, sturdier house, adding room after room until it became known simply as "the long house." On one side they built a wooden porch, then rigged up an air conditioning system using a hose, fan and burlap sacks. Theirs was the first house with a shower. Rent for the land was \$3 per month.

"Most of the people that were coming would rent land from the Indians and put up their homes there," Perez recounted in *Prickly Pear Portraits of Historical Palm Springs*, a series of video interviews compiled by the Palm Springs Public Library in 1987. "There were no homes to be had for the working people."

Perez, who was in her 20s at the time, said she worked at a boutique called The French Room at the El Mirador Hotel. Her daily walk took her past pepper trees lining Indian Avenue and the timber-and-canvas tents that were rented out to tourists.

Nearly 200,000 people fled Mexico during the revolution that erupted in 1910. Some of these emigrants arrived in the California desert in the 1920s, seeking jobs in the blossoming resort town or on the nearby railroads and farms. Dozens settled on Section 14, where many members of the Agua Caliente, then a tribe of about 100 people, spoke Spanish.

[READ MORE: Long ago, these trees were planted for racist reasons, neighbors say. Now they want them gone](#)

By the 1930s, Palm Springs was garnering a reputation as a resort



20,000 LAND LEASES

What happens when Palm Springs' leases run out?

SELLING RESERVATION LAND

8,000 acres have left Agua Caliente hands since 1960

WOMEN OF VISION

How an all-woman tribal council won the right to lease land

DECADES OF DISCRIMINATION

Segregation and evictions in mid-century Palm Springs

RESTORING LAND TO TRIBES

Watershed settlement could help solve ownership problems

destination, attracting a steady stream of Hollywood stars and movie moguls. Prominent industrialists, executives and socialites began to join them, spending winters at the Desert Inn and El Mirador Hotel.

[EXPLORE THE SERIES](#)

As tourist traffic increased, so did demand for labor. Workers continued to pour into Palm Springs, but de facto segregation was prevalent throughout the city, according to a 1967 Department of Justice report — landlords in most of the city wouldn't rent to people of color, and even if they would, homes were too expensive for working-class families. So they congregated on Section 14, renting land from members of the Agua Caliente.

'This is the land of milk and honey, but we don't get neither one'

Bennie Mae Crawford piled into a car with five of her family members in November of 1942, when they left Carthage, Texas. After two days and two nights of driving, they arrived in Palm Springs. Her husband had taken a construction job, building barracks at Torney General Hospital during World War II. Two weeks later, she got a job in the hospital's kitchen.

According to a 1937 survey of the western half of Section 14, conditions had already been poor for decades. There were about 1,000 buildings, laid out in a "haphazard and crazyquilt manner... everything seems to be out of line. There are buildings where there should be streets. Fences, roads and buildings are crooked."

But Crawford, who was African-American, settled there anyway, near present-day Calle El Segundo and Arenas Road.

"They let you build a house or build whatever you could on their land and they would charge you very little rent," Crawford said during a 1987 *Prickly Pear* interview. "We only paid \$600 for the house at that time. It was livable," she said, though they used outhouses and cooked with butane gas, which would occasionally cut out in the middle of cooking.

Black people were a small minority in Palm Springs then, Crawford said. "When you'd see a black person at that particular time, you were glad to see one. Very few," she recounted.

In the postwar years, Palm Springs was implicitly segregated, said Rev. Carl McPeters, who lived on



A photograph of houses on Section 14, taken on Dec. 12, 1947.
(Photo: Photo provided by the Palm Springs Historical Society)

Section 14 until he was about 7 years old. Black and Latino Americans had to sit in the balcony at the Plaza Theater. People of color only lived in select neighborhoods — on Section 14 and on a tract owned by black businessman Lawrence Crossley.

McPeters' parents had worked picking cotton in Texas, and left in the early 1950s in pursuit of a better life. His father became an auto mechanic and his mother opened a dry-cleaning business. On Section 14, they lived in a wooden shack without a concrete foundation, not unlike the one they'd had in Texas.

"The Hollywood elite, and stars, lived in Palm Springs, and here we are, a group of people living in squalor, feeling oppressed and depressed," McPeters said during a September interview at his parents' home in northern Palm Springs. "It was like wow, this is the land of milk and honey, but we don't get neither one."

Cora Crawford and her husband also moved to Palm Springs from east Texas. She worked as a nanny, her husband as a gardener and carpenter, and they raised five kids on Section 14.

"When I got to California, I thought everything was beautiful," said Cora, 83, during a recent interview at her home in northern Palm Springs. "It was beautiful for... the white people."



Pastor Carl McPeters talks about the leaving Section 14 as a youth and establishing a new neighborhood in north Palm Springs.

(Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

Vicki Biss McDermott and Vera Macias

In the late 1930s, the northwestern corner of Section 14 had been opened specifically to white people who wanted to build homes, according to a 1937 Department of the Interior survey. That's where the Biss family ended up when they moved from Banning to Palm Springs in 1953. The white family moved into a two-story plaster home on a dirt road, renting the land underneath from a member of the tribe.

Sisters Vicki McDermott and Vera Macias recently visited the site of their childhood home, where the family paid \$10 per month to lease land. A condo complex was built there in 1966. Each family now pays \$219 per month for the land lease, according to real estate listings.

"Look at this, Vera, they built us a scalloped pool," Vicki said, pointing to the clear blue pool that sits in

the center of the Villa Alejo complex, where their home was a half-century ago. "Remember, we always wanted a real pool. We only put up a rubber doughboy in the backyard."

There was great disparity in living conditions on Section 14, they said — some people lived in houses, like their family, while others lived in trailers or shacks. Unlike Cora Crawford and McPeters, the sisters remember little discrimination in Palm Springs.

"Filipino, Indian, Mexican, black, they were all our classmates," Vicki McDermott said. "It was so great in the little village of Palm Springs. There was no discrimination, everybody was equal, and it's just however hard you worked is where you went.

"It was fun while it lasted," she added. "But everyone knew — at least I would think they would know — that the land wasn't theirs, and someday it was going to be developed."



Sisters Vicki Biss McDermott, left, and Vera Macias talk about the home they grew up in that was located here before Palm Springs evicted those residents and razed the homes from the square mile district known as Section 14.

(Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)



Conditions and cleanups

By the time Cora Crawford arrived on Section 14 in 1951, living conditions had worsened. The reservation had no trash service, and local hotels would dump their waste on Section 14. Residents complained of an inadequate water supply. In 1956, an 8-year-old boy was playing with matches and was trapped in an abandoned car; he died of his burns.

The Desert Sun's publisher wrote in an editorial in 1956, "The mess is indescribable... Slums? This is even worse."

Around the same time, the Riverside Press-Enterprise wrote, "Homes are deathtraps of tinder-dry wood where families crowd in on one another in unsanitary profusion. Garbage and trash litter backyards and vacant lots. Beer cans are strewn along roadways. It is a breeding place for crime and vice... in any community it would be a disgrace."

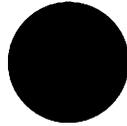
But Section 14 was getting valuable. Palm Springs was booming, and the thought of a "slum" so near to downtown unnerved the city's leaders. The city and tribe agreed to undertake a clean-up effort.



Cora Crawford with a photo of Section 14. Photo taken on July 27, 2016.

(Photo: Richard Lui/The Desert Sun)





Those who lived through it describe the racism and discrimination they endured living in Section 14.

Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun

But that proved harder than it looked. In 1953, substandard dwellings were ordered demolished unless they could be brought up to state health and sanitation standards; the deadline was repeatedly pushed back and standards lowered. In 1954, the city removed 17 trailers and piles of trash. The next year, it targeted abandoned cars.

In 1956, the city fire department burned 10 condemned trailers. A firefighter threw a match onto the site and it began to burn, flames leaping into the sky as spectators gathered to watch the early-morning blaze, according to a Desert Sun report from that day. It took just seven minutes for the homes to be demolished.

Clouds of smoke became a familiar sight over the next decade, as residents watched their neighborhoods burn, clearing the land for development.

'You're going to have to leave'

Today, the decade of evictions at Section 14 is seen as a stain on Palm Springs' glamorous history. Thousands of working-class residents, most of them black or Latino, were pushed out of their homes; the Native Americans who had leased land to those residents were left without income.

The California Attorney General's office, which investigated the evictions in 1968, closed its report by saying, "The City of Palm Springs not only disregarded the residents of Section 14 as property-owners, tax-payers, and voters; Palm Springs ignored that the residents of Section 14

were human beings."

Families began leaving Section 14 during the cleanups of the 1950s. The district's population fell from about 5,000 people in 1948 to just 1,700 in 1961, according to the state's 1968 report on evictions.

Cora Crawford said her family got its first order to leave around 1955. For two or three years, the Crawfords stayed in their Section 14 home while their neighbors moved away.

"I cried. I wasn't there when they started moving them off, I couldn't take it," Crawford said.

Then, around 1958, authorities knocked on her door.

"They came, knocked on our door, I was scared to death," Crawford said. "You're going to have to leave, we're going to burn the house' — burn it — burn the houses down. I couldn't sleep at night."

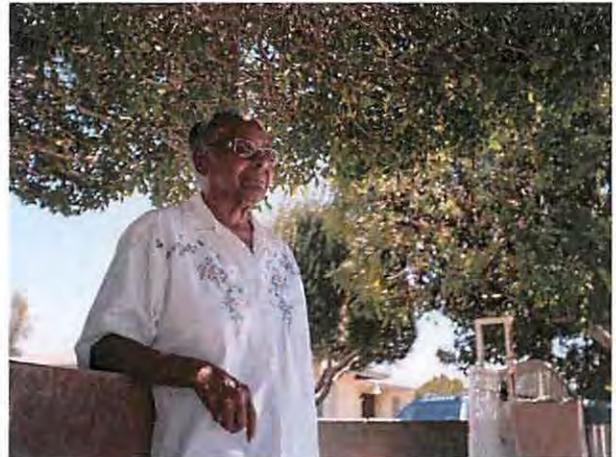
The majority of tenants told the state Attorney General they hadn't received 30-day eviction notices, or that their homes were demolished before the 30-day notice period was up. The city didn't keep records of who was displaced or what was destroyed, and some residents said their homes were burned with their belongings inside. While the Attorney General concluded there wasn't evidence to charge the city with a crime, the 1968 report said, "the incident displayed a unique insensitivity on the part of the City of Palm Springs to the problem of adequate minority housing, in particular, and to minority-community relations, in general."

City leaders maintained that they hadn't actually evicted anyone; that was the job of Agua Caliente landowners. But most of those landowners didn't actually have control over their land — their estates were overseen by guardians and conservators, local businesspeople who were supposed to teach the Agua Caliente how to manage estates. Many were local judges and attorneys who were close to city leaders; some officials, including former mayor Frank Bogert, were conservators themselves. The Attorney General found "evidence of unusual cooperation between developers, the Indian conservators, and the city of Palm Springs, in the demolition of Section 14."



A home burns on Section 14 on May 21, 1964.

(Photo: Photo provided by the Palm Springs Historical Society)



Cora Crawford in front of her Palm Springs home. Crawford was one of many forced to leave Section 14 in the 1960s. Photo taken on July 27, 2016.

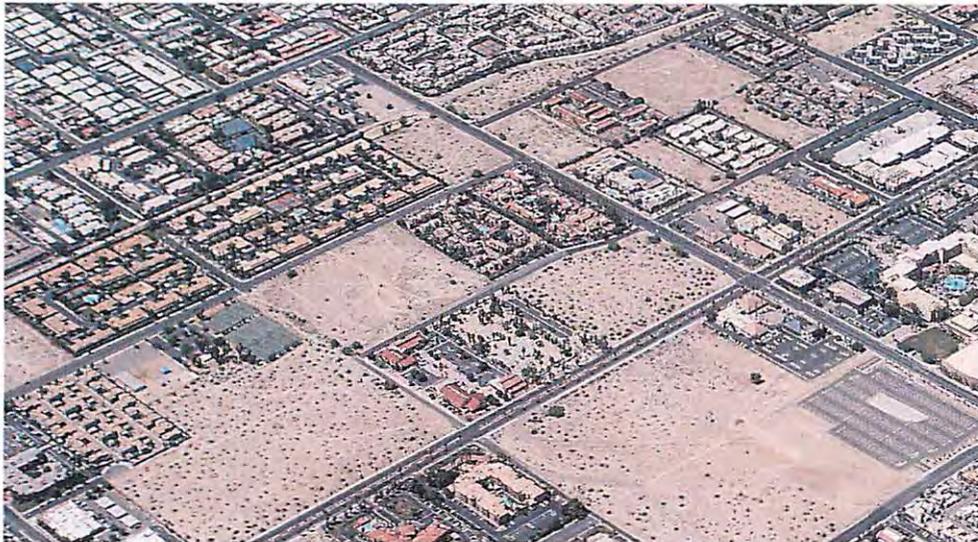
(Photo: Richard Lui/The Desert Sun)

“We were in the heart of the civil rights movement, and at the very height of civil rights in America, Palm Springs was burning people of color's homes.”

REV. CARL MCPETERS, WHO LIVED ON SECTION 14 AS A CHILD

After they left Section 14, Cora Crawford's family stayed in a building owned by Crossley — military barracks that had been turned into an apartment complex. They secured a mortgage from a lender in Banning, about 30 miles away. In 1960, they bought a lot in northern Palm Springs, where they built the house Crawford lives in today.

Bennie Mae Crawford said she was one of the last to leave Section 14 in the mid-1960s. Like Cora, she moved to the northern edge of Palm Springs, where “it was so windy, you almost had to tie yourself down.” Her neighbors moved to Banning, San Bernardino, Riverside or Garnet — anywhere they could purchase homes instead of renting, she said.



'They took a lot of pride in rising up from the ashes'

McPeters keeps a copy of the U.S. Department of Justice's 1967 report on Section 14 on

the wall of his office at Kyriakos Christian Center in Indio, the church he pastors. He was about 7 years old when his family was sent away from Section 14, and as his parents' generation shrinks, he strives to teach young people about what happened — and remind them that families like his were not only "victims," but "victors," he said.

McPeters' family, Cora Crawford's family, and dozens of others moved to Desert Highland, a windswept neighborhood on the northern edge of the city. The undeveloped land had no paved roads, sewers, sidewalks or streetlights, but McPeters' parents secured a loan from a Banning bank and built a house.

In the early 1970s, McPeters and his peers lobbied the city to build streets and sewers, and convinced contractors to hire local teenagers to provide the labor. McPeters dug a ditch and laid the sewer line in front of the house where his parents still live.

"Many of them, and my parents, really used it as a motivator, that we are somebody, and we can, and they built these houses with pride. We're building these homes for our right now and for our future and our kids, so our kids will have something we can leave them," McPeters said. "They took a lot of pride in rising up from the ashes and not allowing what happened on Section 14 to define who they were. And so they took a lot of pride in this community, in building this community."

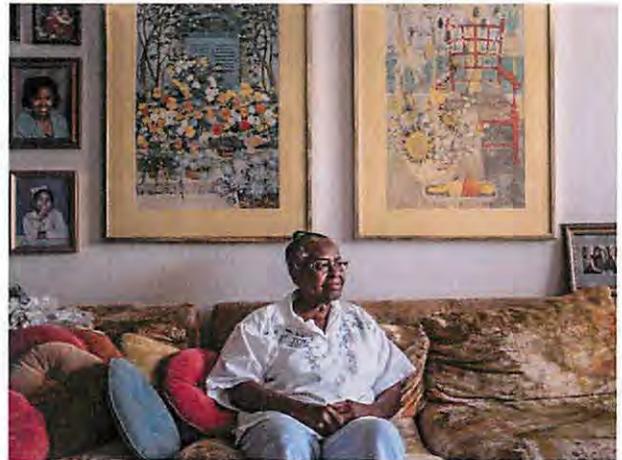
Today, Section 14 is almost totally developed. The trailer parks of a half-century ago have given way to condo developments, hotels, the Palm Springs Convention Center and the Spa Resort Casino.

Prominent statues on its central thoroughfare, Tahquitz Canyon Way, remind visitors that the land belongs to the Agua Caliente.

Viola Ortner, who was chairman of the Agua Caliente tribal council in the 1950s, wrote in her memoir that the tribe offered land for affordable housing if the city would build it. And the city did try. In 1961 — just four months before evictions were scheduled to begin — Mayor Frank Bogert warned that the city would be widely criticized if people were "thrown out of their homes" without an affordable place to go, The Desert Sun reported then.

The city delayed evictions while officials applied for federal housing funds, but demolitions resumed in 1962. A judge struck down a proposed affordable housing project in 1963; another city request for federal funds failed in 1967. Not until 1968 did construction begin on a 60-unit affordable apartment complex, Seminole Gardens, which still stands in southeastern Palm Springs. By 1972, the city had 275 units of low-income housing. It was a start, but for the thousands of people who were forced off Section 14 a decade earlier, it was too little, too late.

Today, McPeters said, members of the black community in Desert Highland walks a fine line between bitterness about what happened at Section 14 and pride in how they overcame it. When he asked



Cora Crawford in her Palm Springs home. Crawford was one of many forced to leave Section 14 in the 1960s. Photo taken on July 27, 2016.

(Photo: Richard Lui/The Desert Sun)

his mother about the family's life on Section 14 in September, McPeters said, he heard pain in her voice that he'd never heard before — she'd been burying the feeling for decades. And he worries that the neighborhood's young adults understand the pain better than the pride.

"We have to ensure that the youngsters that come up know the real struggles of their parents," McPeters said. "This generation that didn't have to live through those struggles don't understand what it took to get here. And instead of using our struggle as a platform to take our community and our neighborhood to higher heights, we can wallow in what happened. That's a recipe for disaster, right there. Yeah, what happened is important. But 'what are we doing about what happened?' is more important."



Carl McPeters and his family moved out of Section 14 in the 1960s. He recalls the instances of racism in Palm Springs during that time.

(Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

EXHIBIT C

February 21, 2018

Anthony Mejia - Office of the City Clerk
City of Palm Springs
3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Violation of California Voting Rights Act

I write on behalf of our client, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and its members residing in Palm Springs. The City of Palm Springs ("Palm Springs") relies upon an at-large election system for electing candidates to its City Council. Moreover, voting within Palm Springs is racially polarized, resulting in minority vote dilution, and therefore Palm Springs's at-large elections violate the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 ("CVRA").

The CVRA disfavors the use of so-called "at-large" voting – an election method that permits voters of an entire jurisdiction to elect candidates to each open seat. *See generally Sanchez v. City of Modesto* (2006) 145 Cal.App.4th 660, 667 ("*Sanchez*"). For example, if the U.S. Congress were elected through a nationwide at-large election, rather than through typical single-member districts, each voter could cast up to 435 votes and vote for any candidate in the country, not just the candidates in the voter's district, and the 435 candidates receiving the most nationwide votes would be elected. At-large elections thus allow a bare majority of voters to control *every* seat, not just the seats in a particular district or a proportional majority of seats.

Voting rights advocates have targeted "at-large" election schemes for decades, because they often result in "vote dilution," or the impairment of minority groups' ability to elect their preferred candidates or influence the outcome of elections, which occurs when the electorate votes in a racially polarized manner. *See Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 46 (1986) ("*Gingles*"). The U.S. Supreme Court "has long recognized that multi-member districts and at-large voting schemes may operate to minimize or cancel out the voting strength" of minorities. *Id.* at 47; *see also id.* at 48, fn. 14 (at-large elections may also cause elected officials to "ignore [minority] interests without fear of political consequences"), citing *Rogers v. Lodge*, 458 U.S. 613, 623 (1982); *White v. Register*, 412 U.S. 755, 769 (1973). "[T]he majority, by virtue of its numerical superiority, will

regularly defeat the choices of minority voters.” *Gingles*, at 47. When racially polarized voting occurs, dividing the political unit into single-member districts, or some other appropriate remedy, may facilitate a minority group's ability to elect its preferred representatives. *Rogers*, at 616.

Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act (“FVRA”), 42 U.S.C. § 1973, which Congress enacted in 1965 and amended in 1982, targets, among other things, at-large election schemes. *Gingles* at 37; *see also* Boyd & Markman, *The 1982 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act: A Legislative History* (1983) 40 Wash. & Lee L. Rev. 1347, 1402. Although enforcement of the FVRA was successful in many states, California was an exception. By enacting the CVRA, “[t]he Legislature intended to expand protections against vote dilution over those provided by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.” *Jauregui v. City of Palmdale* (2014) 226 Cal. App. 4th 781, 808. Thus, while the CVRA is similar to the FVRA in several respects, it is also different in several key respects, as the Legislature sought to remedy what it considered “restrictive interpretations given to the federal act.” Assem. Com. on Judiciary, Analysis of Sen. Bill No. 976 (2001-2002 Reg. Sess.) as amended Apr. 9, 2002, p. 2.

The California Legislature dispensed with the requirement in *Gingles* that a minority group demonstrate that it is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a “majority-minority district.” *Sanchez*, at 669. Rather, the CVRA requires only that a plaintiff show the existence of racially polarized voting to establish that an at-large method of election violates the CVRA, not the desirability of any particular remedy. *See* Cal. Elec. Code § 14028 (“A violation of Section 14027 *is established* if it is shown that racially polarized voting occurs ...”) (emphasis added); *also see* Assem. Com. on Judiciary, Analysis of Sen. Bill No. 976 (2001–2002 Reg. Sess.) as amended Apr. 9, 2002, p. 3 (“Thus, this bill puts the voting rights horse (the discrimination issue) back where it sensibly belongs in front of the cart (what type of remedy is appropriate once racially polarized voting has been shown).”)

To establish a violation of the CVRA, a plaintiff must generally show that “racially polarized voting occurs in elections for members of the governing body of the political subdivision or in elections incorporating other electoral choices by the voters of the political subdivision.” Elec. Code § 14028(a). The CVRA specifies the elections that are most probative: “elections in which at least one candidate is a member of a protected class or elections involving ballot measures, or other electoral choices that affect the rights and privileges of members of a protected class.” Elec. Code § 14028(a). The CVRA also makes clear that “[e]lections conducted prior to the filing of an action ... are more probative to establish the existence of racially polarized voting than elections conducted after the filing of the action.” *Id.*

Factors other than “racially polarized voting” that are required to make out a claim under the FVRA – under the “totality of the circumstances” test – “are probative, but not necessary factors to establish a violation of” the CVRA. Elec. Code § 14028(e). These “other factors” include “the history of discrimination, the use of electoral devices or other voting practices or procedures that may enhance the dilutive effects of at-large elections, denial of access to those processes determining which groups of candidates will receive financial or other support in a given election, the extent to which members of a protected class bear the effects of past discrimination in areas such as education, employment, and health, which hinder their ability to participate effectively in the political process, and the use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political campaigns.” *Id.*

Palm Spring’s at-large system dilutes the ability of Latinos (a “protected class”) – to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of Palm Spring’s council elections.

The elections from 2000 through to 2015 are illustrative: a total of only three (3) Latino candidates competed in Council contests during that entire 15-year period and *not one* of them was successful in their respective bid for a seat on the Palm Springs City Council. Opponents of fair, district-based elections may attribute the lack of Latinos vying for City Council positions to a lack of Latino interest in local government. On the contrary, the alarming absence of Latino candidates seeking election to the Palm Springs City Council reveals vote dilution. *See Westwego Citizens for Better Government v. City of Westwego*, 872 F. 2d 1201, 1208-1209, n. 9 (5th Cir. 1989).

According to recent data, Latinos comprise approximately 26% of the population of Palm Springs. However, there are currently no Latino representatives on the Palm Springs City Council nor has there apparently ever been a Latino city council member in the city’s history dating back to its incorporation in 1938. Therefore, not only is the contrast between the significant Latino proportion of the electorate and the total absence of Latinos to be elected to the City Council outwardly disturbing, it is also fundamentally hostile towards Latino participation.

Palm Springs’ history is wrought with instances of overt discrimination. One of the most blatant examples of this sanctioned discrimination was the demolition and mass eviction of the low-income residents in Section 14. Thousands of working-class people, including a large number of Latinos, were forced from their homes near downtown Palm Springs in the 1950’s and 1960’s in what was described by the California Department of Justice as “a city engineered holocaust” noting that, by way of these evictions and house-burnings, local leaders “disregarded the residents of Section 14 as property-owners, taxpayers, and voters...(they) ignored that the residents of Section 14 were human beings.” With nowhere else to go, Latinos scattered to outlying areas, and, despite this glaringly

discriminatory past, Palm Springs continues to utilize an electoral system that perpetuates the underrepresentation of its Latino residents.

Today it is estimated that Palm Spring's population is over 46,000 and approximately 12,000 (25.8%) of whom are Latino. Latinos currently comprise over 1/4th of the City's population, yet, apparently not one Latino resident has ever been elected to serve on the Palm Springs City Council.

This deficit of Latino representation is not without consequence, as on the critical issue of healthcare, Latinos in the Coachella Valley have not been afforded much-needed health services. The 70 year-old service boundaries for the Desert Healthcare District, which is governed by five non-Latino board members and healthcare for Palm Springs, have deepened the divide for Latinos in Coachella Valley. In analyzing the impact of the District's boundaries on service provision, a research associate at the Center for Healthy Communities at UC Riverside recently commented that "structural racism explains a lot about what happens in the Coachella Valley," citing a "deep legacy of racism that has created poverty".

More recently, in 2001, a group of 16 Palm Springs high school students participated in a hate motivated crime when they used white shoe polish to write "Nigger" on a school window, while strapping a dead, black cat from the clock tower and painting a swastika on the school's front door. Although officials labeled this incident as a "senior prank gone awry", this type of incident vividly reflects the deep-seeded racial animus still rampant in the City of Palm Springs.

As you may be aware, in 2012, we sued the City of Palmdale for violating the CVRA. After an eight-day trial, we prevailed. After spending millions of dollars, a district-based remedy was ultimately imposed upon the Palmdale city council, with districts that combine all incumbents into one of the four districts.

Given the historical lack of Latino representation on the city council in the context of racially polarized elections, we urge Palm Springs to voluntarily change its at-large system of electing council members. Otherwise, on behalf of residents within the jurisdiction, we will be forced to seek judicial relief. Please advise us no later than April 12, 2018 as to whether you would like to discuss a voluntary change to your current at-large system.

We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Kevin I. Shenkman



HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 10, 2018 NEW BUSINESS
SUBJECT: CASE 5.1328 – CITYWIDE HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY –
ADDENDUM: THEME: COMMUNITIES OF COLOR – NON NATIVE
AMERICAN POPULATIONS. (KL)
FROM: Department of Planning Services

SUMMARY

On July 16, 2014, the City Council approved Resolution #23644, authorizing the execution of a professional services contract with Historic Resources Group of Pasadena to provide a comprehensive Citywide Historic Resource Survey and Context Statement.

On November 8, 2016, the HSPB voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of the Citywide Historic Resource Survey & Context Statement by City Council.

On June 28, 2017, the City Manager authorized additional services for HRG to prepare an addendum to the Context Statement portion of the Citywide Survey to include the theme: "Communities of Color – Non-native American Populations" to study the historic development, settlement patterns, contributions and influence that various ethnic groups had on the development of Palm Springs.

The final draft of the Context Statement Theme, "Communities of Color" is provided here for the board's review and comment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council include the addendum "Communities of Color – Non-native American Populations" in its approval of Case 5.1328 - The Citywide Historic Resource Survey.

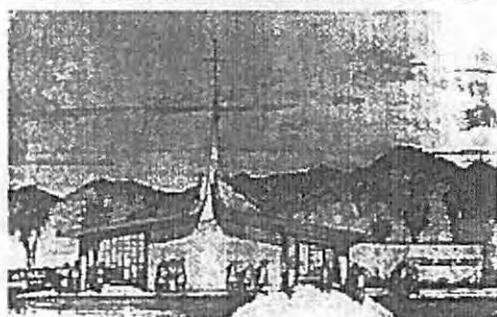
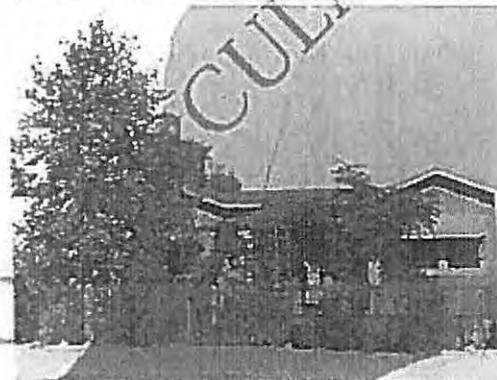
Handwritten signature of Ken Lyon in black ink.

Ken Lyon, RA,
Associate Planner

Handwritten signature of Flinn Fagg in black ink.

Flinn Fagg, AICP
Director of Planning Services

Attachment: Citywide Historic Context Statement - Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations, Draft September 28, 2017.



INTERNAL DRAFT – NOT FOR CIRCULATION
City of Palm Springs
Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations
September 28, 2017
HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

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**City of Palm Springs
Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations**

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

Introduction

The natural wonders and favorable climate of Palm Springs lured people from varied backgrounds. In an undated manuscript (c. late 1880s), African American social reformer, abolitionist, writer, and statesman Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) visited none other than Dr. Welwood Murray, and recalled:

With the pleasant memories of the happy day spent in the Palm Canyon lulling me to sleep early in the evening ... I forgot fatigue and awoke refreshed. ... The delightful sunny atmosphere made it possible for a resident of a cold climate to remain in doors. There were trees to examine, green plants to collect. Flowers to put in the press before the welcome noonday bell called the family to enjoy the cooking of the China man [sic] presiding in the kitchen. So the work of the Indian is the laundry, who made the table linens, and that of the Irish maiden from the far-distant Massachusetts in the dining room – what else was there to desire? On the arrival of the daily mail, letters from home and the newspapers interested the residents weather they hailed from Mexico or Oregon. Racking coughs were forgotten for a time at least and life seemed worth living. At breakfast the following morning, Dr. Murray notified us that he was prepared to drive to the foot of another canyon. By lessening the walk over the arid plain he deemed the ascent easy for us.¹

Frederick Douglass, "Palm Canyon"

Throughout the document, Douglass recounts visits to Native American homes and expresses fascination with the desert flora and fauna. Indeed, the beauty, health benefits, and topography of Palm Springs transcended the interest of any one community and, ultimately, the desert became home to a diverse population of residents.

This context maps the key social and economic drivers for communities of color and the subsequent patterns of development that emerged in the City of Palm Springs. What follows is an exploration of the residential, institutional, and commercial development patterns associated with the communities of color other than the Native American population. While the social and cultural development of African American, Latino, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino communities are inextricably linked with the Agua Caliente, the purposeful focus here is to document the non-Native American historic context to aid with the identification of potential historic resources.

¹ Frederick Douglass, "Palm Canyon," Library of Congress, 7-8, Washington D.C.

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City of Palm Springs
Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

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Theme: Residential Development

Residential development patterns for the communities of color in the City of Palm Springs are unique and differentiated from other established patterns of development in the village. The discussion begins with an examination of their role in the resort industry, migration and the growth of Section 14, the period of urban renewal and dispersion, and ends with the period of community outreach and housing development.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH RESORT INDUSTRY WORKERS, 1900-1930

Whether it was constructing the buildings and infrastructure or filling the service jobs that kept the resorts humming, the Latino, African American, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino residents of Palm Springs served as the backbone of the resort industry at the beginning of the 20th century.



Chinese Cook at the Desert Inn c. 1930.
Source: Palm Springs Historical Society.

The earliest non-Native American people of color to reside in Palm Springs were closely tied to the city pioneers. In the 1910 U.S. Census, two Chinese cooks, Sin Ham Chin and Yan Lee, are enumerated as part of Nellie Coffman's "sanitarium" staff. The township also counted four male Japanese residents: two were servants working and living in the homes of private families, and two were farm laborers.² Although no Latinos or African Americans were enumerated in the 1910 Census for Palm Springs, the greater San Geronio township was home to many Latinos who worked either for the railroad or as day laborers. Latinos became the laborers of choice for the railroads after restrictions on Chinese immigration were imposed.

During the Mexican Revolution (c. 1910-1920), many families left Mexico for the Coachella Valley. According to author and archivist for the Palm Springs Historical Society, Renee Brown "...the first

² Because of the seasonal nature of the Palm Springs community, census data can be skewed. The 1910 US Census was taken in Palm Springs in April and as such, reflects the presence of some 20 lodgers at Coffman's.

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City of Palm Springs Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

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Mexican families in Palm Springs came to work on the construction of the road that climbed up the mountain behind the Desert Inn.³ These workers set up tents on the area presently occupied by the O'Donnell Golf course.

By the 1920 census, Nellie Coffman's staff had grown. She now employed five Chinese (two cooks, a servant, and two gardeners) and the first enumerated African American resident, Augustina Williams, who was also a cook. Although the census taker for the 1920 roll did not identify addresses associated with residents, it appears that at least one Latino family and one Japanese family lived side by side with the Caucasians. They included Ernesto Palico, a cement mason, his wife Adela and their three sons. Also enumerated were J. Fujimoto and his wife, living with his business partner Rokichi Kowase and his wife, and Fusarichi Yamasaki, all involved in "market gardening."⁴

The 1920 Census also enumerates dozens of "Palm Springs Mission Indians," which included 60 individuals of Mexican heritage. Although it is not known from the data exactly where these people lived, they may have been among the first non-white, non-Native American residents of Section 14. Nevertheless, it is the first evidence of the development pattern of Native Americans and Latinos sharing a residential community. On June 30, 1925, the first known Mexican American infant, Pasqual Quiroz (1925-2014), was born to parents living in the makeshift structures in the early tent community near the Desert Inn.⁵ Latinos were predominantly employed as laborers helping to construct the many new buildings in the village.



L: Pasqual "Paul" Quiroz c. 1950. R: Salazar Family, c. 1929. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society.

³ Renee Brown, "The History of Mexican Families in the Coachella Valley," *Desert Sun*, April 20, 2017.

⁴ U.S. Census, 1920.

⁵ Renee Brown, "The History of Mexican Families in the Coachella Valley," *Desert Sun*, April 20, 2017.

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City of Palm Springs Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

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L: The image was taken in front of the Desert Inn on the northwest corner of Tahquitz Drive and North Palm Canyon Drive. The building visible in the background is part of the Desert Inn that housed Filipino employees and became known as Manila. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society. R: Looking eastward at the Desert Inn showing employee dorms at rear. Source: Los Angeles Public Library.

During this period, the resorts employed large numbers of people of color, especially Asian men. In 1930, five Korean men (porters), 12 Chinese men (kitchen help) and 17 Filipinos (in a variety of service positions) were employed at the Desert Inn. The Oasis Hotel also employed several Filipinos, as did the El Mirador.⁶ All three hotels provided housing for their employees. Employee dorms at the El Mirador were located on the southeast corner of Indian Avenue and Tachevah Drive in two separate buildings. At the Desert Inn, a number of small buildings were used to house employees, with one group designated especially for women.⁷ One building at the Desert Inn became known as “Manila” due to the large number of Filipino residents.⁸ The Oasis Hotel provided housing away from the resort itself in four buildings located on the east side of present-day S. Cahuilla Road between E. Tahquitz Canyon Way and W. Arenas Road.⁹ None of these structures are extant.

By the 1930s, the village was becoming more popular than ever as a resort destination. New hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and support services were on the rise and vacation homes in the city were increasing in popularity. Job opportunities in the service and construction industries were plentiful in Palm Springs and a steady stream of people arrived to fill those positions. Those not associated with the larger resorts with employee housing had to find convenient and affordable places to live.

⁶ Filipinos first migrated to the Riverside area circa 1910 as agricultural labor.

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1929.

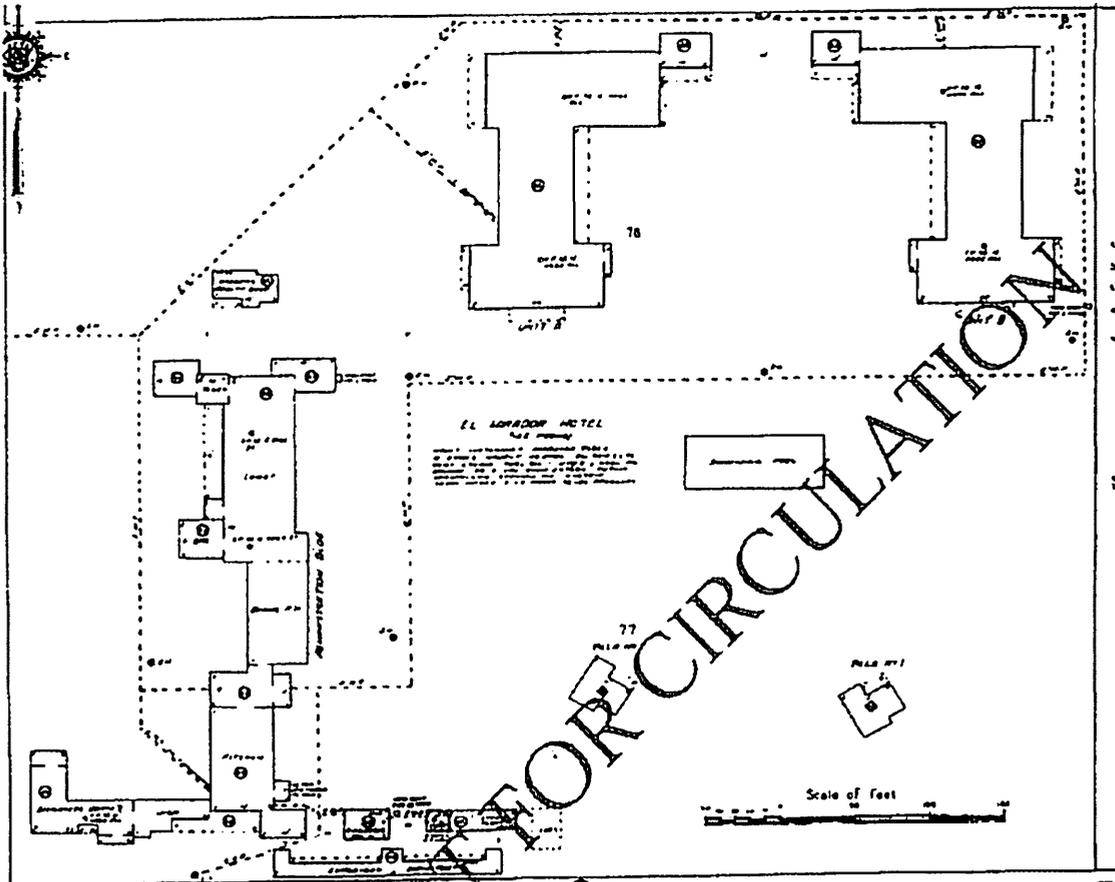
⁸ Palm Springs Historical Society, Online Photo Collection.

⁹ 1929 Sanborn Map of the Desert Inn shows living quarters for employees.

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City of Palm Springs Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP



1929 Sanborn Map of the El Mirador Hotel shows employee dorms adjacent to kitchen. Source: 1929 Sanborn Map of Palm Springs, I.

During the 1930s, while resort life was in full swing, new development patterns also began to emerge. Taken in April, the 1930 Census reflects both the presence of minorities employed by the hotels, along with those working in households of wealthy village residents. The census shows that African Americans were employed as housemen, chauffeurs, cooks, and maids; Latinos continued to work as gardeners or construction laborers; and a small group of Japanese continued agricultural pursuits typically operating small truck farms.

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City of Palm Springs
 Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

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THE GROWTH OF SECTION 14, 1931-1950

People in Texas thought of California as a dream state where you could go into your backyard and just pick dollar bills off the tree.

Ivy Pellum Wilson, on her family's migration to Palm Springs in 1943

During the Great Depression when people were out of work with virtually no job prospects, many African Americans from the south and the Dust Bowl migrated westward. Fueled by vacationers from the Depression-proof entertainment industry, Palm Springs was one of the few places where there was opportunity for low-skilled workers. As a result, more people of color came to Palm Springs during this period. Unlike the three main resorts that offered dormitory living for their employees, many newcomers had no choice other than to settle on centrally located Section 14, where they could rent land from the Agua Caliente. Rental opportunities off the reservation were not offered and deed restrictions prevented the purchase of land.

Officially, Section 14 was the one square mile section bounded by Alejo Road on the north, Ramon Road on the south, Sunrise Way on the east, and Indian Canyon Avenue on the west. It was one of 51 sections of 640 acres each that belonged to the Agua Caliente under the Mission Indian Act passed by Congress in 1891. Without a transportation infrastructure system in the city, Section 14 was one of the only places open to settlement for people of color which provided easy proximity to jobs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs restricted the terms Native Americans could lease their plots to just five years — effectively restricting any long-term investment.



Aerial view of Section 14, c. 1935, just east of the Plaza. Source: Palms Springs Historical Society.

Section 14 was Native American land; therefore, it was devoid of the infrastructure and services of the city proper. Water and electricity service was extremely limited, and natural gas service was non-existent. There were no sewers, trash pickup, or fire protection. There were no paved roads through Section 14, only dirt roads and footpaths. The area had no formal planning. The structures built by the lessees varied in value and amenities and were scattered haphazardly across the acreage. Some residents built homes

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**City of Palm Springs
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of brick, wood, or cinder blocks. Many of these homes were simple, vernacular structures that improved as money and means became available. Structure valuations in the Census ranged from as little as \$100 to as much as \$4,000.¹⁰ Trailers were also commonplace. Some residents offered rooms for short¹¹ or long-term rental.¹²



Ortega Home on Section 14 land built by Merced Ortega, c. 1930. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society, "We Were Here Too," 63.

A large number of Latino families moved to Section 14 during the 1930s.¹³ Initially, they lived in tents (as they had on the golf course). Families soon began helping one another construct homes.¹⁴ Since many of the men were carpenters, stone-masons, or part of the construction trades, the tents gave way to modest homes. As described in *We Were Here, Too*, written by the surviving members of the early Latino community, "stick by stick, nail by nail... they built houses."¹⁵ One of the many builders, Merced Rosario Ortega (1880-1958), was a carpenter and adobe builder who found a lot of work in Palm Springs. His work was published in *Sunset* magazine in 1930. Friends and family on Section 14 asked Ortega to help them erect dwellings. By the late 1930s, a number of Latino family homes were constructed along a footpath south of unpaved Arenas Road and west of unpaved El Segundo Road. Houses were iterative, vernacular dwellings that evolved with means and opportunity. The Julian Reyes house on Section 14 initially had a dirt floor and a palm-frond roof.¹⁶ Early important Latino families included the Fontes, Chacon, Salazar, Ayala, Herrera, Marmolejo, Marquez, Ortega, Martinez, Mendoza, Perez, Prieto, Quiroz, Reyes, and Torres families.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1940, "Palm Springs Section 14."

¹¹ In his oral history, former Section 14 resident Charles Jordan recalled how Louis Armstrong and his band mates had rented rooms from his aunt during a gig at one of the hotels. The many entertainers of color that frequented the resorts were not permitted to stay in the hotels.

¹² "Businesses on Palm Springs Indian Reservation," September 1938, 1-9.

¹³ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez, and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 11.

¹⁴ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez, and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 6.

¹⁵ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez, and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 6.

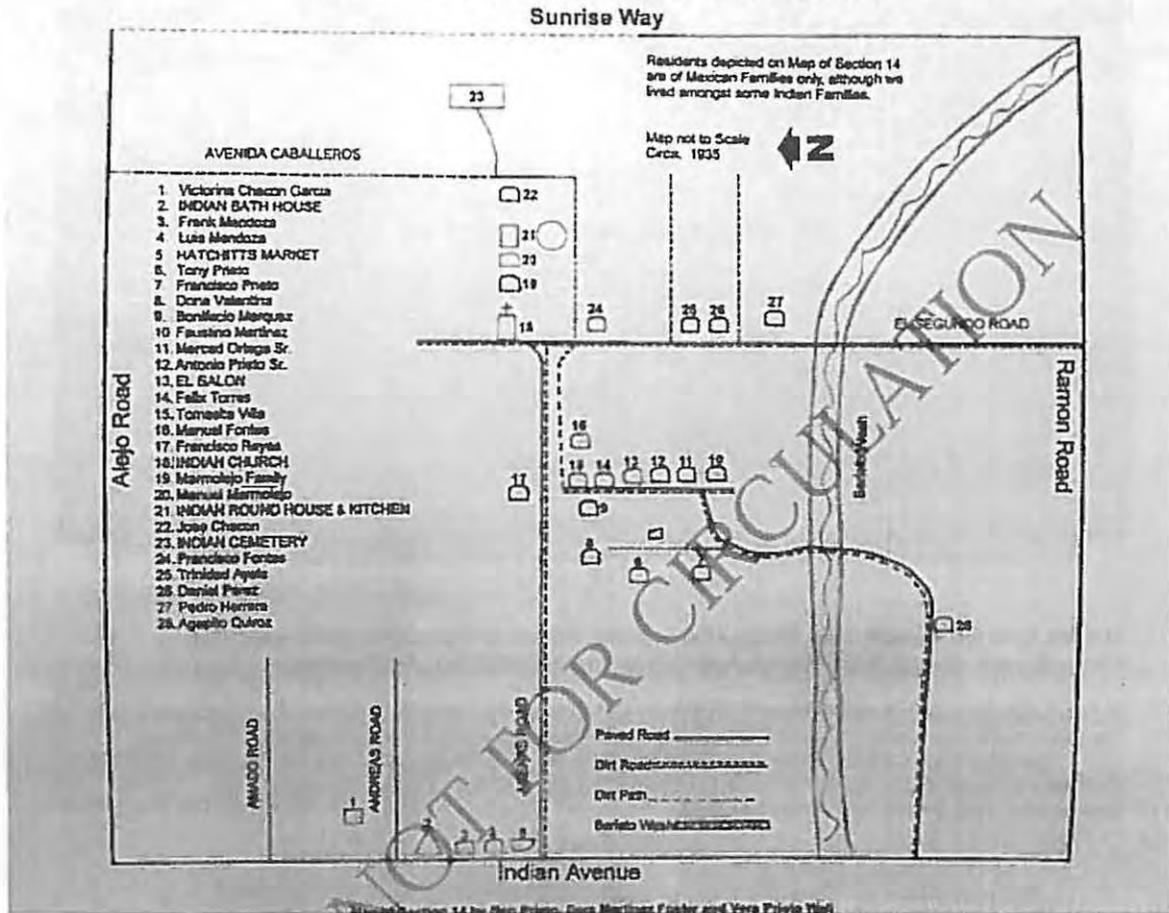
¹⁶ "Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez, and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 82.

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HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS, CA



The western portion of Section 14 c. 1937 as retroactively mapped in the oral history, "We Were Here Too." Source: Palm Springs Historical Society, "We Were Here, Too," 8.

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A 1937 survey by the U.S. Department of the Interior concluded that approximately 1,000 buildings, shacks and tent houses occupied half of Section 14.¹⁷ It can be assumed that the presence of seasonal workers added even more to that figure.¹⁸ With no organized planning or zoning, buildings evolved organically on the property. The *Desert Sun* described the phenomenon as being laid out in a "haphazard" or "crazy-quilt" manner.¹⁹ Other small pockets of Mexican residents included those who resided at a ranch on Ramon Road where the Desert Inn kept their horses.²⁰ Trailer camps were also present on Sections 22 and 26.



L: Undated photo of Refugio Cuco Salazar. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society. R: Pioneer Club ad featuring "Cuco" Salazar as the boss. Source: *Desert Sun*, October 4, 1944.

During this time, two leaders within the community, Refugio Salazar, a native of Mexico, and Lawrence L. Crossley, an African American, attempted to establish alternatives to Section 14 living. Refugio "Cuco" Salazar (1907-1962)²¹ arrived in Palm Springs in the early 1920s and built a gardening and landscape business. He married his wife Grace in the mid-1920s and rose to prominence within the Latino community, becoming president of the Mexican Colony association in 1938. In 1942, he became the owner/operator of the Pioneer Club at 178 East Andreas Road (not extant). The Pioneer Club offered food, beer and wine. It was closed by the city in 1948 citing a continuing "police problem."²²

¹⁷ "1000 Buildings on Indian Reservation," *Desert Sun*, March 5, 1937.

¹⁸ Ryan M. Kray, "Second-Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs," (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 222.

¹⁹ "1000 Buildings on Indian Reservation," *Desert Sun*, March 5, 1937.

²⁰ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 78.

²¹ Rudy Salazar, his brother, was also a notable early resident of Palm Springs involved in landscaping.

²² "Pioneer Club to Stay Closed," *Desert Sun*, August 6, 1948.

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After the closing of the Pioneer Club, Salazar returned to gardening and landscape design. Salazar lived at 1523 Ramon Road (not extant) well into the 1950s. In 1962, Salazar was killed tragically by a hit and run driver on Christmas Eve. At the time of his passing he was living at 226. S. Indian Avenue (not extant).



Lawrence Crossley (1899-1962), the first African American man to own property in Palm Springs. He developed the Crossley Tract
Source: Palm Springs Historical Society.

The Louisiana-born Lawrence L. Crossley (1899-1962) came to Palm Springs in 1925 and worked for Prescott T. Stevens, owner of the El Mirador Hotel. Back in New Orleans, Crossley had been a musician and was "well-known in golf circles." Crossley worked his way up, from chauffeur to help Stevens design and maintain the El Mirador's golf course during the 1920s. During the late 1930s, Crossley also built a small café (run by Mexico-born Marcus Caro) with rooms for rent on Section 14.²³ In the early 1940s, Crossley began marketing a "mystery tea" using an ephedra-based Native American recipe.²⁴ The Palm Springs Desert Tea Co. was a success and Crossley's tea was sold as far away as the East Coast.²⁵

Crossley's business acumen was also on display in his role as the owner/watermaster of the Whitewater Mutual Water Co. (which served the north end of Palm Springs), and his ownership of the Tramview Water Co. He parlayed those investments into real estate development in Cathedral City including the Tramview Village and Eagle Canyon Trailer Village. Crossley was an advocate for better housing for Palm Springs' African American community and was publicly acknowledged for his efforts in the early 1960s by the *Los Angeles Sentinel*.²⁶ Crossley, "a long-time confidant of the tribe," also assisted in the development of Native American lands and was appointed as guardian for ten members of the Agua Caliente. At the marriage of his daughter Yvonne in 1953, Crossley and his wife Martha were acknowledged as one of the southland's "distinguished families."²⁷ Crossley died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 62. Former Palm Springs City Council member Wally Waring, paid tribute to him in the *Desert Sun* for "his steadfast work for the good of the city."²⁸

²³ "Businesses on Palm Springs Indian Reservation," September 1938, 3.

²⁴ "Desert's Mystery Tea Gives Village New Place in the Sun," *Desert Sun*, February 12, 1943.

²⁵ Crossley established a manufacturing facility for the tea in Los Angeles.

²⁶ "Wash's Wash," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, October 19, 1961, A6.

²⁷ "Prominent California Families Joined by Nuptial Ceremony," *Los Angeles Times*, March 19, 1953, C1.

²⁸ "Letters to the Editor," *Desert Sun*, March 19, 1962.

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HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

Crossley Court (a.k.a, Crossley Acres and Crossley Trailer Park)

During the early 1930s, Lawrence Crossley acquired approximately five acres of land south of Section 14, near the southwest corner of East Ramon Road and South Sunrise Way. It is the first known example of land ownership by an African American in Palm Springs.

Prior to 1936, Crossley erected a house for himself and his extended family at 1543 East Ramon Road (not extant) valued at \$4,000. Over time he invited others to lease and build on the land, ultimately forming a compound. Various newspaper accounts alternately refer to the property as the "Crossley Trailer Court," "Crossley Acres,"²⁹ and "Crossley Court." In 1939, Albert Gauff, Crossley's African American brother-in-law, received a building permit for a \$300 residence at the same address. In 1938, another African American from Crossley's home state of Louisiana, Robert Rieux, received a permit to build a residence there for his family, as did Hewitt Crossley, for \$500 and \$300, respectively.³⁰ These structures may have been *ramadas* for trailers. Another Crossley brother-in-law, Lloyd Gauff, built at 1571 E. Ramon Road (not extant). The 1940 Census indicates that several Latino families lived in the compound and a U.S. Geological Service Map from the same year suggests as many as 15 structures were located there. By 1953, 37 homes had been erected on Crossley's acreage.³¹

In September of 1953, Lawrence Crossley sold the five-acre compound to the adjacent Ramon Trailer Park and simultaneously announced plans for "...a new subdivision two miles east of the city and a mile south of Ramon Road."³²

The Mexican Colony Tract

In August of 1938, Refugio Salazar, the first President of the Mexican Colony,³³ led a movement to establish a "colony of their own homes on a 20-acre tract a short distance north of Ramon Road and about three-quarters of a mile east of the high school."³⁴ Salazar had an option on the land and Latinos could finance their own homes. However, they needed a loan of about \$3,000 to bring water and other utilities to the property. According to the *Desert Sun*, 27 "Mexican" families from Section 14 or on the Crossley Acres property "declared they wish to build on the new tract."³⁵ It appears that the money was never secured, as the 1940 Census shows several members of the Salazar family living on the Crossley property in the 1500 block of Ramon Road.

²⁹ "Building Permits, *Desert Sun*, August 28, 1942.

³⁰ "Building Permits Total \$321, 702 Past 6 Months," *Desert Sun*, December 9, 1938.

³¹ "Land Deal to Ease Housing Situation," *Desert Sun*, September 14, 1953.

³² "Land Deal to Ease Housing Situation," *Desert Sun*, September 14, 1953.

³³ "Circus Plans Forge Ahead," *Palm Springs News*, March 3, 1938, 6.

³⁴ "Remember When," *Desert Sun*, August 19, 1968.

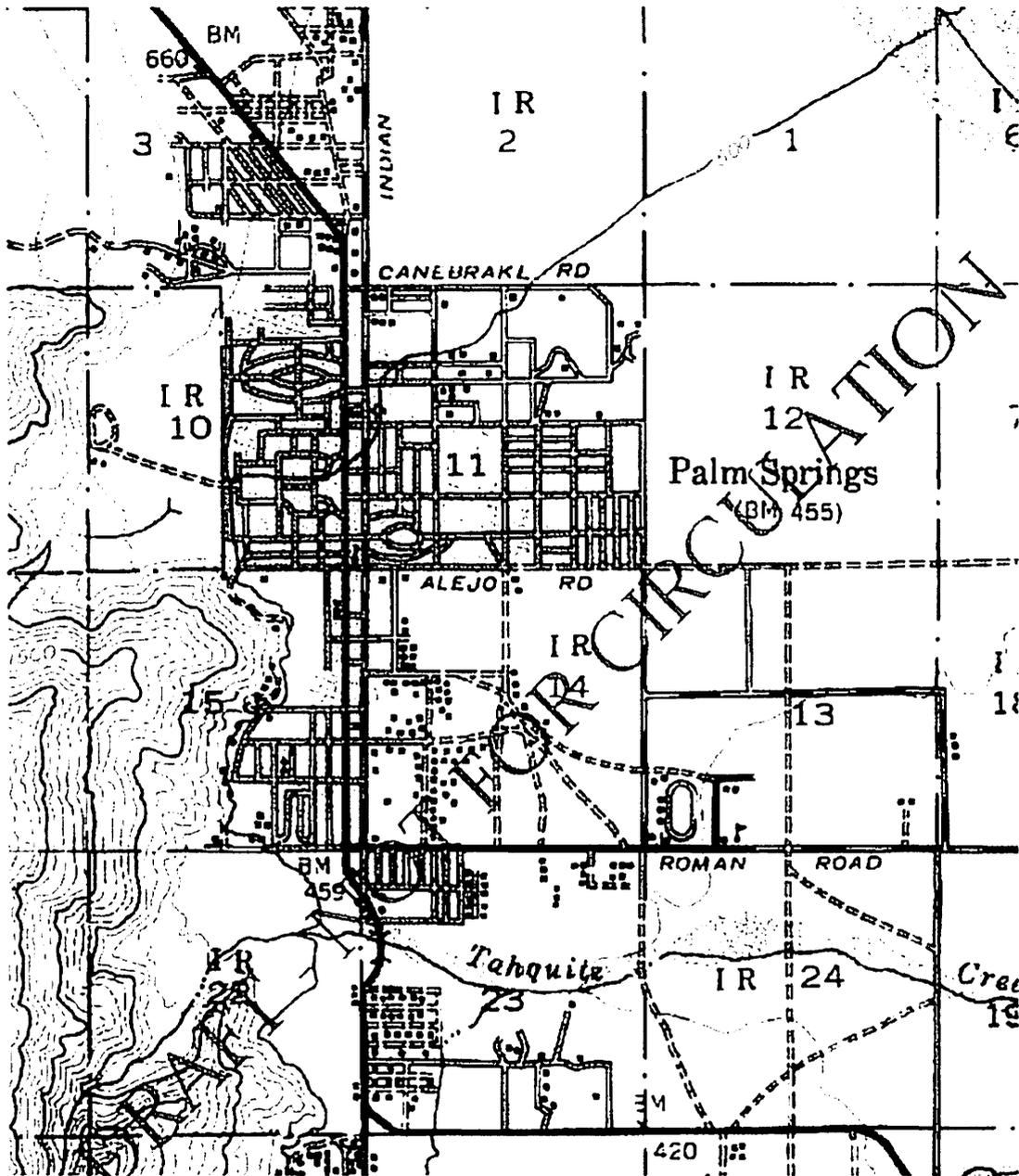
³⁵ "Mexicans Wish to Form Colony Here on 20-Acre Tract; Seek \$3,000 Loan," *Desert Sun*, August 19, 1938.

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1940 Topographic map of Section 14 depicts a fraction of the structures located on the reservation, but shows concentration of residents on the western portion of the acreage. Note misspelling of Ramon Road as "Roman Road." Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 1940.

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By the 1940s, there was a small number of Asian American residents in Palm Springs, most of whom did not live on Section 14. By 1940, residents included a Filipino community of fewer than 100 people,³⁶ the vast majority of whom were employed and residing at either the Desert Inn or the El Mirador. Filipinos were also employed as servants for the village's wealthy residents and residing with them. One of the few Filipino families with other living arrangements was the family of Emilio Hilario, who resided at the Crossley Court on Ramon Road. Approximately 15 Chinese Americans were enumerated in the 1940 Census, most of whom were chefs or kitchen workers in the resorts. Two well-known chefs include D.S. Yee who started at the Desert Inn in 1921 and worked there for over 30 years while living on site;³⁷ and Frank Li, of the Cantonese Kitchen at the Hotel Luau in 1940.³⁸ The prewar Japanese community in Palm Springs was never very large and was composed primarily of domestic servants who resided with their employers. However, based on city directory information, the few Japanese businesses likely included living quarters at the rear, as was a common custom of the time.

World War II transformed Palm Springs from a tourist haven to the army headquarters for the North African Offensive, bringing army personnel and exacerbating the need for low cost housing. Nurses were housed at the hospital; however, there was no place for over 1,100 officers, soldiers, and civilian employees.³⁹ Between 1940 and 1950, the year-round population of Palm Springs increased 123 percent from 3,334 to 7,660, with a typical winter population of about 16,000 during the season.⁴⁰ By 1948, it was estimated that over 6,000 individuals lived on the reservation.⁴¹ Only 50 were members of the Agua Caliente tribe. The rest were African Americans, Latinos, and some Caucasians.

Filipinos continued to migrate to Palm Springs after the war, as was the case for Santos de Jesus (1902-1995). De Jesus and his wife arrived in the city in 1946, where he became a renowned bartender at the Palm Springs Tennis Club. After two years, he rose to catering manager. He left in 1950 to open his own catering business — first on Indian Avenue — and then in the Sun Center on South Palm Canyon Drive. Santos rose to the top in the local catering business, and was the caterer of choice for local society and the Hollywood elite. He was an active member in the philanthropic 100 Club.⁴²

After World War II, overcrowding, its proximity to downtown, and rising land values raised the profile of Section 14 within the community — ushering a new era for Palm Springs' communities of color.

³⁶ U.S. Census, 1940.

³⁷ "World Famous Desert Inn Opens Tuesday," *Desert Sun*, October 8, 1943. Palm Springs City Directory, 1952.

³⁸ Advertisement, *Desert Sun*, October 18, 1940.

³⁹ Ryan M. Kray, "Second-Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs," (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 240.

⁴⁰ Ryan M. Kray, "Second-Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs," (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 247.

⁴¹ "Indian Affairs Committee Sends Report on Lands to Washington," *Limelight*, March 23, 1949.

⁴² After World War II, De Jesus purchased a home at 3761 Camino San Miguel in the Vista Del Cielo tract (also known as the Veteran's Tract).

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URBAN RENEWAL, DISPLACEMENT, AND DISPERSION, 1951-1966

The opportunities were [in the] west. ... We moved to a reservation... a real reservation. Because in Palm Springs there weren't many places for people of color: Mexicans, Native Americans and Blacks. We either had to live on the reservation or there was a piece of land called Crossley Tract. The majority of us lived on the Indian reservation... No mansion could have given me what I got off the reservation. The experience of people coming together and really making a community. The village concept really worked for us.

Charles Jordan Oral Interview, 2001⁴³

Against the national backdrop of the civil rights movement, strained race relations, and urban renewal programs, a local movement to expand development and clean-up the Section 14 took hold. By this time, there were a wide range of structures in Section 14, ranging from shacks to trailers to homes built in compliance with the standard building code. However, the lack of utility service remained a problem; one report cited as many as 17 families hooked up to a single electricity meter.⁴⁴ The lack of natural gas service meant that most families resorted to butane for cooking and heating. Water remained a significant challenge and privies were commonplace. Those living in shanties or trailers could use communal shower and restroom facilities at the center of Section 14.⁴⁵



L: Salvaged metal trailer home on Section 14, c. 1950. R: Vernacular wood residence with Latino resident in front, c. 1945. Source for both: Palm Springs Historical Society.

⁴³ Charles Jordan, "Interview with Charles Jordan," interview by Clark Hanson, Oregon Historical Society, April 6, 2001.

⁴⁴ Ryan M. Kray, "Second Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs," (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 250.

⁴⁵ Charles Jordan, "Interview with Charles Jordan," interview by Clark Hanson, Oregon Historical Society, April 6, 2001.

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In 1951, the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved a city abatement program and eviction notices were served to the residents of Section 14. In her oral history, former Section 14 resident Ivy Pellum Wilson remembers city officials meeting with the residents and telling them of their plans to redevelop the area.⁴⁶ Some families elected to move before they were forced to leave.

In June of 1951, Palm Springs Councilman Jerry Nathanson suggested the partially occupied veterans housing project on the Field Club grounds known as Lienau Village be rented to Section 14 residents whose homes had been condemned; however, Nathanson's plan never came to fruition. Even African American veterans were refused as renters at Lienau Village, resulting in a lawsuit by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). After many delays, the Palm Springs Housing Authority cut ties with the State Housing Board and moved to dismantle and sell the buildings at Lienau Village. The final buildings were removed from Lienau Village during the summer of 1957.⁴⁷

After receiving numerous complaints from employers and residents, a six-month moratorium on evictions was imposed in 1953. Inexplicably, building continued in Section 14 as evidenced by the case of Homer Manning, a janitor who rented a piece of land and constructed a home in 1955 that he later converted into a two-unit apartment building with a city permit valued at \$8,000.⁴⁸

Most displaced African American residents from Section 14 moved to Banning, Beaumont, or West Garnet (about 10 miles west of Palm Springs). At least one former Section 14 resident moved her house from the reservation to a lot in West Garnet. Displaced residents often maintained their construction or service jobs in Palm Springs and made the daily commute.

Displaced Latino residents moved to Banning, San Bernardino, and Riverside. At least 32 Latino families saved for a down payment or pooled their resources and bought homes in the Veteran's Tract on the eastern edge of the city; others moved to the Dream Homes development in Cathedral City.⁴⁹ Racial restrictions, however, prohibited purchase by African Americans in these tracts.⁵⁰ Some Latinos physically moved their homes to other locations. Eugene Ramon Prieto recalled that his grandfather moved their home from Section 14 to the northwest corner of Saturnino Road and South Calle Encilia (not extant).⁵¹

⁴⁶ Bill Bell, article for Banning Record Gazette, Banning Public Library, <http://www.banninglibrarydistrict.org/banning/documents/the%20black%20pioneers%20part%201.pdf> (accessed September 8, 2017).

⁴⁷ The relocation sites of these buildings are currently unknown.

⁴⁸ "Section 14 Cleanup Under State Probe," *Desert Sun*, April 3, 1967.

⁴⁹ Interview with Eugene Ramon Prieto, Renee Brown, November 13, 2012.

⁵⁰ Ryan M. Kray, "Second Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs," (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 335.

⁵¹ Interview with Eugene Ramon Prieto, Renee Brown, November 13, 2012.

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L: Some Section 14 residents were able to relocate their houses to other locations. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society. R: Bulldozed house in Section 14 as shown in the *Desert Sun*, March 14, 1966.

Residents who remained on Section 14 endured more than a decade of forced removals and clearances. Destruction of the condemned homes began in 1956. Evicted families were often taken in by other residents of Section 14, resulting in the doubling and tripling of occupants in the houses left on the reservation. The 1959 ruling that Native American land could be available for long-term leasing made Section 14 development opportunities even more attractive. By 1961, the population of Section 14 had decreased to around 1,000 residents.⁵² Clearance activities continued during the early 1960s. The final clearance of Section 14 began in October of 1966, approximately one month after the Watts Riots in Los Angeles, a watershed event in race relations felt throughout the country. What had been a tightly-knit, racially-diverse community for more than 30 years was now scattered throughout the valley area.

The Palm Springs Filipino community was affected by the housing crisis as well. When resorts closed that provided housing for workers, many relocated to Banning or Cathedral City; those with means relocated to the tracts on the east side of the city.

Savvy businessmen, including Lawrence Crossley, anticipated the need for low-income housing and began developing residential tracts outside the Palm Springs city limits starting in the 1950s. However, a dearth of financial institutions willing to lend to people of color made the transition difficult. These tracts (Crossley Gardens, Desert Highland Estates and Gateway Estates) would eventually become part of the City of Palm Springs through the annexation process.

⁵² Population estimates vary depending upon source material. Sources suggest as many as 1,700 families were left and as few as 500 remained.

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The Crossley Tract (a.k.a., Crossley Gardens and Crossley Estates)

Concurrent with the sale of the Crossley Court acreage, Lawrence Crossley announced the subdivision of a new tract two miles east of Palm Springs and one mile south of Ramon Road in what was then Cathedral City. It was a 77-parcel subdivision bordered by 34th Avenue on the north, Martha Street on the south, the east side of Maguerite Street on the east, and the west side of Lawrence Street on the west.

The new subdivision would accommodate the displaced tenants of Crossley Court. Original plans called for 32 of the 37 homes from the Ramon acreage to be relocated to the new subdivision of 79 lots.⁵³ Crossley also purchased one building from Lineau Village to "provide sufficient living space for seven families."⁵⁴ The Lineau Village building burned down in 1956 shortly after its relocation to the Crossley tract.

Crossley appears to have developed a partnership with the Sun-Spa Development Corporation. President of Sun-Spa Development, Al Casey, explained, "We're particularly interested in providing immediate, low-cost housing for residents forced to move from Section 14 because of the new Indian Land Leasing Agreements."⁵⁵

The Crossley Tract (which is also referenced in early press as Crossley Estates and later Crossley Gardens) consisted of a series of modest, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Minimal Traditional Style homes. Grading began in spring of 1958 and the first home was ready for occupancy by September. Amenities included paved streets, natural gas, and school bus service — all services not available at Section 14. The homes were built to F.H.A. Standards and available for downpayments of \$50 with monthly payments of \$65. Ads from the period suggest that buyers were allowed to pick their lots as well as the plan. A model home was located at 34-126 Lawrence Street.⁵⁶ Lawrence and Martha Crossley lived at 34-321 Lawrence Street.⁵⁷



Lawrence and Martha Crossley take possession of the keys to their home at 34-321 Lawrence Street. Source: *Desert Sun*, September 19, 1958.

⁵³ It is currently unknown how many buildings may have been moved to the Crossley Tract.

⁵⁴ "Land Deal to Ease Housing Situation," *Desert Sun*, September 14, 1953.

⁵⁵ "Low Cost Housing Project Announced East of Village," *Desert Sun*, March 27, 1958.

⁵⁶ Advertisement, *Desert Sun*, April 5, 1963, 15.

⁵⁷ Addresses are the historic addresses, before the tract was annexed by the City of Palm Springs.

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In 1959, the Crossley Tract was annexed into the City of Palm Springs.⁵⁸ By 1961, approximately 30 homes had been built in the tract.⁵⁹ The project faltered after Crossley's untimely death in 1962. In late January of 1969, Crossley Gardens was hit by a flash flood that buried the tract's homes in several feet of mud and caused more than \$145,000 in residential damages and \$2.8 million in damages to the Whitewater Flood Control Channel.⁶⁰



Ad for Crossley Gardens Tract, featuring testimonial by African American owners. Source: *Desert Sun*, April 5, 1963.

⁵⁸ "Council Orders Annexation of Sections, 20, 29," *Desert Sun*, March 24, 1959.

⁵⁹ "Plan for Negro Eviction from Palm Springs," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, October 5, 1961.

⁶⁰ "Crossley Residents Claim \$145,000 Flood Damages," *Desert Sun*, May 2, 1969.

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Desert Highland Estates

Desert Highland Estates was a 281-parcel subdivision bordered by Tramview Road on the north, Las Vegas Road (present-day Rosa Parks Road) on the south, Indian Canyon Avenue on the east, and the west side of Avenida Cerca on the west. At the time of its development in 1951, the tract was outside the Palm Springs city limits. After the final evictions and razing of Section 14 in 1963, the newly displaced families often turned to friends and residents in Desert Highland Estates to take them in. Nearby Gateway Estates also became a relocation destination.

Originally subdivided by Mary Jacobs and Lilian E. Broudy, the plan of the subdivision was designed as a series of concentric ovals bisected by Granada Avenue. The majority of the parcels were 75' x 100' with irregular parcels slightly larger. The development was not an immediate success and many parcels remained undeveloped well into the early 1970s.⁶¹ Newspaper accounts from the early 1960s indicate that well-known Palm Springs contractor and City Councilman Leonard Wolf may have been interested in developing homes for people of color in this area.⁶²

For African Americans evicted from Section 14, Desert Highland Estates became the favored residential development.⁶³ In his oral history, Billy Pellum remembered a developer, Harmony Homes, who built homes for those residents, "You would buy the property and they would use the property for a loan to build the house...and then once built you were only paying about \$60 per month...You were doubling or more what it cost you to live per month at Section 14."⁶⁴ Banning-based Dunes (a.k.a., Dumes) Construction Co. was the local builder of New York-headquartered Harmony Homes. Dunes Construction Co. was founded in 1958 by Gerald V. Anderson and James C. Armstrong. The company specialized in the construction of homes for working class people and built 600 residences in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties. The company built from a roster of simple standardized plans and plain styles.⁶⁵ Dunes Construction Co. also arranged for loans for many African American families through San Gregorio Bank in Banning and Sterling Savings and Loan in Riverside.⁶⁶ Palm Springs financial institutions would not lend to African Americans at the time.

A 1958 ad for the company in the *Desert Sun* depicted a minimal, pared-down Modern design with two-bedrooms and a carport for \$9,995.⁶⁷ A 1959 ad touted standard features such as aluminum windows, Birch cabinets, central hall plan, and white rock roof.⁶⁸

⁶¹ HistoricAerials.com, 1972.

⁶² "What is Behind This Tirade," *Desert Sun*, October 3, 1961.

⁶³ Amanda Cavarubias, "The Other Side of Palm Springs," *Los Angeles Times*, November 5, 1984, F1.

⁶⁴ Billy Pellum, Oral History, Palm Springs Historical Society, March 16, 2011.

⁶⁵ Historical sources also reference "Dumes Construction," as the name of the company.

⁶⁶ "Shake Roof and Old Brick Front Feature Doctor's Home," *Desert Sun*, October 30, 1964.

⁶⁷ Ryan M. Kray, "Second-Class Citizenship at a First-Class Resort: Race and Public Policy in Palm Springs." (PhD diss., University of California Irvine, 2009), 334.

⁶⁸ Advertisement, *Desert Sun*, May 1, 1958.

⁶⁹ Advertisement, *Desert Sun*, January 16, 1959.

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Gateway Estates

Gateway Estates was a 76-parcel, irregularly-shaped tract bordered by parcels to the north of Las Vegas Road on the north, a series of cul-de-sacs south of Gateway Drive on the south, Eastlake Road to the east, and Video Road to the west. F.H.A. and G.I. financing packages were available for these homes and the sales office was located at 3500 N. Palm Canyon Drive. By mid-1960, 22 permits for homes on Juan Circle, Gateway Drive, Juanita Circle, Ashley Circle, and Gladys Circle had been issued.⁷⁰

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"BUILD A STAIRWAY TO HAPPINESS"

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Gateway Estates touted its proximity to the new Aerial Tramway. Source: "Display Ad 132," *Los Angeles Times*, January 14, 1962, D16.

In September of 1966, the City of Palm Springs annexed the "Desert Highlands" neighborhood.⁷¹ The move added 1,200 residents, many of whom were African Americans evicted from Section 14.⁷² By 1984, the "Desert Highland-Gateway Estates" neighborhood had become the heart of the African American residential community in Palm Springs.⁷³

⁷⁰ "City Building in Week Tops Half Million," *Desert Sun*, April 26, 1960.

⁷¹ "Highland Estates Annexation Approved," *Desert Sun*, September 21, 1966.

⁷² "Highland Estates Annexation Approved," *Desert Sun*, September 21, 1966.

⁷³ Amanda Covarrubias, "The Other Side of Palm Springs," *Los Angeles Times*, November 5, 1984, F1.

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Original Desert Highland-Gateway Estates residents Joseph and Ruby Abner in front of their home in 1984. Source: *Los Angeles Times*, November 5, 1984, F1.

Silver Top Apartments

Prior to annexation, the area north of the city was also home to the Silver Top Apartments (c. 1958). In 1959, Louis Lenzer (1896-1977), a Long Beach jeweler-turned-real estate investor built what he originally intended to be an "own-your-own-apartment" project at 63-521 Las Vegas Road.⁷⁴ By 1959, the apartments were advertised for lease as "designed for the working community to live in luxury at lowest cost."⁷⁵ The *Los Angeles Sentinel* reported, "...from the time [Lenzer's] resort opened, it welcomed all visitors and citizens, regardless of race, creed and color."⁷⁶

The one-story buildings were clustered around a large heated pool. Unfurnished units were available for \$75 per month with the intent that renters would stay year around, "preferably people who work on hotel staffs, in drug stores, at department stores, school teachers, nurses and the like."⁷⁷ By 1961, prices had come down to \$60 per month for an unfurnished unit. After moving to Palm Springs, African American residents Nona and Billy Pellum, a house cleaner and cook at a resort, resided at Silver Top.⁷⁸ Some displaced residents of Section 14 also found housing at the Silver Top.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ Lenzer also operated a jewelry store at 398 N. Palm Canyon Drive.

⁷⁵ Advertisement, *Desert Sun*, September 22, 1959.

⁷⁶ Leon H. Washington, Jr., "Wash's Wash," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, December 19, 1963, A6.

⁷⁷ "Silver Top Apartments Have Unusual Situation," *Desert Sun*, March 24, 1959.

⁷⁸ Nona Pellum, Oral History, March 16, 2011, Palm Springs Historical Society.

⁷⁹ The property was part of the annexation of Section 32. However, in the late 1960s, the property was demolished.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HOUSING, 1967-1970

The late 1960s was a period of racial tension in cities across America. The deterioration of race relations at Palm Springs High School was reported by the *Desert Sun* during this period. As a result, the City of Palm Springs created a community outreach position focused primarily on the northern part of the city. In 1968, Charles Jordan (1937-2014) was appointed as Assistant to the City Manager in what was essentially a community relations position. He represented the city on issues of education and on the Palm Springs Housing Committee, and he was active in the development of Desert Highland Park.⁸⁰



L: Charles Jordan, former Assistant to the City Manager in Palm Springs. Source: City of Portland. R: Groundbreaking for Seminole Gardens. Left to right, Tom Essen, Director of Public Works; Richard Smith, Director of Planning and Development; Charles Jordan, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager; Stanley Nerman, attorney; Joseph F. Sanson, Investor; Dudley Smith, contractor. Source: *Desert Sun*, August 22, 1968.

Jordan, a former Palm Springs High School basketball star, had lived on Section 14 before his family relocated to Banning. After earning a college scholarship and graduating from Gonzaga University, Jordan returned to Palm Springs. In 1961, Jordan was hired to become the Recreation Supervisor for the city, making him the first African American to serve in local city government. While he held this position, he lived at 63-800 Bon Air Drive in Desert Highland Estates.⁸¹

Jordan was instrumental in bringing the city its first medium-income, Federally-funded residential project, Seminole Gardens, on 10 acres at 2607 S. Linden Way (extant) in 1969. As reported in the *Desert Sun*, Jordan indicated "persons displaced as a result of the Urban Renewal Program demolition of Section 14 would have top priority on the homes."⁸² The \$500,000 Seminole Gardens project featured 60, two- and three-bedroom apartments on nearly three acres with heated pool, laundry and landscaped areas. Despite this investment, demand for low-income housing far exceeded supply. In 1970, Jordan relocated to Portland, Oregon where he served as Portland's first African American commissioner and long-time parks director.

⁸⁰ "Palm Springs Loses a Good Man," *Desert Sun*, July 2, 1970.

⁸¹ Address corresponds to historic address, before Desert Highland Estates was annexed by the City of Palm Springs.

⁸² "Work Starts Here on Medium Income Units," *Desert Sun*, August 22, 1968.

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In summary, residential development patterns for Palm Springs' communities of color reflected the unique development of one of Southern California's most popular resorts. The unique checkerboard of landownership in the area contributed to the development of a diverse, yet segregated, community. For African Americans, Latinos, Filipinos, Chinese, and Japanese residents seeking to improve economic opportunity for themselves and their families, Palm Springs provided much coveted jobs in the pre- and post-World War II periods. Whether it was building the infrastructure or supporting the hospitality industry, communities of color made a vital contribution to the city.

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Theme: Religious, Educational, and Cultural Institutions

Palm Springs' communities of color developed their own religious, social, and cultural institutions. Meeting places for these groups included private homes as well as communal buildings. The following provides an overview of some of these significant institutions.

In addition to residences, Section 14 was home to the first place of worship in the village.⁶³ In 1911, the Native Americans donated land to the Catholic Church and asked that mass be celebrated there. St. Florian Chapel, the vernacular-style adobe⁶⁴ structure was built in 1917⁶⁵ as a mission church by the Franciscan Order. It was located at the corner of East Arenas Road and South Calle El Segundo.⁶⁶ After years of dormancy,⁶⁷ the church was to be reactivated in 1948 by Father Ramon "Raymond" Klumbis (1914-1991) as part of the first annual Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (a.k.a., fiesta).⁶⁸ Klumbis' plans were thwarted, however, when an earthquake rendered the structure uninhabitable and the mass and fiesta was moved to St. Theresa's. By August of 1949, the condemned structure was razed and the name of the parish was changed to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The vernacular St. Florian's Chapel constructed c. 1917 at the corner of East Arenas Road and South Calle El Segundo. Source: Our Lady of Guadalupe website.

⁶³ "Little Resurrection Church, First in Village, Re-Opens Sunday for Active Services," *Desert Sun*, December 7, 1948.

⁶⁴ "Fr. Klumbis Announces Intention to Resign Pulpit," *Desert Sun*, January 21, 1952.

⁶⁵ According to the history section of the church website, a new church was erected in 1930, but no evidence of this is found in the *Desert Sun*.

⁶⁶ "Churches Play Major Role in Desert," *Desert Sun*, March 27, 1965.

⁶⁷ According to the book *We Were Here, Too*, during the period that the early Mexican residents were housed in tents on the McCallum golf course, they attended Our Lady of Solitude Catholic church at 151 W. Alejo Road.

⁶⁸ The film actor Ramon Navarro was the Mast of Ceremonies for the first two fiestas.

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As a replacement, Father Klumbis repurposed a barracks building previously constructed as a hospital ward for Tourney Hospital. With the volunteer labor of the parishioners, many of whom were Latinos living on Section 14, the building was transformed into a church. The whole neighborhood contributed; women in the community raised the funds and the men provided the construction skills. The new church was officially dedicated on March 11, 1950. In 1951, seasonal resident Rosemary Frey gifted a marble statue of the Virgin Mary sculpted by the Italian artist Giovanni Battista Barsanti to the church as a result of being "charmed by the simple little church on the reservation."⁸⁹ Father Klumbus was also responsible for the building of a playground on Section 14.

In 1952, Father Klumbis left and Father Thomas J. Flahive (1900-2000) became pastor. The growth of the parish during the 1950s resulted in the building of a larger church in 1963-4 for \$130,000.⁹⁰ Again, parishioners provided much of the labor. The church, located at 204 S. Calle El Segundo, remains standing today as one of the few Section 14 buildings that survived the final clearance.



Our Lady of Guadalupe church under construction in December of 1963.
Source: *Desert Sun*, December 13, 1963.

⁸⁹ "Statue Presented to Little Church on the Reservation," *Desert Sun*, November 8, 1951.

⁹⁰ "Ready Soon," *Desert Sun*, December 13, 1963.

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In addition to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Section 14 was also home to The Full Gospel Church (Assembly of God) and the First Baptist Church of Palm Springs. The Full Gospel Church, located at Andreas Road and Indian Avenue (present-day Indian Canyon Avenue)⁹¹ next to Hatchitt's Trailer Camp was active in the late 1930s. It was co-pastored by two women, Mrs. Ruth Williams and Mrs. E. W. Watson. In 1944, C.H. Austin took over as pastor.⁹² By 1950, Charles L. Farmer was in charge.⁹³ In 1951, the church building was moved from Section 14 to 1290 East Ramon Road (not extant) under Reverend Walter C. Hanneman.⁹⁴

First Baptist Church of Palm Springs was founded by Rev. W.P. White in 1946. Services were initially conducted in a tent. Around 1948, under the direction of Rev. T.H. Reagans, the 130-seat church was located on Section 14.⁹⁵ A parsonage was built in 1948.⁹⁶



African American Church congregation, likely the First Baptist Church of Palm Springs on Section 14, c. 1950. Source: Palm Springs Historical Society.

In 1958, former Texan, Reverend Jeff Rollins (1918-2004) became pastor. In 1963, he announced the building of a new church seating 210 congregants in the north end of the city at 63-540 Las Vegas Road (also 588 Las Vegas Road and present-day 588 Rosa Parks Road). The expressive Modern-style church (1965, Lawrence Lapham) was designed at a cost of \$90,000. In addition to the sanctuary, the church had 17 classrooms and fellowship rooms. The built edifice appears to have deviated from the original design, likely due to budgetary considerations. The church was also later the home to the Palm Springs Child Center, providing child care for working mothers and low-income families of the

⁹¹ Later, the address for the location became 216 S. Indian Avenue.

⁹² "Former Engineer Takes Pastorate at Local Church," *Desert Sun*, November 10, 1944.

⁹³ "Advertisement," *Desert Sun*, December 30, 1949.

⁹⁴ "Church Is Moved to New Location," *Desert Sun*, December 6, 1951.

⁹⁵ "New Church Building Slated for Palm Springs," *Desert Sun*, April 8, 1963.

⁹⁶ First Baptist Church of Palm Springs Website, <http://www.firstbaptistpalm Springs.org/church-history/> (accessed August 20, 2017).

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Children of color who lived on Section 14 during the 1930s attended school at the "Americanization Room" at the corner of present-day Alejo Road and Indian Canyon Drive at the rear of Frances Stevens Elementary School. Students were mainstreamed in the 4th grade. By the late 1970s, the building had been relocated to Van Fleet Street, north of Third Street in Cathedral City (Officer David Vasquez Road and Monty Hall Drive). The school has since been demolished. High school students attended Banning High School until the creation of Palm Springs High School (1938, G. Stanley Wilson) in 1938. Although the building of a school on the reservation was discussed briefly in 1957, it never came to fruition.⁹⁷



The Americanization Room after moving to Cathedral City as it appeared in the late 1970s. Source: *Desert Sun*, February 15, 1977.

During the 1930s, the Latino community formed a mutual aid society known as the Alancia to assist families with benefits, life insurance, death benefits, and other needs.⁹⁸ When the Alancia faded, it was replaced with the more socially oriented La Colonia Mexicana, also known as the Mexican Colony Club. The Club was very active during annual Desert Circus Week; they sold souvenirs and food, crowned the Mexican Colony Queen and entered a Mexican Colony float in the parade. The Colony was also active during World War II, visiting hospital patients of Mexican descent recuperating at Tourney Hospital.

In *We Were Here, Too*, the construction of a communal building on Section 14 known as "El Salon" or "the Hall" (not extant) was identified as an important gathering place.⁹⁹

In 1945, Palm Springs Lions Club member Frank S. Partridge, Jr. (1893-1954)¹⁰⁰ suggested the idea of a Boys Club. Partridge was named executive director and in 1948, the Club purchased a war surplus hospital building from Tourney Hospital and leased a parcel of land on East Andreas Road on the reservation.¹⁰¹ Community labor transformed the building into a clubhouse. In his oral history, Charles Jordan remembered the Boys Club as the only social institution available to young residents of Section

⁹⁷ "Section 14 School, Top Heavy Salaries Are Budget Protests," *Desert Sun*, August 9, 1957.

⁹⁸ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 12-13.

⁹⁹ Barbara Eves, Cydronia Valdez and Vera Wall, "We Were Here, Too," (Palm Springs, CA: Palm Springs Historical Society), 74.

¹⁰⁰ Partridge was also a well-known photographer in the Village.

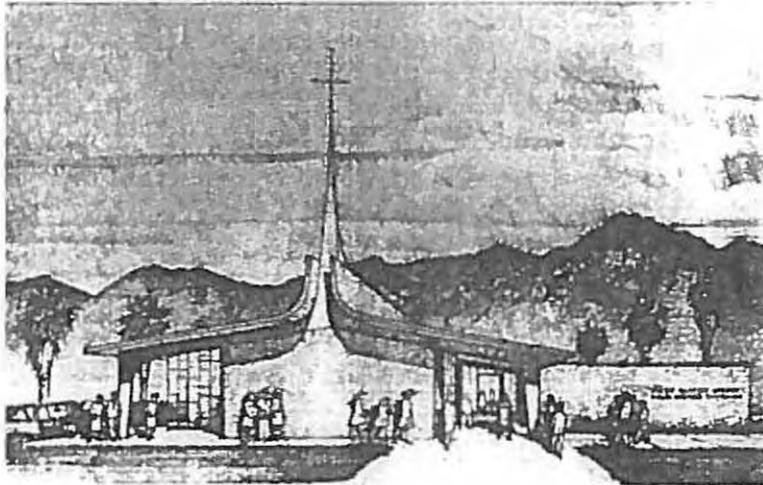
¹⁰¹ "Boys Club Could Use More Furnishings," *Desert Sun*, March 11, 1949.

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community. In 1967, groundbreaking was held for a new child-care facility (1968, architect unknown) on the church property.



Rendering of First Baptist Church of Palm Springs at 588 Rosa Parks Road as envisioned by architect Lawrence Lapham. Source *Desert Sun*, April 5, 1963.



Church congregants celebrate groundbreaking. Reverend Jeff Rollins kneeling at right. Source: *Desert Sun*, November 22, 1963.

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14.¹⁰² Partridge was beloved throughout the community of Section 14 and the programs he founded continued to benefit the youth in Palm Springs for years after his passing. One hundred “underprivileged” boys between the ages of 8 and 16 years old were members of the Boy’s Club in 1954.¹⁰³



L: Boys Club football team from 1955 with many who players who lived on Section 14. Source: *Desert Sun*, December 8, 1955. R: Mrs. Robert Broer, Ned Aljehandro, Taquing Alejandro, Tony Biavishi, John Rondares, Ellen Biavashi and Dela Cruz discuss annual Filipino Fiesta. Source: *Desert Sun*, June 24, 1971.

In 1960, the local Filipino community formed the Filipino Club under the leadership of Lawrence “Larry” Aglipay (1908-1978). With a roster of 59 members and a “potential of 200,” the community was still small relative to the Latino or African American communities.¹⁰⁴ One of the cultural events established during this period was the “Filipino Fiesta” which became an annual fundraiser benefiting St. Theresa’s Catholic Church. It featured Filipino culture, food, and entertainment. By 1965, the Filipino Community Association of Palm Springs was quite active in the community in philanthropic pursuits and entering a float in the Desert Circus Parade. In 1969,¹⁰⁵ the Luz-Vi-Minda Association for local Filipino women was formed.

¹⁰² Charles Jordan, “Interview with Charles Jordan,” interview by Clark Hanson. Oregon Historical Society, April 6, 2001.

¹⁰³ “Frank Partridge, Veteran Village Photographer Dies,” *Desert Sun*, April 1, 1954.

¹⁰⁴ “New Filipino Club Seeks Clubrooms,” *Desert Sun*, December 26, 1960.

¹⁰⁵ “New Filipino Club Forming on Desert,” *Desert Sun*, October 8, 1969.

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In 1961, the Desert Improvement Committee was formed to “generally raise the status of negroes within the community.” The organization was founded by Reverend George Scott, Jr., a Pentecostal minister affiliated with the Palm Spring Church of God and Christ; and Joseph M. Jackson, a local developer, both of whom were local activists against the forced evictions from Section 14.¹⁰⁶ Scott went on to be a provocative figure within the community, orchestrating Los Angeles television coverage for a local rezoning hearing on affordable housing.

In 1968, the Desert King Dreamers Club was formed as a women’s organization to support employment, culture, and civic progress in the desert region. The club held a number of cultural, philanthropic, and social events in the late 1960s, usually at the Palm Springs Child Development Center. Around this same time, another African American club known as the Ashanti Club was formed among students at Palm Springs High School, to promote African American history and culture.¹⁰⁷

The American-Mexican Political Society (AMPS) was formed in 1968 at the home of its president, Frank P. Hernandez, at 4433 E. Sunny Dunes Road (extant). The group was founded as a non-violent, peaceful activist group to encourage civic-engagement among Latinos. Another important club from the 1960s was the Mexican American Youth Association (MAYA).

In summary, religious, educational, and cultural institutions provided social support, fellowship opportunities, and a means of expressing their cultural identity for the communities of color in Palm Springs. During times of hardship, they were rallying points for these close-knit communities and a vehicle for connecting to the larger political, social, and ideological issues of the times.

¹⁰⁶ “Negro Booster Group Formed Today,” *Desert Sun*, June 20, 1961.

¹⁰⁷ Pearl Taylor Deavers, “Interview with Pearl Taylor Deavers,” interview by Oceana Collins, Palm Springs Historical Society, September 9, 2011

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Theme: Commercial Development

Although most people of color in Palm Springs were employed by the resorts, a few business owners emerged during the 1930s. One of the earliest and most colorful operators in the village was Arturo Arguelles of Pedro and Arturo's (102 E. Andres Road, 122 E. Andreas Road in the 1930s; later at 203 N. Palm Canyon Drive; not extant). Started in 1936, the shop sold leather goods from Mexico.¹⁰⁸ Pedro was a straw dummy on display in the shop. For several years, Arguelles split his season between Palm Springs and Catalina.

Although several businesses operated on Section 14 (a paint and second-hand store, a general store, cafes, repair garage, markets, and a bakery), the majority of these commercial enterprises appear to have been run by Caucasians.¹⁰⁹ A notable exception was the Marcus Café (not extant) owned by Lawrence Crossley and operated by Marcus Caro (1907-1977).¹¹⁰

Members of the early Palm Springs Japanese community not employed as domestic workers were involved in the floriculture and produce business. Tek Nishimoto managed the produce department at the El Paseo Market in the village, and George Kurata managed the produce department at the Murray Brothers' market on Section 14 in the late 1930s. Risuke (Yoshiye) Muramatsu (1906-2000) and his wife Doris arrived in Palm Springs in 1936 and operated the Palm Springs Florist and Greenhouse at 156 S. Indian Avenue.¹¹¹ They employed Frank Matsushita and K.H. Yoshida. A seasonal business, the Muramatsus spent each off-season in Los Angeles where they also operated a florist shop.¹¹² The business thrived and by October of 1941, they occupied a building at North Palm Canyon Drive at El Alameda.¹¹³ After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Muramatsus were forced to sell their business and were incarcerated at Poston, Arizona along with approximately 200 Japanese living in the Coachella Valley.¹¹⁴ After the war, Muramatsu returned to Los Angeles to rebuild but does not appear to have returned to Palm Springs.

Another prewar Japanese businessman was K. Yoshimoto who started the Chop Suey and Suki-yaki House at 415 N. Palm Canyon Drive (the Pacific Building) in 1938. Billed by the *Desert Sun* as "One of the most charming and distinctive of Palm Spring's wide variety of eating places," by 1940 it was under the management of Hiro Uchiyama.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁸ "That Amiable Rumbre from Mexico," *Desert Sun*, October 17, 1941.

¹⁰⁹ Business operators in Section 14 as of September 1938 included Joe Schreider, Murray Brotgers, Simon Abdunnur, Max Ransom, C.E. Bunker, A. Rosenbaum, Fumel Brothers, and Max Rowland.

¹¹⁰ According to the January 12, 1945 *Desert Sun*, the Caros purchased and managed La Hacienda Apartments at 259 South Palm Canyon.

¹¹¹ The 1939 Palm Springs City Directory does not list a residence address for the Muramatsus. It was common for Japanese merchants to live at the rear of their businesses during this period.

¹¹² "P.S. Florist and Greenhouse Opens Next Week," *Desert Sun*, September 29, 1939.

¹¹³ "Sole Green House in Village Opens This Week for the Season," *Desert Sun*, October 10, 1941.

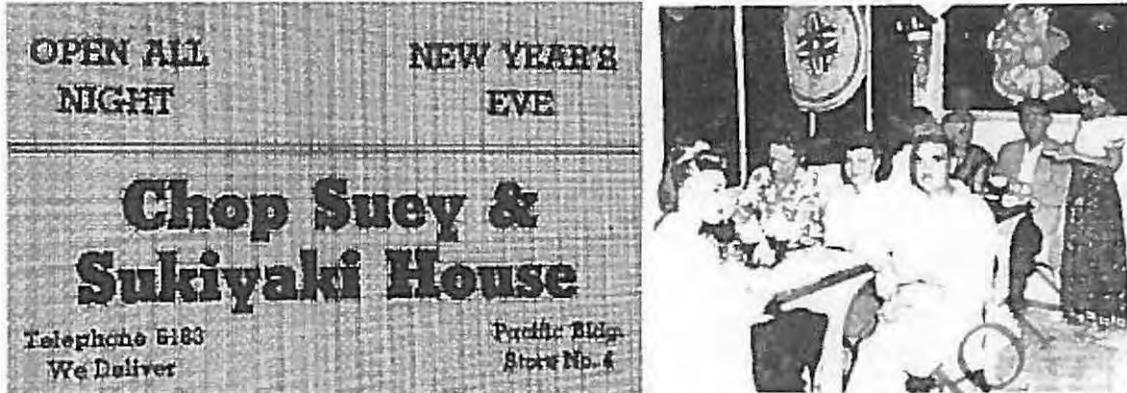
¹¹⁴ "Japs Excluded from East Half of County by Fourth Army Order," *Desert Sun*, May 15, 1942.

¹¹⁵ "Oriental Foods Are Palate Pleasers," *Desert Sun*, March 1, 1940.

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L: Advertisement for K. Yoshimoto's Chop Suey and Suki-yaki House, *Palm Springs News*, December 29, 1938. R: La Casita Restaurant, 361 East Andreas Road, 1947. Owner, Rafaela Mormolejo at tableside. Source: *Desert Sun*, October 14, 1947.

Another restaurant entrepreneur was Rafaela Mormolejo, the co-owner and co-manager of Palm Springs first Mexican restaurant, the La Casita Café located at 361 E. Andreas Road (not extant). Opened in 1947 with her brother-in-law Manuel Villegas, the restaurant featured Mormolejo's home cooking in a café setting. As previously discussed, Refugio "Cuco" Salazar was also a relatively successful hospitality provider with his "Pioneer Club."

Aside from Lawrence Crossley, African American businessmen typically did not flourish in Palm Springs as other groups did. In 1963, the *Los Angeles Sentinel* lamented "there is no negro business of any nature" and "not even a Negro barber...not to mention the absence of other professional services, negro Doctors or lawyers."¹¹⁶

Although the commercial development history for communities of color is relatively modest alongside the tremendous growth of Palm Springs, these examples provided inspiration to other community residents.

¹¹⁶ Leon H. Washington, Jr., "Wash's Wall," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, June 13, 1963, A6.

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Conclusion

The contributions of communities of color to Palm Springs history and culture were significant. Many of the African Americans, Latinos, and Asians came to the city to build a better life for themselves and their families. In the process, they contributed to the growth of one of the most revered resorts in Southern California, created a strong community, and withstood inequities. Their story is one of accomplishment and resilience.

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INTERNAL DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

City of Palm Springs
Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

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INTERNAL DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

**City of Palm Springs
 Communities of Color: Non-Native American Populations**

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS
INTENTION TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE
ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS PURSUANT
TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 10010**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Palm Springs (City) are currently elected in at-large elections, in which each member is elected by the registered voters of the entire City; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 34886, in certain circumstances, authorizes the legislative body of a city of any population to adopt an ordinance to change its method of election from an "at-large" system to a "by-district" system; and

WHEREAS, the City received a certified letter on March 5, 2018, from Kevin I. Shenkman, Esq., on behalf of his client Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, containing allegations that the City's at-large electoral system violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and threatening litigation if the City declined to adopt a district-based electoral system; and

WHEREAS, the City denies that its election system violates the CVRA or any other provision of law and asserts that Palm Springs's electoral system is legal in all respects and further denies any wrongdoing whatsoever in connection with the manner in which it has conducted its City Council elections; and

WHEREAS, the City commitment to diversity and inclusiveness reflect established qualities of the Palm Springs community, demonstrated and documented by the work of the City's Ethics, Transparency and Government Reform Task Force, the City's Human Rights Commission, and the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City interest in preserving the integrity of its established neighborhoods as communities of interest dictates that the City take aggressive action to prevent any outside party drawing the lines that create districts under the CVRA, and a City decision not to adopt this Resolution has the potential result of allowing that to happen; and

WHEREAS, although the letter from Kevin I. Shenkman, Esq. was not accompanied by any evidence to support the claim of a CVRA violation, the City Council has concluded that the public interest would be better served by an orderly transition to a district-based electoral system, because: 1) the extraordinary cost to defend against a CVRA lawsuit, 2) the risk of losing such a lawsuit would require the City to pay prevailing plaintiff's attorney's fees, 3) reimbursable costs and attorney's fees are capped at a maximum of \$30,000 by following the procedures set forth in Elections Code Section 10010 as amended by Assembly Bill 350, and 4) the City will be able to

retain and preserve the maximum level of autonomy and capacity to engage with, and respond to the community during the process of CVRA district implementation, and hopefully secure additional time for the process of that implementation, beyond the statutory timeline in Assembly Bill 350; and

WHEREAS, prior to the City Council's consideration of an ordinance to establish boundaries for a district-based electoral system, Elections Code Section 10010 requires all of the following at a minimum:

- 1) Prior to drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the City shall hold at least two (2) Public Hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which the public will be invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts.
- 2) After all draft maps are drawn, the City shall publish and make available for release at least one draft map and, if members of the City Council will be elected in their districts at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the potential sequence of the elections shall also be published.
- 3) The City Council shall also hold at least two (2) additional Public Hearings over a period of no more than forty-five (45) days, at which the public shall be invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map or maps and the proposed sequence of elections, if applicable.
- 4) The first version of a draft map shall be published at least seven (7) days before consideration at a Public Hearing. If a draft map is revised at or following a Public Hearing, it shall be published and made available to the public for at least seven (7) days before being adopted.

WHEREAS, the City will continue utilizing the services of a professional demographer to assist the City in developing a proposal for a district-based electoral system consistent with advancing the goals of the CVRA and the City as reflected in this Resolution, e.g., diversity, inclusiveness, integrity of neighborhoods as communities of interest, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a district-based electoral system will not affect the terms of any sitting Councilmember, each of whom will serve out his or her current term.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Based upon the true and correct recitals above which are incorporated herein by this reference, the City Council hereby resolves and states its intention to adopt an ordinance, pursuant to California Government Code section 34886, to transition election of its City Council members from an at-large electoral system to a district-based electoral system, for use in the City's next General Municipal Election, scheduled for November 2019.

SECTION 2. In the event that a district-based electoral system is adopted, it is the City Council's desire and intention that City resources will continue to be prioritized based on the greatest citywide need and benefit, and that the City Council will work cooperatively with one another for the benefit of the entire City.

SECTION 3. The City Council directs the City Clerk and City Attorney to continue working with a professional demographer, and other appropriate consultants as needed, to provide a detailed analysis of Palm Springs's current demographics and any other information or data necessary to prepare a draft map that divides Palm Springs into voting districts in a manner consistent with the intent and purpose of the CVRA and the Federal Voting Rights Act.

SECTION 4. In adopting this Resolution, the City Council has determined that it will gather and study demographic data, secure the broadest and deepest community involvement in this process that can be achieved, and create CVRA-compliant districts that best serve the City as a whole. The number and form of the districts will be determined after extensive consultation with Palm Springs residents, business leaders and other interested persons.

SECTION 5. The City has reached an agreement with attorney Kevin I. Shenkman, Esq. Attorney Shenkman to extend the CVRA deadline before which the City must adopt an ordinance mandating the particulars of the City's transition to a district-based electoral system, until December 31, 2018. This extension eliminates the requirement that the City complete the CVRA process ninety (90) days from the adoption of this Resolution, *i.e.*, by July 18, 2018; the extension allows the City to adopt an ordinance transitioning to district-based elections beyond that date, until December 31, 2018. However, the extension does not impact or modify CVRA requirements that pertain to the content of, and/or the timing and relationship among and between CVRA public hearings, the relationship of those four (4) mandatory public hearings to the district maps to be created (including publication requirements), or the general rule that requires the passage of not less than five (5) days between the introduction and the adoption of an ordinance.

SECTION 6. The City Council directs the City Clerk to post all information regarding the proposed transition to a district-based electoral system on the City's website, including maps, notices, agendas and other information as soon as practicable after the information becomes available.

SECTION 7. If any provision or clause of this Resolution is held invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise repealed by act of law, such invalidity shall not affect any other provisions or clauses of the same which can be given effect without the invalid provision, clause, or application. To this end, the provisions and clauses of this Resolution hereto are declared to be severable.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

SECTION 9. Based upon the whole of the administrative record before it, the City Council hereby finds that a transition from at-large to district-based elections is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 *et seq.*) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 *et seq.*) sections 15061(b)(3), 15320, and 15378(b)(3). Adoption of this Resolution is an organizational and administrative activity of the City, does not have the potential to result in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not a project for purposes of CEQA. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(5).) In the event adoption of this Resolution does constitute a project, it is categorically exempt under the Class 20 (Changes in the Organization of Local Governments) categorical exemption. (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15320.) Further, none of the exceptions to the exemptions found in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply. Staff is hereby directed to prepare, execute and file with the Riverside County Clerk a CEQA Notice of Exemption within five (5) working days of the adoption of this Resolution.

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SECTION 10. The City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and its approval by the City Council and shall cause the same to be listed in the records of the City.



David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D.
City Manager

ATTEST:



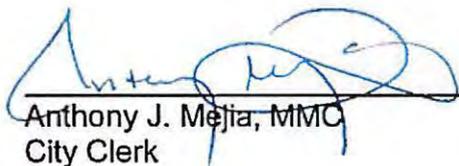
Anthony J. Mejia, MMC
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS)

I, ANTHONY J. MEJIA, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. 24406 is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on the 19th day of April, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Holstege, Kors, Middleton, Mayor Pro Tem Roberts, and Mayor Moon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



Anthony J. Mejia, MMC
City Clerk

Cities CVRA Summary Sheet
(Charter cities highlighted, cities that challenged CVRA in red).

City/ Form of Government:	CVRA Letter YES/NO:	Action:	Current Status:	Population: (2016)	Type of Mayor:
Adelanto Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	33,391	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Aliso Viejo Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	51,424	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Apple Valley Council – City Manager	No	6/28/16 City adopted resolution they would be transitioning to district elections.	Four districts that determine four council members, mayor elected at large.	72,553	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Arcadia Council – Manager	YES	6/6/17 City received demand letter from voting rights group represented by attorney, adopted resolution to transition to districts. Proposing six districts.	Presently, five council members directed at-large, council selects Mayor.	58,523	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Atascadero Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	30,330	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Atwater Council – Manager	YES	06/12/17 received demand letter from voting rights group represented by attorney, CC voted to change to districts on 10/09/17.	Four districts; at-large Mayor. Map adopted and initial elections will be held in 2018.	29,270	Ceremonial Mayor. Serve as president of council. Shall vote, but possess no veto power. In the time of public danger or emergency, with the consent of council, take command of the police and maintain order and enforce laws.

Azusa Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	49,628	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Banning Council – Manager	YES	6/7/16 Voters approved district elections.	Five council members elected at-large; Mayor elected at-large.	31,026	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Bell Gardens Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	42,806	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Benicia Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	At-large elections for Mayor and four City Council Members	28,174	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Beaumont Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members directed at-large, Mayor rotates.	45,349	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Bell Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	35,864	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Belmont Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	27,081	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Beverly Hills Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	34,687	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Brawley Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	26,149	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Brea Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	42,471	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Brentwood Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	At-large election for Mayor and four council members	60,532	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Burlingame Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	30,301	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Camarillo	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, Mayor selected by council.	67,363	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Campbell Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	40,939	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Cathedral City Council – Manager	YES	02/07/17 City served demand letter from voting rights advocacy group represented by attorney. City had already started process of establishing districts 01/11/17. On 03/08/17 CC approved resolution establishing districts.	Five Districts. Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will rotate positions, selected by Council.	54,056	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the City Council and perform such other duties consistent with the office as may be imposed by the Council or by the vote of the people. The Mayor shall be entitled to vote, and must vote when present, except as prohibited by State Law, but shall possess no veto power. As presiding officer of the Council, the Mayor will faithfully communicate the will of the Council majority to the Administrative Officers in matters of policy. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes.

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Calexico Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor rotates annually.	40,232	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Ceres Council Manager	YES	2016 adopted district maps and district elections.	Five council members elected by districts, council selects Mayor.	48,278	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Cerritos Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	50,555	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Claremont Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	36,059	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Coachella Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	44,953	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Colton Council – Manager	No	District elections.	Six district elected council members, Mayor elected at-large.	54,712	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Corcoran City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at- large, council selects Mayor.	22,626	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Covina Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	48,549	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Cupertino Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, Mayor selected by city council.	60,643	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Cypress Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	48,906	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Dana Point Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	34,012	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Danville Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, rotating Mayor.	44,631	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Davis Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, Mayor selected by city council.	68,111	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Delano Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor elected by council.	52,707	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Desert Hot Springs Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	28,492	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Diamond Bar Council-Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor elected by council.	56,793	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Dublin Council – Manager	No	2016 adopted districts.	Five council members elected from five districts, council selects Mayor.	59,583	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
East Palo Alto Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	29,684	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Eastvale	YES	4/4/16 received demand letter from voting rights advocacy group represented by attorney, 4/27/16 council adopts resolution to transition to districts, 6/8/16 adopted resolution establishing districts.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	61,151	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
El Centro Council- Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects mayor.	44,201	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Eureka Council – Manager	No	Districts elections as of 2018.	5 council members elected by district, Mayor elected at-large.	27,226	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Fountain Valley Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	56,529	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Foster City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	34,175	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Gilroy Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Six council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	55,069	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council. Mayor is political leader in community.
Glendora Council – Manager	YES	6/21/17 received demand letter from voting rights advocacy group represented by attorney, 7/13/17 council voluntarily voted for transition to district elections. 03/2020 will be first district elections, with a total of five districts.	Presently, five direct elected council members, Mayor selected by council.	51,851	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Goleta Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	30,850	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Hanford Council – Manager	No	District elections.	Five city council members elected by district, council elects Mayor.	55,547	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Hercules Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	25,360	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Highland Lost case 04/16/16 Council – Manager	YES	07/18/14 received demand letter from voting rights advocacy group represented by attorney, 11/2014 presented Measure T to voters to establish districts; voters did not pass and City sued. City lost case 04/06/16	Five council members elected by district; CC elects Mayor.	54,939	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is the Presiding Officer at City Council meetings. Additionally, he or she makes ad hoc committee assignments and represents the City at official functions.
Hollister Council – Manager	No	6/2012 Voters approved districts.	Four council members elected by district, direct elect Mayor.	37,833	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Huntington Park Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	58,879	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Imperial Beach Strong Mayor	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	27,418	Strong Mayor.
La Habra Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	61,664	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
La Mesa Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members and Mayor elected at-large.	59,948	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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La Mirada Council – Manager	YES	2016 received demand letter from voting rights advocacy group represented by attorney.9/13/16 council adopted resolution to transition to district elections. 11/08/16 adopted Ordinance 684 establishing district elections. 3/7/17 first district elections.	Five council members directed by district. Mayor elected at-large.	49,216	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
La Puente Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	40,377	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
La Quinta Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	40,956	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
La Verne Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	32,389	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lafayette City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	26,103	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Laguna Hills Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	31,509	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Laguna Niguel Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	65,238	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lake Elsinore Council – Manager	YES	09/25/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. 11/07/17 adopted resolution to transition to district elections. 01/23/18 adopted ordinance to change from at-large elections to district elections.	Five Districts; CC elects Mayor.	64,205	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council

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Lawndale Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	33,145	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lemon Grove Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	26,860	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lemoore City Council – Manager	No	12/27/17 council adopts resolution to transition to district elections, 01/2018 council adopts ordinance establishing districts and district elections.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	25,785	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lincoln Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, rotating mayor.	47,030	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lodi Council -Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council elects mayor.	64,641	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lompoc Council – Manager	YES	07/25/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney.	<u>Present utilizing safe harbor provisions of AB 350.</u>	43,712	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is the Presiding Officer at all meetings of the City Council. The Mayor pro tempore will preside in the Mayor's absence or at the Mayor's request. If both are absent, the City Clerk will call the Council to order, whereupon a temporary Presiding Officer will be elected by the Council Members present to serve until the arrival of the Mayor, the Mayor pro tempore, or adjournment of the meeting.

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Los Banos Council – Manager	YES	11/2016 district elections implemented.	Four council members elected by district, Mayor elected at-large.	37,643	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Los Gatos Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, Mayor selected by council.	30,545	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Lynwood Council-City Manager	No	No district elections.	Four elected council members, Mayor elected by council.	71,187	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Madera Council – Manager	YES	5/24/10 established districts.	Six district elected council members, mayor elected at-large.	64,444	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Manhattan Beach Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, each council member required to serve as Mayor for at least nine months of their term.	35,741	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Martinez Council-Manager	YES	10/24/17 received demand letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney. 12/06/17 adopted resolution to transition to district elections. 02/28/18 adopted ordinance to change from at-large to district elections.	Four districts; and at-large elected Mayor.	38,259	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Maywood Council – Manger	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	27,633	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Menlo Park Council-Manager	YES	8/21/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney, 10/04/17 adopted resolution to transition to district elections. 04/24/18 adopted ordinance to change from at-large to district elections.	Five districts, council elects Mayor.	33,888	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Moorpark Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	36,481	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Montclair Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	38,944	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Monrovia Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	37,126	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Montebello Council-Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	63,335	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Monterey Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large. .	28,454	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Monterey Park Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	61,075	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Morgan Hill Council – Manager	YES	05/05/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. 6/7/17 CC voted to change to districts.	Four districts; at-large Mayor. Map adopted and initial elections will be held in 2018.	44,155	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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National City	No	No district elections.	Four city council members and mayor all elected at-large.	61,147	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Newark	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	45,810	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Novato	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	56,004	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Norco	YES	10/2/17 received letter from voting advocacy group represented by attorney. 12/6/17 resolution to transition to district elections, 5/16/18 Ordinance establishing districts and district elections.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	26,714	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Oakley	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	40,622	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Pacifica	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, mayor rotates.	39,062	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Palm Desert	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	52,231	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Palo Alto	No	No district elections.	Nine city council members elected at large, mayor selected annually by council members.	67,024	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Paradise Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council member elected at-large, Mayor selected by council annually.	26,551	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Paramount Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five city council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	54,909	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Paso Robles Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	31,907	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Petaluma Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members and mayor, elected at-large.	60,530	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Pico Rivera Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, mayor selected by council.	63,635	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Pittsburg Council-Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	70,679	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Placentia Council – Manager	No	11/08/16 measure placed on ballot to approve district elections and approved.	Five council members elected by district, Mayor elected by council.	52,228	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Pleasant Hill Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	34,853	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Porterville Council - Manager	YES	8/2017 received demand letter from voting advocacy group represented by attorney. 5/518 Ordinance 1845 adopted by district elections.	Presently, five city council members elected at-large. Mayor elected from council members.	58,978	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Poway Ongoing	YES	10/3/17 CC approved district elections after receiving demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. Former Mayor Higginson filed federal lawsuit challenging constitutionality of CVRA.	Matter is still under submission with U.S. District Court. Oral argument was held last month on plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction to enjoin enforcement of CVRA.	50,077	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.
Council – Manager Rancho Santa Margarita	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large; mayor rotates annually among council members.	48,969	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Redlands	No	4/18/17 City Council adopted Ordinance 2848 adopting district elections.	Five districts, five council members. Mayor elected by Council.	71,288	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Redondo Beach	No	District elections	Five district elected council members. Mayor elected at large.	67,867	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Reedley City	No	2004 established district elections.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	25,582	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Ridgecrest	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	28,701	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager Rocklin	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	62,787	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Council – Manager					

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Rohnert Park Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	42,622	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Rosemead Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council elects Mayor.	54,500	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Sanger Council – Manger	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	25,007	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Bruno Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	42,957	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Carlos Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor annually.	29,797	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Clemente Council – Manger	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	65,309	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Dimas Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	34,388	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Gabriel Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, rotating Mayor.	40,404	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Jacinto Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members directed at-large, council selects Mayor.	47,413	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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San Juan Capistrano Settled 05/19/16 Council – Manager	YES	07/31/14 served demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. 01/27/16 lawsuit filed. 05/19/16 Case Settled.	Five districts; Mayor elected by CC.	36,276	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Luis Obispo Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large and Mayor elected at-large.	47,413	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Pablo Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	30,356	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
San Rafael Council-Manager	YES	11/20/17 served demand letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney. 01/16/18 adopted resolution to transition to district elections. 04/16/18 adopted ordinance to change from at-large to district elections.	Four districts; Mayor elected at-large	58,954	Ceremonial Mayor.

The mayor shall be the presiding officer of the council. He may call special meetings of the council, and must do so upon the request, in writing, of a majority of its members. He shall sign the minutes of each of its meetings after they have been entered in the journal by the city clerk and approved by the council; The mayor shall see that the laws of the State of California, the provisions of this charter and the ordinances of the city of San Rafael are strictly enforced and duly observed within said city. He shall take all measures necessary for the preservation of public order and the suppression of mobs, riots and tumults, for which purpose he may use the police force, and, in case such force is inefficient, he may call upon the governor of the state for military aid; The mayor shall diligently observe the official conduct of all officers and employees of the city, and note the manner in which they perform their duties, especially in the collection, administration and disbursement of public funds and property. The books, records and official papers of all departments, boards, officers and employees of the city shall, at all times, be open to his inspection and examination, and he shall use special care to see that such books, records and documents are kept in proper legal form. He shall have general supervision of all departments, public institutions and offices of the city, and shall see that they are lawfully, economically and honestly administered and conducted.; The mayor shall see that all contracts and agreements with the city are faithfully kept and performed, and to that end he shall, with the consent of the council, cause legal proceedings to be instituted and prosecuted, in the name of the City of San Rafael, against all persons failing, in whole or in part, to fulfill their agreements with said city.; The mayor shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations and take affidavits and depositions in all matters relating to the business of the city.; The mayor shall sign all conveyances made by the City of San Rafael, and all contracts to which it is a party, and shall acknowledge the execution of all instruments executed by said city that require acknowledgement, and shall sign all warrants ordered drawn by the council.

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Santa Cruz Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Six council members elected at-large, Mayor elected by council.	64,465	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Santa Paula Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, council selects Mayor.	30,335	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Santee Council-Manager	YES	12/2017 served demand letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney, 01/10/18 resolution to transition to district elections adopted. 04/25/18 adopted ordinance to change from at-large to district elections.	Four districts; Mayor elected at-large	57,834	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.
Saratoga Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	30,767	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Seaside Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	34,312	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Soledad Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	25,622	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Stanton Council – Manager	YES	2017 received letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney. 11/14/17 adopted resolution to transition to district elections, 11/28/17 adopted ordinance 1073 establishing districts and district elections. First district elections 11/2018.	Presently, five council members elected at-large with annual selections of Mayor. New district elections will establish 5 districts and direct elect Mayor.	38,644	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Suisan City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	29,505	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Temple City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, rotating Mayor.	36,635	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Tulare Council – Manager	YES	6/5/12 voters approved district elections, same year council adopted district maps.	Five district elected council members, council elects Mayor.	62,779	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Turlock Council – Manager	YES	11/04/2014 Measure A passed by voters established district elections.	Five district elected council members. Mayor elected at-large	72,796	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Twentynine Palms Council – Manager	No	2018 adopted five districts.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	26,049	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Walnut Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	30,047	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Walnut Creek Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at-large, mayor rotates annually among council members.	69,122	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Wasco Council – Manager	No	10/03/17 Resolution to district elections 12/2017 adopted ordinance establishing districts and district elections.	Five council members elected by district, council selects Mayor.	26,395	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Watsonville Council – Manager	No	District elections.	Seven district elected council members, council elects Mayor.	53,796	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
West Sacramento Council - Manager	No	No district elections.	Four council members elected at-large, Mayor elected at-large.	52,981	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Wildomar Council – Manager	YES	12/21/15 served demand letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney. 01/13/16 CC announced transition to district elections. 03/09/16 adopted ordinance to change from at-large to district elections.	Five districts; Mayor elected by council.	36,042	Ceremonial Mayor The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Windsor Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council member elected at-large, council selects Mayor.	27,555	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Woodland Council – Manager	YES	11/08/16 residents voted to switch to district elections.	Five district elected council members, Mayor elected by council.	59,068	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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Yorba Linda Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members and mayor elected at-large.	68,235	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Yuba City Council – Manager	No	No district elections.	Five council members elected at large, mayor selected by council from the five elected.	66,845	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Yucaipa Council – Manager	No	4/11/16 council adopts resolution transitioning to district elections, 6/27/16 council adopts Ordinance 348 adopting districts.	Five district elected council members, council selects mayor.	53,309	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.

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POPULATION 75,001– 150,000					
Carlsbad Council – Manager	YES	04/5/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. CC voted to change to districts on 05/04/17.	Four districts; at-large Mayor. Map adopted and initial elections will be held in 2018.	113,952	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.
City of Indio Council- Manager	No	08/02/17 Council voted to switch to district elections.	Five districts; rotating mayor and mayor pro-tem, selected by Council.	88,488	Ceremonial Mayor. The mayor shall preside at the meetings of the council. If he is absent or unable to act, the mayor pro tempore shall serve until the mayor returns or is able to act. The mayor pro tempore has all of the powers and duties of the mayor. The mayor may make or second any motion and present and discuss any matter as a member of the council.
Lake Forest Council – Manager	YES	04/10/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. City is conducting AB 350 hearings.	08/01/17 CC decided to <u>place measures on next 2018 election</u> to give residents say in how many districts and whether or not to elect Mayor at large.	83,240	Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.
Mission Viejo Council – Manager	YES	09/29/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney 10/24/17 CC passed resolution to move towards districts.	11/28/17 CC <u>directs staff to spend up to \$100,000 to investigate City's past elections</u> to evaluate if polarized voting occurred. AB 350 hearings continue.	96,396	Ceremonial Mayor. Each year, the City Council elects a Mayor and a Mayor Pro Tem amongst themselves to serve for one calendar year. The Mayor, who has equal legislative power with fellow members of the City Council, serves as the ceremonial leader of the city and as the presiding officer of the bi-weekly City Council meetings

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<p>Santa Barbara Settled</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>07/29/14 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. Litigation filed. Case settled.</p>	<p>Six Districts; Mayor elected by CC.</p>	<p>91,930</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. Together, the City Council and the Mayor establish policy, approve programs, and oversee the financial affairs of the City to govern Santa Barbara. They also appoint the City Administrator and the City Attorney, as well as serve as the Board Members of the Redevelopment Agency. Individually, Councilmembers may represent the City by serving on state and regional boards and local civic organizations.</p>
<p>Council – Manager Santa Clara</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>10/16/16 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. 03/31/17 litigation filed against City.</p>	<p>City appointed charter review committee to review potential changes to electoral system. <u>Committee has recommended to CC that City have two districts – 3 reps each district and at-large Mayor.</u></p>	<p>125,948</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the power to make recommendations to the City Council on matters of policy and programs which require City Council decision; provided, that if he/she recommends any increases in the City budget, he/she shall recommend the method of financing such expenditure; and provided, further, that if he/she proposes curtailment of service, such recommendations and his/her reason therefor shall be specific. He/she may also, on his/her own account, inform the community on matters of policy or program which he/she believes the welfare of the community make necessary.</p>

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<p>Santa Monica Ongoing</p> <p>Council – Manger</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>City served with demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. fCVRA lawsuit against City in 2016 and earlier this month prevailed against the City's efforts to have the case dismissed.</p>	<p>The case is going to trial.</p>	<p>101,659</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall be the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes. The Mayor shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with the Mayor's office. The Mayor shall serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the City Council.</p>
<p>Vista</p> <p>Council – Manager</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>02/13/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney. 03/28/17 AB 350 process commences to move to district. 06/13/17 adopted districts.</p>	<p>Four districts; at-large Mayor.</p>	<p>101,659</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.</p>
<p>Whittier Settled</p> <p>Council-Manager</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>06/03/14 Voters approve to amend charter to districts following CVRA litigation that was settled.</p>	<p>Four districts; at-large Mayor.</p>	<p>86,883</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes and, together with all Council members, interprets the policies, programs and needs of the City government for the people. The Council elects a member to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Manager is the head of the administrative branch of the City government and is responsible to the City Council.</p>

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POPULATION 150,001 and ABOVE					
<p>Anaheim Settled 01/08/14</p> <p>Council – Manager</p>	YES	06/28/14 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney; litigation filed and case settled 01/08/14.	Six districts; at-large Mayor.	351,043	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor shall have the same rights, privileges, powers and duties as are held by members of the City Council.</p>
<p>Fremont</p> <p>Council – Manager</p>	YES	02/15/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney and commenced process of adopting district maps (AB 350). Maps adopted 06/13/17.	Four districts; at-large Mayor. Map adopted and initial elections will be held in 2018.	233,136	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.</p>
<p>Garden Grove Settled 02/18/16</p> <p>Council – Manager</p>	YES	06/03/2015 received demand letter from attorney advocacy group represented by attorney Lawsuit filed against City 07/20/2015. Case settled 02/18/16.	Six districts; at-large Mayor.	174,858	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The Mayor is elected at large for four year terms. The Mayor officially speaks for both the government and the community as a whole. The Mayor is the presiding officer and a regular member of the city council, and has all the powers and duties for the office of council member in addition to those of mayor.</p>

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<p>Huntington Beach On-going</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>04/05/17 received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney.</p>	<p>Contesting voting rights in court on grounds that the City's voting is not racially polarized and CVRA unconstitutional.</p>	<p>200,652</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor. The primary duties of the Mayor are 1. The Mayor is the ceremonial head of the city and shall have the primary, but not exclusive, duty to interpret the policies, programs, and needs of City government to the people. 2. The Mayor may make and second motions and shall have both voice and vote in all Council proceedings. The Mayor serves at the pleasure of the City Council. 3. The Mayor may call special meetings of the City Council. 4. The Mayor may execute contracts on behalf of the city when the contracts have been approved by the City Council.</p>
<p>Council – Manager Modesto Lost Case</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Received demand letter from voter advocacy group represented by attorney 06/13/15. Litigation filed. Lost case.</p>	<p>Seven districts; at-large Mayor.</p>	<p>212,175</p>	<p>Ceremonial Mayor.</p>

The Mayor shall have the following powers and duties: (a) The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all political, representative and ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for military purposes; (b) The Mayor may review with the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk prior to each Council meeting the items on the Council's agenda and to add matters thereto; (c) The Mayor may make recommendations to the City Manager on matters of policy and programs; (d) The Mayor may direct the Charter Officers to prepare and provide information to the Council on matters of policy and programs which require Council decision; (e) The Mayor may request budgetary and any other information from the Charter Officers that the Mayor determines is necessary for the conduct of the Mayor's duties; (f) The Mayor, together with the Council, annually shall conduct a written performance evaluation of each Charter Officer which shall include, without limitation, an evaluation of the Charter Officer's performance in implementing the Council's Statement of Policy for that Charter Officer developed pursuant to Section 725 of this Charter. (g) The Mayor may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Council, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, one regular member and one alternate member to each standing, special and ad hoc committee of the Council; (h) The Mayor may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Council, such advisory boards, commissions and ad hoc committees as may be necessary or desirable to advise and assist in the work of the Council; (i) The Mayor may appoint such other advisory boards and ad hoc committees as may be necessary or desirable to advise and assist in the work of the Mayor; provided, however, that the members of such advisory boards or ad hoc committees shall not receive any compensation; (j) The Mayor may recommend adjustments to the City budget and to propose the modification or curtailment of any city service. If the Mayor recommends any increases in the City budget, the Mayor shall recommend the method of financing such expenditures. If the Mayor proposes the modification or curtailment of any city service, the Mayor shall provide specific recommendations and the reasons for such proposal; (k) The Mayor shall prepare and deliver the Mayor's Proposed Budget Priorities and Direction and the Mayor's Budget Message pursuant to Section 1302A of the Charter and the Mayor's Final Budget Modifications pursuant to Section 1303 of the Charter; (l) The Mayor may select and hire staff to the office of Mayor and the City Council as may be necessary or desirable to advise and assist in the work of the Mayor and City Council; provided, however, that the Mayor shall not appoint to any position any business associate or any person related to him or her or to the City Manager or to any member of the Council by blood or marriage within the second degree. If staff is provided to the Council under this section, such staff shall be provided on an equal basis to each member of the Council. All such appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor in the Unclassified Service; and shall serve under such terms and conditions, salaries and benefits as are similar to other employees in Modesto's service.



City of Palm Springs

Office of the City Attorney

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MEMORANDUM

EXHIBIT G

To: California Voting Rights Act Working Group
Cc: Subcommittee Members Geoff Kors and Lisa Middleton, City Manager David Ready
From: City Attorney Edward Kotkin
Date: July 17, 2018
Re: Response to Working Group Inquiries

The City Council has authorized me to communicate the following general commentary to you, reserving all rights and privileges to which the City and my office are entitled.

a. Which changes related to the formation of districts and other related City governance matters are clearly permissible with validation only?

As I construe this question, the working group is asking what the City Council may do on its own, as opposed to identifying actions that the City Council could conceivably take and then proceed to “validate” either (i) in court, through a validation action, or (ii) through a Charter amendment presented to, and approved by the voters. The City Council may consider *any change* that it wants to consider to the *status quo*, with or without a validation action (or Charter amendment). Doing so does not make it “right.” Initiation of a validation action (or calling an election) will be a discretionary matter that the City Council will address after the formation of the City’s districts. Based upon the statutes of the CVRA as distinguished from our Charter, whether the City proceeds to form four (4) districts with a direct elect “citywide” Mayor, *OR* five (5) districts with a rotating Mayoral position, a validation action is a good idea. Conversely, a change in the total number of City Council members would require an amendment to the Charter.

Beyond the number of elected City Council members, it’s noteworthy that other “changes” would not require a Charter amendment. Switching to a district system that included a non-partisan blanket primary election, or weighted (or “ranked choice”) voting, are consistent with the Charter, at least insofar as they do not violate any particular provision. Article VIII of the Charter arguably allows municipal primaries (non-partisan, blanket and consistent with applicable CA law), and weighted voting since neither is prohibited by the Elections Code.

However, it’s at best unclear to me whether a voting rights advocacy group would view a municipal primary, or a weighted voting element in a proposed “change” as consistent with the CVRA. If a primary or weighted voting can reasonably be construed as limiting the impact of minority voters in a particular district, *e.g.*, remoteness/indirectness of vote with respect to outcome, protection of incumbents, *etc.*, a primary, or a weighted vote would likely not be acceptable to a voting rights advocacy group. We

simply don't know what a court would do with an allegation that one of these "changes" violates the

CVRA. I would want to visit with opposing counsel to ensure that such a "change" would not prompt a lawsuit before the Council moved in either of those directions.

Another potential "change" is not precluded by the CVRA or the Charter, and the Council can take action without the need for validation. A decision to pay Council Members more money could be made by ordinance without any necessity of a validation action, provided that the change, as implemented, is consistent with the Charter *See* Section 304. In fact, such a change might arguably advance CVRA goals, *e.g.*, higher salaries might encourage working people who require a living wage to consider elected office. In fact, this issue is included in this discussion only to ensure that questions about potential changes in City governance asked by third-parties can be answered.

Bottom line: there is no districting process outcome that is completely consistent with our charter, and districting itself is not "clearly permissible" unless one accepts the legal argument that state law, *i.e.*, the CVRA controls and supersedes the Charter. Generally speaking, a post-districting ordinance validation action is a good idea. Some changes would likely be confirmed by a court, *e.g.*, five (5) districts with a rotating Mayoral position. This change, concurrent with the process of district formation, is the most "like" our Charter which calls for five (5) Council Members, one (1) being the ceremonial Mayor who holds no distinct or unique powers under the Charter. Other changes would have a reasonable likelihood of being confirmed *via* validation, *e.g.*, four (4) districts with a direct elect Mayor. This change would retain the direct elect Mayor called for by the Charter, and not afford the Mayor any specific power or authority beyond that held by all Council Members. Further, at least one voting rights advocacy group appears to have settled its lawsuit against a general law city, and allowed that city's retention of a direct-elect Mayor. However, it can reasonably be argued that retention of the direct election of the Mayor creates a "mixed" at-large and district system that violates the CVRA in the case of racially polarized voting. *See* CA Elections Code Section 14026(a)(3). Primary and weighted/ranked choice districts are "changes" that can be made without validation, are not specifically addressed by the CVRA. While they can be implemented without a Charter amendment, they might not be acceptable to CVRA advocates. Finally, higher Council salaries is a "change" that can be made without validation or concern that CVRA advocates might be opposed.

1. Which areas may be conformed to the charter through a validation action?

Validation Action (without Charter amendment *per se* necessary): OK for five (5) districts with rotating Mayoral duties, or four (4) districts with a direct elect Mayor. This is based upon state law (CVRA statutes) and the Cucamonga case wherein one (1) voting rights advocacy attorney group agreed that retention of a direct elect Mayor was consistent (or at least acceptable) per the CVRA. That said, as is discussed above, four (4) districts with a direct elect Mayor could be argued to be a mixed district/at-large system, and illegal under the CVRA. The validation action would be more necessary in the case of that system being adopted by the Council *via* ordinance.

2. In which areas does the state constitution override the charter?

None. It is the CVRA itself that controls and provides the legal basis from which the City can contend that constitutional interests advanced by the CVRA necessitated action otherwise contrary to the Charter. While the goals underlying the CVRA are indeed constitutional in scope, the principle that state statutes override city charters if they are narrowly tailored to address an issue of statewide concern is applicable here. The CVRA applies to Charter cities. *Jauregui v. City of Palmdale* (2014) 226 Cal. App. 4th 781.

b. Which changes are prohibited with validation only and will require a vote (charter amendment)?

The City should not move to more districts than five (5), or to a system that included more or less Council members than five (5). Council action including a change in the number of City Council Members would necessitate a Charter amendment.

Bottom line: if a proposed “change” is specifically contrary to a Charter provision and it doesn’t advance a CVRA goal, that change should be the subject of a Charter amendment before it takes place.

c. Which changes may be permissible with respect to Council action to advance CVRA purposes, but not be addressed in court precedent?

None of the law regarding what is “permissible” with respect to Council action *via* ordinance is spelled out in case law. Elimination of *any* element of “at-large” voting may be addressed by ordinance.

d. Is the City required by law to go to even year elections?

In a word, yes. Although the strict letter of the law would require the City to do so in 2020, my assessment is that the Council may choose to make the change on its own terms, either in 2020 or 2022, with very little risk.

The following is a comparison spreadsheet. This comparison is solely based on the demographers maps as it is a comparison of maps which meet the legal requirements for purposes of showing whether the four district or five district maps better reach the City Council goal of creating a majority minority district. It is not an endorsement of any single map. For the purposes of brevity only, the Latino, Afro-American, Asian, and Native American demographics are consolidated into a single category of minority.

EXHIBIT H

City of Palm Springs - Comparison of Four District and Five District Maps

Demographer's Four District Map						Demographer's Five District Map						
Cholla Map	District	1	2	3	4	Agave Map	District	1	2	3	4	5
Total Pop	% NH White	40%	68%	71%	75%	Total Pop	% NH White	32%	66%	65%	72%	83%
	% Minority	58%	30%	27%	23%		% Minority	66%	32%	33%	27%	16%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	57%	76%	80%	78%	Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	50%	76%	73%	80%	83%
	% Minority	42%	22%	18%	19%		% Minority	49%	23%	25%	19%	16%
Mesquite Map	District	1	2	3	4	Ironwood Map	District	1	2	3	4	5
Total Pop	% NH White	39%	68%	64%	83%	Total Pop	% NH White	40%	70%	66%	58%	84%
	% Minority	60%	30%	33%	16%		% Minority	58%	28%	32%	41%	14%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	55%	75%	75%	85%	Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	60%	75%	73%	68%	88%
	% Minority	43%	23%	23%	14%		% Minority	38%	25%	23%	30%	11%
Ocotillo Map	District	1	2	3	4	Palo Verde Map	District	1	2	3	4	5
Total Pop	% NH White	38%	69%	65%	82%	Total Pop	% NH White	48%	64%	61%	63%	84%
	% Minority	61%	30%	33%	16%		% Minority	51%	34%	36%	36%	15%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	57%	75%	72%	86%	Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	61%	74%	72%	73%	84%
	% Minority	41%	25%	25%	13%		% Minority	37%	24%	26%	25%	15%
Yucca Map	District	1	2	3	4	Smoke Tree Map	District	1	2	3	4	5
Total Pop	% NH White	40%	68%	70%	76%	Total Pop	% NH White	35%	59%	67%	74%	81%
	% Minority	58%	30%	28%	23%		% Minority	62%	39%	32%	25%	17%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	58%	75%	78%	79%	Citizen Voting Age Pop	% NH White	49%	75%	73%	82%	82%
	% Minority	40%	24%	20%	19%		% Minority	49%	24%	26%	16%	16%

Created on 09/11/2018

EXHIBIT I

Looking for a daycare? It'll be tough because the valley is a 'child care desert'

CALIFORNIA'S SHORTAGE OF DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL PROVIDERS RANKS MOST SEVERE, ACCORDING TO A CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS STUDY.

Sherry Barkas, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 12:00 a.m. PT Sept. 19, 2018 | Updated 9:11 a.m. PT Sept. 19, 2018



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DESERT SUN

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Four years ago, Natalie Holland suddenly went from wife and stay-at-home mom to divorcee and single mom of an infant.

"I had no idea what I was going to do and had no plan, really," Holland said.

She needed a job and she needed child care, but she was new to the Coachella Valley and had no friends or family to which to turn.

"There were not a lot of options for us," she recalled. "I asked everyone I could at the CalWORKs office, 'What do parents do that have tiny children?'"

Holland's dilemma is one shared by families, here and nationwide, that find themselves living in a "child care desert" – any Census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 and either no providers, or so few options for child care that there are more than three times as many children as licensed care slots.

[A 2016 study by the Center for American Progress](#) looked at access to licensed child care and preschool programs in 22 states and found California has the highest number of residents – 62 percent – living in a child care desert. That includes much of the Coachella Valley, where Desert Hot Springs, La Quinta, Coachella and Mecca as well as much of Indio, chart the largest gap.

Related: [Need help finding daycare in the Coachella Valley? Here are some resources that may help your search](#)

Living in a 'child care desert'

According to a study by the Center for American Progress, much of the Coachella Valley falls into a "child care desert" where the need for licensed and subsidized child care far exceeds availability, as this chart shows.

Source: Consortium for Early Learning Services
Chart: Robert Hopwood, The Desert Sun

Sixty-nine percent of California's Hispanic/Latino population lives in a child care desert,

and child care supply is especially low in rural California, where 64 percent of residents live in areas without enough licensed child care providers.

New York had the second highest rate at 61 percent.

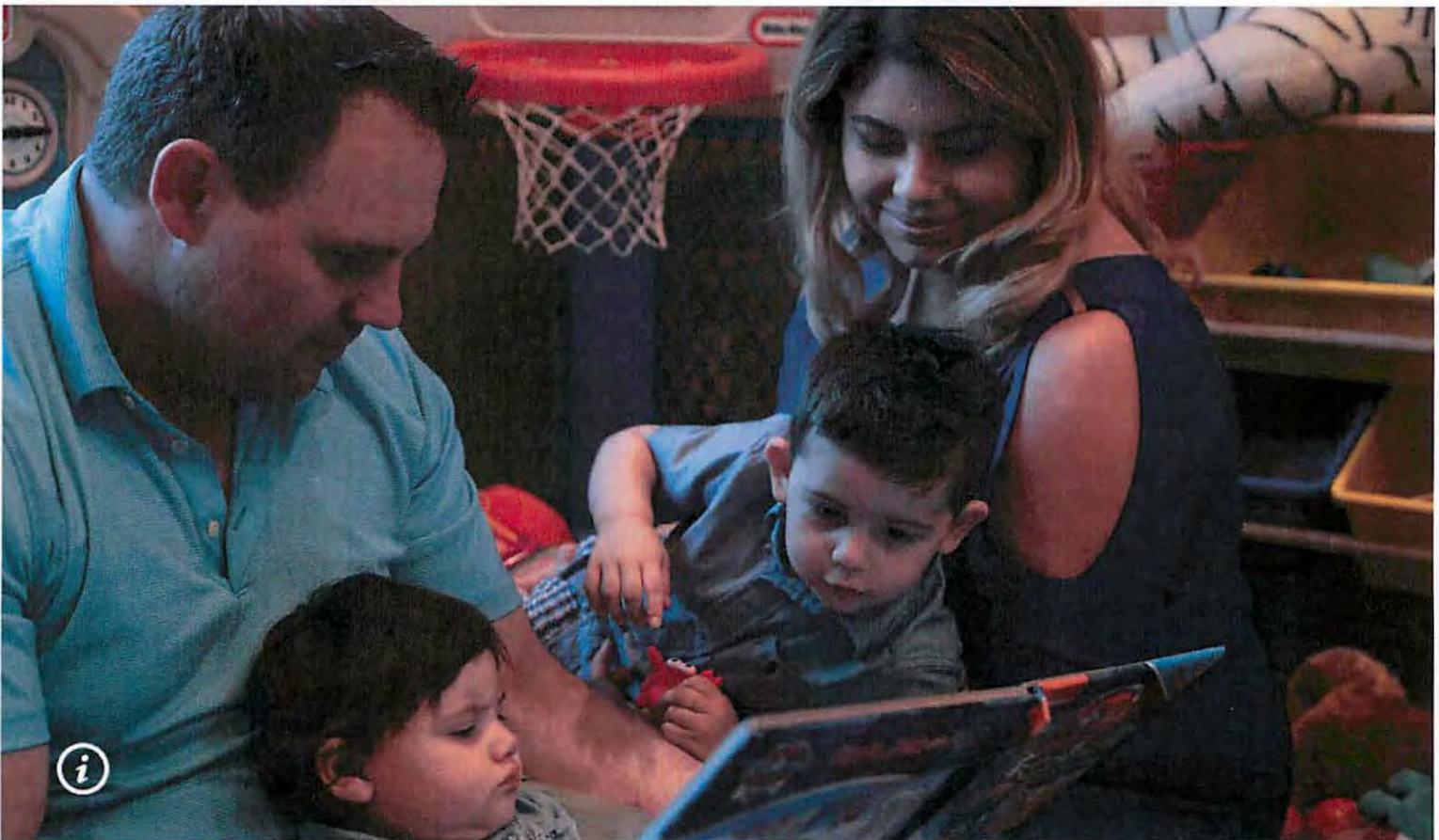
For many families in the Coachella Valley, finding child care that fits their needs – and budgets – is a struggle, especially for those who may work non-traditional hours including night and weekend shifts, as many providers offer care Monday through Friday from early in the morning until 5 or 6 p.m. with holidays off. Those needing infant care are getting on wait lists as soon as they learn they are pregnant.

Many are also turning to Care.com which offers a list of nannies and baby-sitters in the area.

In Riverside County, there are 198,000 children 0-12 years old who are eligible for subsidized child care spaces but don't have them.

Why?

"We don't have enough spaces," said Deborah Clark-Crews, executive director/local planning council coordinator for the Consortium for Early Learning services. "We do not have the services available for our kids who are eligible for them," she said.



The tipping point

Child care providers suffered during the Great Recession when cash-strapped and unemployed parents started pulling their kids out of programs and federal and state funds were also cut, forcing many out of business.

"One of the biggest reasons we have disparity between child care providers and children needing care is that we do not reimburse providers at a rate that is sustainable to run a business," said state Assemblyman Anthony Rendon, a former child care provider who in 2017 formed the Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education.

"We are still trying to rebuild the current system and fund it at a level that works for children, providers and parents."

Before the Great Recession, California provided slots for 460,000 children in need of subsidized care. Today, about 12 years after the recession ended, there is funding for 400,000, Rendon said.

Overall, funding for the subsidized child care and development system – including CalWORKs child care and non-CalWORKs and the state preschool program – was cut by about \$965 million. If you adjust for inflation overall, funding dropped by nearly \$1.5 billion, said Kristin Schumacher, senior policy analyst for the state Budget & Policy Center.

Much of that has since been restored, she said, but more is needed.

"Subsidized child care can help parents find and maintain employment because they are confident that their kids are in a safe environment that does not decimate the family's bottom line," Schumacher said.

"Infant/toddler care in this county is almost non-existent ... because it's so expensive to offer."

Child care costs averaged \$8,018 to \$12,410 annually in Riverside County for infants and toddlers under 2 years old and \$7,364 to \$8,793 per year for preschoolers in 2014 – the latest statistics available – slightly below California's average of \$8,462 to \$13,327 for infants and \$7,850 to \$9,106 for preschoolers, according to kidsdata.org.

The median family income for California was \$77,359 in 2016 – about \$6,297 higher than the national median.

"We know that only a fraction of children eligible for subsidized care can access services, but a comprehensive

system that can serve all eligible children would save families from living on the edge of financial disaster and could even boost children and families' well-being in the long term," she said.

"Expanding our subsidized child care and development system to serve all eligible and interested families would come with a high price tag, but California has the fifth largest economy in the world. We can afford that," she said.

A key complement to licensed child care centers are the licensed family child care homes – people who get licensed to care for eight to 14 children in their houses.

DEBORAH CLARK-CREWS, CONSORTIUM FOR EARLY
LEARNING SERVICES

In California, anyone providing care and supervision to non-relative children from more than one family in their home or non-residential facility for periods of less than 24 hours needs a license from the state Department of Social Services.

Those operating without a license face a misdemeanor charge and are subject to a \$200 per day fine.



Tough choices

But not all child care providers are created equal, be they at licensed child care centers or licensed in-home care.

Finding day care that fits parents' work schedules and other needs is often first priority.

"Here's our issue, Mom and Dad need a place for the kids to go and, 'Got a space, I'll take it'" tends to be the response when there is such a shortage of providers, Clark-Crews said. "I can't tell you that quality is the first thing they look at."

Clark-Crews points to her own family's experience. She has an 18-year-old granddaughter with 6- and 8-year-old siblings. Their parents are blue-collar workers and their child care is

more expensive than their rent, Clark-Crews said, and that's only for before and after school – it's not full-time child care.

So, the 18-year-old, who has graduated from high school, has deferred going to college so she can watch her younger siblings. Once they are in school full-time, her granddaughter will be able to take college classes in between dropping the younger siblings off and picking them up at school and taking on a part-time job, Clark-Crews said.

"When the recession hit, we had parents who were pulling their kids out of school regularly to stay home and watch their kids ... and pulling their middle- and high school kids out of school early to watch their preschool children," she said.

Many family child care programs had to close due to the loss of income, she said.

It's changed as the economy has improved "but come one, it's 2018 ... where is the support for our kids? Where's the quality care that these kids need to make sure they're ready for school?"

It's not just on the parents, Clark-Crews said, but the community as a whole that needs to be involved in making sure there is quality child care available to all.

"They're our kids," she said.

Meeting the cost

Government assistance is available for those who qualify, based on family size and income. The state this year raised qualifying income levels and now a family of three with a monthly income of \$4,502 or less, for example, can receive government assistance.

Tiffany and Mike Werner of La Quinta both work full-time – he as a general manager for a local Walgreens and she as a contract negotiator for the Air Force – and between them, they earn too much to qualify for assistance.

They pay just under \$10,000 per year for their son, Matthew, 2, to attend Palm Valley Preschool where he has been going full-time since he was 18 months old.

"We're kind of stuck in that zone where we don't make so much money we could afford anything, but we make enough that we don't qualify for any programs" such as reduced rates on utilities, she said.

Both have their bachelor's and master's degrees and student loans they are paying off as well.

"I understand now why there are so many stay-at-home moms," she said.

While she works from home, an agreement with her employer prevents her from keeping one or both kids home with her full-time, because of the distractions they can cause, she said.

"It's stressful. We have really great jobs and we have a good income but having two kids so close in age" makes it difficult financially, she said.

"We try to cut back where we can," she said. "My parents are wonderful, they buy the kids a lot of their clothes, so that helps a lot," she said.



A College of the Desert student finds childcare at the McCarthy Child Development Center.

Palm Springs Desert Sun

RELATED: [How work-from-home moms are getting it all done in the Coachella Valley, and why they're doing it](#)

HEARINGS: [These assembly members want to invest in improving California preschools](#)

To enroll Madison in Palm Valley's infant care program would cost \$13,000 per school-year – \$17,220 year-round – so the Werners decided to hold off on enrolling her until next year, when she reaches toddler age and it will cost what it does to send Matthew.

In the meantime, Madison goes to the home of a family friend who babysits her two and-a-half days a week for \$500 per month.

When Madison starts going to preschool next year, having both kids at Palm Valley will double the cost to \$2,000 per month – about \$400 per month less than their house payment.

It also helps that Palm Valley allows monthly tuition payments, Werner said.

The school is one of a few offering a year-round program, including summer session and holiday breaks, for another \$4,000-plus per child, an option they've declined.

"We found an in-home day care (Just Like Family) ... just down the street in Palm Desert," Werner said, where Matthew goes on holidays and summer breaks.

"That helps. And then my mom ... during the summer can help as well," said Werner, who

grew up in the valley and is a Palm Valley alum. "That was one of the big draws moving here, to be close to family so family could help."

The Werners explored other options for day care/preschool but had a bad experience with an in-home provider when Matthew, at 11 months old, got sick and wound up in the emergency room, she said.

"We looked into having an au pair, but we really didn't want someone living with us and it comes out to be pretty close in cost," she said.



What is being done?

Center for American Progress in 2017 published an article, "[Blueprint for Childcare Reform](#)," by Katie Hamm, vice president for Early Childhood Policy at CAP, and Julie Kashen, policy director at Make It Work campaign, a three-year nationwide grassroots effort to improve workplace issues, including child care availability and cost.

The report outlined a "progressive vision for child care reform" that would guarantee financial assistance up to 7 percent of income on a sliding scale for middle- and low-income families with children 12 years or younger and children with disabilities up to 18

years old.

Since then, two pieces of federal legislation have been introduced in Congress but both remain in limbo.

The Child Care for Working Families Act, HR 3773, was introduced by Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott of Virginia, in September 2017 and is waiting to be heard by the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The bill amends the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act with numerous changes, including capping what low- to moderate-income families pay for child care to no more than 7 percent of their household income.

No hearing date has been set for the bill.

HR 5401, the Child Care Responsible Employers – or Child CARE – Act, authored by Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois, was introduced in March and would require that when contracting out for labor, priority be given to companies with on-site child care for their employees.

Just 11 percent of all civilian workers in the United States receive child care assistance through their employer and of that, 7 percent have access to on- or near-worksites child care, Scott said in the bill's introduction.

"Yet, employers and employees report that on-site child care provides the highest perceived value for both families and businesses of any form of employer-provided assistance," Scott said.

HR 5401 is in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and, like HR 3773, is not likely to see further action during this Congressional year.

In its 2016 report on child care deserts, Center for American Progress found that in California the working moms labor force was 2.9 percentage points lower than in neighborhoods with adequate licensed child care.

NEEDED: [Parents, healthcare providers agree: Pediatric care in the Coachella Valley is lacking. What is the remedy?](#)

CONFIDENCE: [Social media can put our bodies under scrutiny. This new program aims to increase body confidence among youth](#)

SHOTS: [To immunize or not: Vaccines up in California following 2016 law, but so are medical exemptions](#)

"I think it's critical that the state look at how it could continue to increase some type of subsidy to both the businesses and the programs ... to be able to ensure that these children get a good, quality education from the beginning," Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, a Democrat from Coachella, said.

"I think that is done by working with our business community. Making sure that we can tailor programs to their needs and the needs of the working parents. That's fundamentally important," he said, but doing so without adding to the economic burdens of employers.

Given families' circumstances, whether children are enrolled in preschool – which is not mandatory to start kindergarten in California – is dependent on whether the family can

afford it, he said.

"We know how valuable these programs are to low- and very-low-income families, particularly families of color, because ... when these children go into their first year of public education (without preschool) they've already fallen behind way before they've even started," Garcia said.

"So, investing, of course, to these regions and populations is extremely critical," Garcia said.

By 2019, Assemblyman Rendon hopes that his blue-ribbon commission will have some recommendations regarding affordability and access to child care and help shape future policy and funding decisions.



Two-pronged program

College of the Desert's McCarthy Child Development & Training Center serves two functions: Educating future providers and offering hands-on experience for students and child care services to students like Holland.

The center is the lab portion of the early childhood education program at COD – so if taking classes to become a preschool teacher, child care provider or elementary school teacher, the center gives students hands-on training opportunities, said Dianne Russom, director of the school's Childhood Development Center.

Students do about 150 hours of practicum at the center, which also offers some part-time paid positions for student workers and helps with job placement.

The center has space for 89 children, ages 12 months to 5 years – 72 preschoolers and 15 infants/toddlers.

The program gives priority to children of students carrying at least 6 credits. Space permitting, children of faculty, staff and the community can also be enrolled.

Does this program help fill that gap in child care?

"Yes – as much as possible," Russom said.

Two-thirds of parents that qualify for financial aid to pay for the child care have it fully covered, Russom said.

The remaining one-third pay a fee based on income and family size, ranging from \$52 to \$592 per month per family, she said, adding that having more than one child in the family doesn't cost more.

Center hours are currently 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We're considering opening the program until 10 o'clock at night," Russom said. "We have a small program right now, but we're going to enlarge it and see ... how it goes; what the response is and is it serving students? Because the priority for enrollment here is students."

"One of the biggest reasons we have disparity between child care providers and children needing care is that we do not reimburse providers at a rate that is sustainable to run a business."

ASSEMBLYMAN ANTHONY RENDON

Children can be left all day so parents don't have to pick them up when their classes are over, allowing them study time as well.

"So, while they're in school, their child is here, and they can come over and visit and spend time with them, maybe eat lunch or tuck them in for a nap. It's a win-win for them," Russom said.

Parents must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA to keep their children at the center.

"So, it's not a free-for-all," Russom said. "If a parent has a bad semester and she can't maintain her grade-point average, we're going to help her out; get her some tutoring, see what she needs a ... and we'll give them an additional semester" to improve, Russom said.

"If they cannot be successful for two semesters, they run the risk of losing their child care – a huge motivation. Very rarely do we lose people" because their grades are low, she said.

Wellness checks are also part of the care offered.

Nursing students, like Holland, come to the center in

the mornings to do health checks on the kids.

Holland discovered the McCarthy Child Development & Training Center, with its various classrooms and expansive outdoor play area, through CalWORKs – California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids.

"I needed to go back to school to find out what I wanted to do," Holland said.

It allowed her to be a full-time nursing student while her daughter was being cared for in a clean and safe environment, said Holland who also holds one of the center's paid part-time positions.

"Coming here, I feel like she's been in baby Harvard. She's learned so much," Holland said. "My baby has grown up here."

Desert Sun reporter Sherry Barkas covers Tourism and Families. She can be reached at sherry.barkas@thedesertsun.com or (760) 778-4694. Follow her on Twitter @TDSSherryBarkas



Natalie Holland plays with her daughter Harlow, age 4, at the McCarthy Child Development Center at College of the Desert, August 29, 2018.

(Photo: Zoe Meyers/The Desert Sun)

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Instant Runoff Voting in Charter Counties and Charter Cities

“Instant Runoff Voting,” also known as “Ranked Voting,” is an election method in which a single election determines the candidate supported by the voters, eliminating the need for separate run-off elections. As defined in these guidelines, it is a method in which voters rank candidates for office in order of preference and ballots are counted in rounds that simulate a series of runoffs until either a single candidate among several attains a majority of votes or only two candidates remain and the one with the greatest number of votes is declared winner.

These guidelines are offered as a model that local jurisdictions may adopt, in whole or in part. They are not regulations and do not have the force of law. At present only charter cities and counties, by virtue of a charter provision approved by the voters, may adopt this method of voting.

These guidelines address only single-seat or single-winner contests. Ranked Voting may also be employed in elections to fill multiple positions. However, these guidelines are not intended to address multiple-seat elections.

Article 1. General Provisions

1. Definitions.

For purposes of these guidelines, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) “Choice” means an indication on a ballot of a voter’s ranking of candidates for any single office.
- (b) “Continuing ballot” means a ballot that counts towards a continuing candidate.
- (c) “Continuing candidate” means a qualified candidate that has not been eliminated.
- (d) “Exhausted ballot” means a ballot on which all of a particular voter’s choices for an office have been eliminated or there are no more valid choices for that office indicated on that voter’s ballot.
- (e) “First choice” means the highest ranked candidate on a ballot in the first round of counting, after properly accounting for skipped rankings.
- (f) “Highest ranking” and “highest continuing ranking” mean the ranking with the lowest numerical value for a continuing candidate.
- (g) “Instant runoff voting” means an election method for a single-winner race in which voters rank the candidates for office in order of preference, and the ballots are counted in rounds that, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the first round, simulate a series of runoffs until either one of several candidates receives a majority of

the votes cast, or only two candidates remain, with the one having the greater number of votes being declared the winner.

(h) "Last place candidate" means a candidate who has received the fewest votes among the candidates who remain at the end of any round of counting.

(i) "Majority of votes" means more than 50 percent of the votes coming from continuing ballots.

(j) "Overvote" means a single rank (first, second, third, etc.) in which selection of more than one candidate is indicated on the ballot.

(k) "Qualified candidate" means any candidate listed on the ballot for this election or any write-in candidate qualified for participation in this election.

(l) "Ranking" means the number assigned to a candidate by the voter to express his or her preference for that candidate, with the highest ranking being the one with the lowest numerical value for a qualified candidate, i.e., a first choice ranking (1) indicates a greater preference for a candidate than a second choice ranking (2).

(m) "Round of counting" or "round" means a step in the counting process during which votes for all continuing candidates are tabulated for the purpose of determining whether a candidate has achieved a majority of the votes cast for a particular office, and, absent a majority, which candidate or candidates must be eliminated and which will continue to the next round.

(n) "Second choice" means the highest ranked continuing candidate on a ballot after that ballot's first choice has been eliminated, after properly accounting for skipped rankings.

(o) "Single-winner race" means a contest in which one candidate is to be elected to a single office.

(p) "Skipped ranking" means a ranking that has been left blank or in which the name of an unqualified candidate has been written in.

(q) "Undervote" means a ballot with no rankings for any qualified candidates. An undervote is not the same as an exhausted ballot, as an exhausted ballot contained in at least one earlier round a ranking of a qualified candidate.

(r) "Vote" means a ballot choice that is counted toward the election of a qualified candidate. During each round of counting, each continuing ballot contains one vote. All first choices are votes and lower ranked choices are potential votes that may, in accordance with the requirements of these guidelines, be credited to, and become votes for a continuing candidate.

2. Applicability of Guidelines.

(a) These guidelines apply only to a charter city, charter county or charter city and county that, in accordance with its charter, conducts single-winner races using instant runoff voting. For charter cities that request a county elections official to conduct the city's municipal elections, an elected county elections official, or in the case of counties with an appointed elections official, the county board of supervisors, must first approve the use of instant runoff voting.

(b) A charter city, charter county or charter city and county may not conduct a local election using instant runoff voting unless that election is conducted on a voting system that is capable of conducting the election using instant runoff voting and has been

approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Division 19 of the California Elections Code, or by another procedure that has been approved by the Secretary of State.

(c) Any city or county using instant runoff voting shall conduct a voter education and outreach campaign to familiarize voters with instant runoff voting in English and in every language in which a ballot is required to be made available pursuant to the Elections Code and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973aa-1).

3. Instant Runoff Voting Ballot.

(a) The instant runoff voting ballot shall allow voters to rank as many choices as there are candidates. In the event that the voting system adopted by the county or city cannot accommodate a number of rankings on the ballot equal to the number of candidates, the elections official may limit the number of choices a voter may rank to the maximum number allowed by the equipment. This limit shall not be less than three.

(b) The ballot shall permit a voter to rank a qualified write-in candidate for each of the possible ranks (first, second, third, etc.). A mark for an unqualified write-in candidate shall not be considered a mark for a candidate.

4. Ballot Instructions.

Instructions provided to voters shall be substantially as follows, but may be modified based on ballot design and voting equipment used:

“Vote by ranking candidates in your order of choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose. Select a different candidate for each ranking (first, second, third, etc.). Do not give more than one candidate the same ranking. Ranking lower choice candidates will not hurt your higher ranked candidates. Do not skip rankings. When a skipped ranking is encountered on a ballot during a round of counting, the vote for the qualified candidate selected in the next non-skipped ranking on the ballot will be counted immediately in that the current round.”

Sample ballots illustrating voting procedures shall be posted in or near the voting booth and shall be included in the instruction packet of vote by mail ballots.

Article 2. Vote Counting Procedures: Instant Runoff Voting Elections

5. Counting Procedures.

In instant runoff elections, votes shall be counted in the following manner.

(a) In the first round of counting, elections officials shall count the first choices marked on each ballot. If after the first or any succeeding round, there are only two candidates remaining, the candidate with the larger total is the winner. If there are more than two candidates, counting shall continue to the next round.

(b) In the second round of counting, the candidate with the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated and every ballot counting toward the eliminated candidate shall be counted for the next highest continuing candidate on that ballot. If there is a tie between

two candidates with the smallest number of votes, the tie shall be resolved by lot. If more than two candidates remain after the second round of counting, new rounds of counting shall be repeated until there are only two candidates remaining.

(c) In any round of counting, if the total number of votes of two or more candidates credited with the lowest number of votes is less than the number of votes credited to the candidate with the next highest number of votes, those candidates with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated simultaneously and those ballots shall each be counted for the next-ranked continuing candidate on each ballot in a single counting operation.

(d) If there are only two candidates remaining, and those two candidates have the same number of votes from the continuing ballots, the tie shall be resolved by lot in accordance with Elections Code section 15651.

(e) In any round of counting, skipped rankings shall be accounted for pursuant to section 6(a), below.

(f) In the event the voting system cannot continue the count until only two candidates remain, the system may terminate the count whenever a candidate receives a majority of the votes from continuing ballots, at which point that candidate shall be declared the winner.

6. Undervotes, Skipped Rankings, Overvotes, and Exhausted Ballots.

(a) In the first or any round, in the event that any ballot reaches a rank with a skipped ranking (no qualified candidate indicated), the vote for the qualified candidate selected in the next non-skipped rank on the ballot shall be counted immediately in that round.

(b) In the first or any round, in the event that any ballot reaches an overvote, that ballot shall not count as a vote for any candidate in that round or in subsequent rounds.

(c) After each round, any exhausted or overvoted ballots shall be eliminated from any subsequent rounds of counting.

Article 3. Post-election Procedures

7. Canvass.

An instant runoff voting election shall be canvassed in substantially the manner provided by law for a regular election for the office.

8. Reporting Results.

All of the following reports shall be made available after each instant runoff voting election:

(a) The "summary report" for a race means a report that lists the candidate vote totals in each round, along with the cumulative numbers of undervotes, overvotes, and exhausted ballots in each round.

(b) The "ballot report" for a race means a report that lists, for each ballot, the candidate or candidates indicated at each ranking, the precinct of the ballot, and whether the ballot

was cast by mail. In the report, the ballots shall be listed in an order that does not permit the order in which they were cast in each precinct to be reconstructed.

(c) The “comprehensive report” for a race means a report that provides the information contained in the summary report by precinct. The report shall list, for each round, the number of ballots cast in each precinct that count as votes for each candidate in that round, that have been declared overvotes up to that point, that have been declared undervotes up to that point, and that have been declared exhausted up to that point.

(d) Preliminary versions of the summary report and ballot report shall be made available as soon as possible after the commencement of the official canvass of the vote in accordance with California Elections Code Section 15301 and prior to the 1 percent manual tally conducted pursuant to California Elections Code Section 15360.

(e) The final version of each report described in this section shall be made available by the closing of the official canvass as described in California Elections Code section 15301, and shall be included in the statement of the results described in California Elections Code section 15372.

(f) The summary report, ballot report, comprehensive report, and preliminary versions of the summary report and ballot report shall be made available to the public via the Internet and by other means. The ballot report and preliminary versions of the ballot report shall be made available in a plain text electronic format.

9. Determination of Elected Candidates.

In accordance with California Elections Code section 15450 and the county or city charter of a county, city or city and county that conducts single-winner races using instant runoff voting, the winner of each single-member race subject to instant runoff voting as determined in Article 2 of these guidelines shall constitute the elected candidate for that race.

10. One-Percent Manual Tally.

In each selected precinct, the manual one-percent tally shall be conducted as a stand-alone instant runoff voting election for that precinct, as follows.

(a) The elections official shall follow the ballot-counting procedures described in California Elections Code sections 15320 and 15321 with the following differences:

(1) After each round of manual counting of the randomly selected 1% of precincts, the number of votes counted towards each candidate, the number of exhausted ballots, the number of overvotes, and the number of undervotes shall be verified by comparison to the comprehensive report.

(2) After each round, the candidates to be eliminated shall be determined by the candidate totals in the comprehensive report for the entire election, rather than the totals for each precinct.

(b) The one-percent manual tally shall follow the procedures set forth in the California Elections Code and/or any regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

**City of Palm Springs
Transition to District-Based Elections**

EXHIBIT K

Community Comments

Matt Robinson, 04/19/2018, via Email

Greetings

I hope you do not choose or be forced into Council Districts. I do not believe our minorities will be better represented. One example would be Highland-Gateway, a neighborhood primarily of black residents, it's likely it's district would include Mountain Gate, Miralon and Palermo gated communities. Suddenly the minority neighborhood is a small dot in a much wealthier district. Same holds true for the Crosley Tract.

The city has better addressed representation thru creating and funding the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. This has allowed smaller "districts" to be heard. I have long thought the 2nd and 4th Wednesday study sessions should return. Perhaps every other month one study session should be a report from each neighborhood group to the council. This would allow a small district to talk directly to the full council.

As to empowering minorities, the Council should address the criteria they use to appoint commissioners to major commissions. Commissions are a stepping stone to name recognition and winning a council seat. Does every member of the Planning Commission need a professional background into design, city planning etc? Could a long time resident with a understanding of ordinances and has a vision for their city also be considered qualified as well? This commission alone brought us both JR Roberts and Lisa Middleton. Few everyday residents have access to that recognition.

Currently you have a Council Member who has put in writing to a resident to never email them at their official city council email address. The City Council, City Manager and City Attorney all know this fact and chose to let his refusal to represent all residents stand. I ask you how could this Council Member be trusted to be the representative of a district if he will not represent all the people of his district? Does that mean some residents have no voice at City Hall?

Money in Council/Mayoral campaign spending and the money in their campaigns is a huge issue. Look at the money that was in the last Mayoral race. It is crazy to think a quarter million dollars should be spent on a seat in Palm Springs. In the social media age, creativity can prevail. A minority resident likely does not have access to a single person that will donate one hundred thousand dollars to their campaign. The money restricts some from City Hall.

I fully support a rotating mayor annually. I have been a resident and property owner in Palm Springs for 29 years, I have witnessed many a BIG EGO and POWER effect our city. Rotating the mayoral seat reminds them they are not a strong mayor and the day to day operation of our city is done by a City Manager.

Sincerely

Matt Robinson

Don Barrett, 07/10/2018, via Email

City Clerk's office:

I was at the presentation on district elections at the Convention Center on Monday and wanted to add something about the importance of housing composition as one of the criteria I would see as a measure of 'communities of interest', but couldn't come up with a way to formulate what I was thinking.

I live at Ramon Mobile Home Park in Warm Sands neighborhood and I see there being value in a district which includes areas of similar low or lower-cost housing. For example, Warm Sands has quite a bit of low to moderate budget housing: apartments, small homes (west of Camino Real), homes that have been converted into duplexes or had small second homes added in the back yard, a condo complex of small units (Ramona Villa), and our mobile home park -- with a comparatively small proportion of larger and more expensive homes. I would thus see our neighborhood as having a fair amount in common with neighborhoods like Baristo or Demuth park where there are also significant proportions of similar housing. The problem is how to define a measure that captures the commonality. One common characteristic is having a high proportion who are comparatively low on income (versus, e.g., The Movie Colony), but I'd prefer there to be some sort of measure that is more specifically related to housing composition. Using percent renters within a census block might capture that somewhat, but that doesn't capture those of us in this park who own our homes but rent our spaces, and doesn't capture the owners of the older, smaller, condos such as Ramona Villa.

After leaving the meeting tonight I realized there might be one measure (if available) that might capture economic differences in housing composition that would not be contaminated by such ownership issues as I mentioned above -- density per block. Since we're not a city with high rises, a density measure wouldn't be contaminated by condo towers. If such a measure exists in the available data, it would be interesting to see it overlaid on a city map.

By the way, I'm a retired sociologist/statistician. I'm fairly heavily involved with ONE-PS, but could work with the committee that you mentioned.

Don Barrett

Anonymous, 08/29/2018, via Online Form

Low Income housing and the poor are spread across the Palm Springs. Couldn't you do "virtual" districts where the districts are broken down by income level instead? Thanks.

Thom Bettinger, 09/08/2018, via Email

Greetings—I'm sure others have mentioned this as well, but given the cultural and historical significance of Section 14, I feel strongly that area should not be split up in any redistricting.

Specifically, Section 14 encompasses the area bounded by Indian Canyon Dr on the west, Sunrise on the east, Alejo Rd on the north, and Tahquitz Canyon on the south (this is essentially the Midtown and Baristo neighborhoods).

Thank you.

Respectfully, Thom Bettinger

Paula Auburn, 09/13/2018, via Letter

I have attended the public meetings and the computer workshop plus made several attempts at map drawing both on the web site and with paper pencil. It is a daunting task.

My number one goal is keeping the Neighborhood Organizations (NOrgs) intact.

These have come to fruition via a spontaneous and voluntary endeavor on the part of the neighborhood residents. They by their very nature define a "community of interest." My involvement predates the ONI ordinance as does our Sunrise-Vista Chino Neighborhood Coalition. I am a founding member of our Neighborhood Coalition (2001 - 2002) and one of the past Chairs.

Ours is a broad constituency of three HOAs of modest means, the Desert AIDS Project and Vista Sunrise, the low income apartments behind DAP. The new proposed DAP low income housing will also be members of our Neighborhood Coalition.

Should our Sunrise-Vista Chino Neighborhood Coalition be separated into two separate districts it would be a hardship. The Coalition currently has a subcommittee jointly made up of Coalition residents and DAP staff which is working in partnership with DAP on their expansion plans. Our Coalition reviews proposed neighborhood developments, and appears at Planning Commission hearings. We are active in other ways as citizens and volunteers of Palm Springs.

I focus on our own NOrg as a specific example of the negative effects of separation not out of egotism. We are not the only NOrg to be actively involved and to feel a sense of cohesion. Should this sense be diluted the entire city suffers; a city is only as strong as its neighborhoods.

The choice between the 4-district and the 5-district model has found me wavering on both sides of the question. After due consideration I am opting for the 5-district model, as the 4-district model gives one district, in effect, two representatives with a council seat and the mayoral seat.

David Freedman has submitted two district maps for consideration. I strongly urge the Council adopt his 5-district map. If you have any knowledge of David or have worked with him you realize his attention to details and his sincere desire to finding a "truth" In everything he does. He is the epitome of a selfless person pursuing an end he feels is right for all. I write this even though he and I have had disagreements!

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and for the time and effort you have put into ensuring there is public input into this process.

Sincerely, Paula Auburn

Mark Marshall, 09/17/2018 via Online Comment Form

In reviewing the map options, I was disappointed there was no overlay for PS-One neighborhoods. That said, without proper information, I believe the best options are: #1 - Smoke Tree; #2 - Ironwood

Michelle Castillo, Judecie Juan, Edwin Ramoran, and Jennyliza Ramoran, 09/18/2018, via Online Comment Form

Outreach for Districting Process:

- Inaccessible and not enough lead time to create lasting relationships for communities of color that are being affected in the process. Bottom line, accessible outreach to communities of color was done really late.
- More awareness is needed to address historic white supremacy, discrimination and racism used by City Hall and the white majority to control, erase and exclude communities of color, in addition to voter suppression, in Palm Springs: neighborhood displacement, family separation, and lack of robust and sensitive civic engagement between the City agencies and communities of color.
- Outreach efforts by the city were minimal. Some residents did not receive the flyer that was sent out. There should have been follow up such as canvassing and cultural sensitivity training in order to understand how to better outreach people of varying cultures.
- Would be great to see more council members beyond Christy Holstege and Lisa Middleton attending this event.

Multiple Ways to look at communities of interest vs. traditional mapping:

- Mapping through plants and gardens of the neighborhoods that are up for districting.
- Co-organizers did canvassing based on the visible Moringa Trees growing out of the yards of residents in the Veterans tract area. Suggestions to recognize other plants such as Alukon, Amaranth, Bitter Melon, Egg Plants, Jute, and Damortis (Guamachile) to identify Filipino households.
- At our Fil-Am Community outreach 'Bayanihan' our community garden swap consisted of Kalamansi, Guava, Moringa, and Sugar Cane that all grew in the backyards of the Veteran's Tract neighborhood that is up for districting. The fruits and vegetables alone told the many stories of who has lived and still lives in the neighborhood- as in there is a large Filipino population in the neighborhood.
- Long-standing organizations were represented and should be on City Hall's priority list for outreach efforts: Fil-Am Association of the Coachella Valley, National Association of Filipino Americans, religious organizations including Santo Niño associations and other Catholic organizations, Palm Springs Fil-Am Seventh Day Adventist Church, Iglesia Ni Cristo, sports teams including basketball teams/clubs.

Daniel P. Barber, 09/19/2018, via Online Comment Form

Please try and keep neighborhoods whole in the re-districting efforts. It is crucial that the existing 45 recognized neighborhoods of Palm Springs stay intact moving forward for neighborhood and district issues.

**Community Engagement Forum
Palm Springs Convention Center
Monday, July 9, 2018**

Thomas Allen Worthy, resident, requested clarification regarding district representation and voiced concerns regarding the possibility that district interests will outweighing focus on crime rates citywide.

A resident from Sunrise Park requested more information regarding demographics and samples of other cities' maps. He requested that a heat map be developed reflecting renter demographics. City Clerk Mejia responded.

A resident requested more information regarding the configuration of demographics and whether they incorporate the City's homeless population. City Clerk Mejia and Councilmembers Middleton and Kors responded.

Michelle Moran inquired about the City's efforts to mitigate personal interests of incumbent Councilmembers during the districting process. Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jan Seamen, Cathedral Canyon Country Club, expressed concern about areas of vacant homes caused by seasonal residents and questioned whether the districting process would account for the areas.

Frank Tyson commented on the minimal coverage by the local newspapers and suggested the City purchase large ads in the future. He spoke in favor of creating seven districts, in opposition of a rotating mayor because of the time commitment associated with the position; and suggested creating multiple districts that touch the downtown core. Councilmember Kors and Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jocelyn Cain inquired about how the tribal and industrial areas will factor into the formation of districts. City Clerk Mejia and Councilmember Middleton responded.

Jerry Cruz, Sunrise Vista Chino Neighborhood Coalition, requested more information about how the population of the Desert Aids Project is accounted for and whether the shopping center across from it would be considered a community of interest. He would like information regarding the impact of planned future development would have on the districting process.

David Austin appreciates the idea of keeping existing neighborhoods intact. He would prefer to have an at-large Mayor and five districts with multiple districts touching the downtown area.

David Brodette explained that a Councilmember representing a district would be challenged to serve the interest of the City as a whole and recommended that an at-large Mayor continue to represent the City and to establish a five member City Council elected by-district.

Paul Hurtser suggested City representatives create a dialogue with OnePS to discuss new and expanding communities.

Les Young commented that it would be difficult to create multiple districts that would touch the downtown area. He suggested that each district should contain significant landmarks to ensure that the districts are equally balanced.

Robert Heimblaugh requested more information about how the districting process will correlate with the potential transition from odd year to even year elections.

Bruce Hoban, Sunrise Park, inquired about Federal laws and traditional districting requirements. He would like to see demographics and fair representation of same sex households across all districts. Councilmember Kors responded.

Joy Meredith Brown, resident and business owner, expressed interest in age and gender demographics. She also expressed optimism that district-based elections will improve the affordability of running for office.

Joseph Schroeder noted that he is a resident of the City of Palm Springs and expressed concern that district-based elections will diminish his ability to affect change in areas outside of this new district.

Kathy Weremuik suggested residents consider environmental factors such as wind and flooding when mapping out districts.

Tim O'Bailey stated Indian Canyon and Chino Cone are part of his community of interest. He voiced concerns regarding the exclusion of landmarks or areas directly outside of City limits, which are important to communities but not included in the formation of districts.

Jeffrey Bernstein inquired about the process involved with making Councilmembers full-time positions and questioned whether Councilmembers would be responsible for issues even if outside their own district, such as cannabis issues, airport issues, etc.

Community Engagement Forum
James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center
Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Darryl Baum spoke in favor of keeping existing neighborhoods together and suggested dividing the business districts strategically.

Joy Meredith Brown, resident and business owner, encouraged members of the public to provide as much detail as possible when discussing communities of interest.

William Smith suggested including representation for the LGBTQ Community and stated interest in seeing demographics on same sex households.

A resident requested clarification on the position of a rotating mayor. City Clerk Mejia responded.

Tobias Wolff, CVRA Working Group Member, provided an explanation of mayoral power as a member of the City Council and as a managerial role in the governmental process.

Shawna expressed concerns over the use of certain language in the City's presentation. She stated the word "only" implies segregation versus inclusiveness and suggested editing the document.

A resident inquired about the phasing of the districting process and requested information regarding outreach to seniors and residents without computer access. Councilmember Middleton and City Clerk Mejia responded.

A resident encouraged the City to ensure that persons without computer access can remain engaged and informed about the districting process. She spoke on the importance of recognizing that minorities live throughout the community.

A resident voiced concern that he does not have enough information to identify his community of interest, noting that he is unsure whether it is more appropriate to be linked with similar communities or communities reflecting different demographics.

Monique Smith, Desert Highland Community Center, stated she would like to see the existing community kept together and expressed that she feels the community is being forced to self-segregate. She is concerned that neighborhoods with more influence will outweigh the opinions of minority neighborhoods.

Olah Roberts urged the City to facilitate another Community Engagement Forum in the Desert Highland Community to allow residents ample time to process the amount of information they have received, and form educated feedback.

Alexis Soto, CVRA Working Group Member, responded to comments and offered to meet with residents who could benefit from a more personal and in-depth explanation.

Steve Moses, CVRA Working Group Member, acknowledged concerns and reiterated the strength and value of individual voices in district elections. He offered to participate in another Community Engagement Forum.

Tobias Wolff, CVRA Working Group Member, encouraged members of the community to engage and offered to participate in further communication.

Wayne Gilchrist inquired about the phasing of the districting process and requested an explanation as to why communities were not given more time to process the information. Councilmember Kors responded.

Pastor Croon inquired about district influence on the Desert Highland Community's stigma and the potential of businesses expanding to the North end of town.

Kim Humphries inquired about the local tribe's influence on the formation of districts.

Joy Meredith Brown spoke in favor of districts reducing the financial barriers of campaigning.

Ernie Strobin inquired about mitigation of and protection against gerrymandering. City Clerk Mejia responded.

Sid Craig encouraged residents to be more involved with the City's Boards and Commissions.

Deiter Crawford voiced concerns regarding the scheduled meeting times excluding working class residents. He also requested information regarding outreach efforts geared toward the Latino community, stating African Americans may have several interests in common with Latinos. He spoke in favor of a district that includes African Americans and Latinos.

Tizoc DeAzatlan, Diversity Consultant, provided information regarding the City's outreach to the Latino Community.

**Community Engagement Forum
Demuth Park Community Center
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

Kyle H. is concerned that districts will be imbalanced due to seasonal population variances, varied economic statuses, lack of participation by minorities, and overwhelming influence of wealthy groups in the community.

An unidentified member of the public spoke in favor of four districts and an at-large mayor rather than five districts and a rotating mayor. He stated the probability and necessity of placing individual district interests over the interest of a City as a whole, noting the Mayor's ability to serve as a moderator.

Kathy Weremuik stated the City has a weak mayoral system wherein the City Manager runs the City and the Mayor operates as a spokesperson.

A resident spoke in favor of five districts with a rotating mayor and that districts should be based on major streets and landmarks.

Kevin Johnson questioned the necessity of a mayor and requested information regarding the legal requirements of the position. He proposed a five member City Council with no mayor and encouraged the public to consider a variety of governmental structures.

Rich F. voiced concerns regarding lack of involvement from minorities in the community and encouraged the City Council to be aware of the implications of a "token" Councilmember.

Phyllis requested clarification of racially polarized voting. She stated she is concerned that the City is capitulating due to a threat of litigation from an outside attorney.

Ron Hanson inquired about the California Voters Rights Act and whether the City of Palm Springs is an official Sanctuary City.

Grace Gardener shared her experience with segregation in local schools. She expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate representation of minorities, and urged residents to make a greater effort to welcome and involve minority groups in their communities. She spoke in favor of five districts, suggesting areas near Victoria Park, South Palm Springs near the wash, Las Compadres near the golf courses, neighborhoods along the mountain, and neighborhoods close to the airport as communities of interest.

Tizoc DeAztlan shared information regarding the City's outreach efforts in the Latino community.

A resident spoke in favor of five districts and suggested the City take precautions against creating orphan streets.

A resident acknowledged the fear and negativity communicated by members of the public and stated that he is excited about participating in the districting process. He suggested implementing satellite offices within districts to help residents feel more comfortable participating and interacting with their representatives.

Ray shared information regarding sociological issues and random survey sampling procedures.

Katherine Finchy Elementary School
Spanish-Speaking Community Engagement Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

John Paul Torres

“North Palm Springs/Demuth Park Area – Could use support in teaching the young children English. Maybe an English class for parents and children can help the transition to an English dominate society.”

Nelva Segura

“The communities higher in North Palm Springs have higher Latino populations. The area around Demuth Park is also full of families and representation is needed there.

Leticia Rodriguez

“Parents in the Golden Sands Drive area, Upper West Side, and Gene Autry area all have children in the same schools and we meet regularly to discuss our shared concerns.”

Gabriela B.

“We need lighting in the parks.
Solve the problems regarding homeless in the community.
Clean the streets in Downtown Palm Springs to get rid of urine smell.”

Veronica Sandoval

“Safer schools during arrival and dismissal.
Monitor crosswalks with policemen or authorized persons due to rapidly moving traffic.”

Laura Luna

“I would like a legislation enforcing hygiene standards for non-compliant neighbors.”

Martha Martinez

“I would like a park and transportation for Windy Point.”

Delia Yolanda Virgen Vazquez

“I would like police to patrol my neighborhood more often at night time.
I would like a legislation requiring workshops on tenant rights in every apartment building.
In the area around Sunrise Way and Coyote Run, there are some bushes that obstruct visibility (dangerous while driving or turning).
I would like for school buses to arrive/reach (incomplete)”

Juana Cuamani

“Would it be possible to have a representative where we live? It would be very important for our community and safer for our school district. Thank you for helping us. Let’s hope we can have a representative in this area, it would be great for the future of our new generation, for our boys and girls. Thank you.”

Nestor Cuamani

“There are many children around the area of North Sunrise Way. We would like to know if we can have a person representing this area. On the North side the population is expanding. We had never heard of this benefit for our new generation and the person representing this area should commit to and support the children and inform them.”

Neli Mendoza

“I would like a representative appointed to improve my area.”

**CVRA Filipino-American Community Engagement Meeting – “Bayanihan”
Saturday, September 8, 2018**

Cynthia Butac-Arnold

“We just want to have more representatives for the community and to have a voice for the immigrants of Palm Springs. We love the desert and want to see it improve with diversity in redistricting. The map is too vague, I would have to go do more research online.”

Esther Juan & AJ

“More lights between Parocela & Ramon.”

P. Evelyn Ramoran

“I would like to have a new name of the main street towards “Demuth Park” like Paseo Dorotea to Manila Way Rd.”

Oscar & Nene Rodas

It is a good idea to divide the community into districts, as it is easy to focus on the issues of the districts. I like the NDC Ocotillo map.”

Norm King, 09/19/2018, via Letter

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Members of the City Council, Mr. Edward Kotkin, Mr. Anthony ~~Migando~~ and David Ready:

Thanks you for taking the time to read my attached statement. I will unfortunately be out of town for first two public hearing you will be having in October in regard to creating districts.

I would ask that the attached remarks be entered into the record.

I appreciate the effort all of you are making to provide open discussions during this difficult process.



Norm King
2482 Toledo Ave
Palm Springs
909 520 1083

**Don't Let the City Council Use District Elections as an Illegal Excuse to Overturn
the Voter-Approved Directly-Elected Mayor
Norm King**

The Palm Springs City Council should not overturn the voter-approved directly-elected mayor as we move from an at-large to a district city under the pretense that state law requires doing so.

I have argued previously in the *Desert Sun* (April 2018) that it is more important to retain a directly-elected mayor in a district city than in an at-large city because a directly-elected mayor moderates the downsides of ward politics: voter disenfranchisement is reduced as voters can vote for two candidates rather than one each four years; there will still be one elected official responsible to the entire electorate; the mayor will be a counterweight to the inevitable tendency for district council members to create fiefdoms and vote-trading, "You support what I want in my district and I will support what you want in your district."

These are important and real issues. But the primary reason to retain the voter approved directly-elected mayor (with four districts) is that this is the only alternative which complies with both the California Voting Reform Act and upholds the city charter. The City Council cannot legally use the transition districts as a reason to overturn what the voters approved in the early 1980's. If the Council does not want a directly-elected mayor submit the issue to the voters.

The city attorney has written that a four district/directly-elected mayor option has "a reasonable likelihood of being confirmed via validation ..." There is also precedent. Rancho Cucamonga, like Palm Springs, had a voter-approved directly-elected mayor and received a non-compliance letter from the same law firm as did Palm Springs. With the law firm's concurrence Rancho Cucamonga became a four district city and retained their directly-elected mayor.

As documented in the various district scenarios provided by the city's consultant it is beyond credulity to argue that there are significant differences in regard to maximizing Hispanic population and voters among these scenarios. This means the Council does not have the authority to eliminate the directly-elected mayor by establishing five districts instead of four.

Of all of the consultant's maps District 1 has the largest Hispanic population. Hispanic population in District 1 ranges from 43% to 49% in seven of the eight the maps. These percentages and their insignificant differences are further diluted by

analyzing the consultant's data which describe District 1's Hispanic and non-Hispanic white voting age population, voting registration and voter turnout.

The Agave map has the highest percentage of Hispanic population (49%) of any District 1 scenarios. However, District 1 would produce only 350 Hispanics voters compared to over 1300 non-Hispanic white voters based on present rates of voter registration and turnout. All District 1 scenarios show that the number of non-Hispanic white voters will outnumber Hispanics by at least a four to one ratio.

I have been told by several city officials, elected and not, that they could not support five districts unless there were significant differences in maximizing Hispanic influence. The differences between the "best" of the four and five district scenarios are not significant. Without a finding of significant differences it would be illegal for the Council to eliminate the directly-elected mayor by establishing five districts.

The transition to a district city should not be used as an illegal way for the council to impose their preference for a non-directly-elected mayor (should that be their preference) by creating five districts.

Norm King is a former city manager of Palm Springs when the voters approved a directly-elected mayor and a former city manager of the City of Moreno Valley when that city had five districts and no directly-elected mayor.

Senate Bill No. 415

EXHIBIT L

CHAPTER 235

An act to add Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 14050) to Division 14 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 1, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State September 1, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 415, Hueso. Voter participation.

Existing law generally requires all state, county, municipal, district, and school district elections be held on an established election date. Existing law also establishes certain dates for statewide elections. Existing law requires any state, county, municipal, district, and school district election held on a statewide election date to be consolidated with a statewide election, except as provided.

This bill, commencing January 1, 2018, would prohibit a political subdivision, as defined, from holding an election other than on a statewide election date if holding an election on a nonconcurrent date has previously resulted in voter turnout for a regularly scheduled election in that political subdivision being at least 25% less than the average voter turnout within the political subdivision for the previous 4 statewide general elections, except as specified.

This bill would require a court to implement appropriate remedies upon a violation of this prohibition. The bill would authorize a voter who resides in a political subdivision where a violation is alleged to file an action in superior court to enforce this prohibition, and it would allow a prevailing plaintiff other than the state or political subdivision to collect a reasonable attorney's fee and litigation expenses, as provided.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 14050) is added to Division 14 of the Elections Code, to read:

CHAPTER 1.7. VOTER PARTICIPATION

14050. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the California Voter Participation Rights Act.

14051. As used in this chapter:

(a) "Political subdivision" means a geographic area of representation created for the provision of government services, including, but not limited

to, a city, a school district, a community college district, or other district organized pursuant to state law.

(b) “Significant decrease in voter turnout” means the voter turnout for a regularly scheduled election in a political subdivision is at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within that political subdivision for the previous four statewide general elections.

(c) “Voter turnout” means the percentage of voters who are eligible to cast ballots within a given political subdivision who voted.

14052. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a political subdivision shall not hold an election other than on a statewide election date if holding an election on a nonconcurrent date has previously resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout.

(b) A political subdivision may hold an election other than on a statewide election date if, by January 1, 2018, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate a future election with a statewide election not later than the November 8, 2022, statewide general election.

14053. Upon a finding of a violation of subdivision (a) of Section 14052, the court shall implement appropriate remedies, including the imposition of concurrent election dates for future elections and the upgrade of voting equipment or systems to do so. In imposing remedies pursuant to this section, a court may also require a county board of supervisors to approve consolidation pursuant to Section 10402.5.

14054. In an action to enforce subdivision (a) of Section 14052, the court shall allow the prevailing plaintiff other than the state or political subdivision of the state, a reasonable attorney’s fee consistent with the standards established in *Serrano v. Priest* (1977) 20 Cal.3d 25, 48-49, and litigation expenses including, but not limited to, expert witness fees and expenses as part of the costs. A prevailing defendant shall not recover any costs, unless the court finds the action to be frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation.

14055. A voter who resides in a political subdivision where a violation of subdivision (a) of Section 14052 is alleged may file an action pursuant to that section in the superior court of the county in which the political subdivision is located.

14056. This chapter does not apply to special elections.

14057. This chapter shall become operative on January 1, 2018.