



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 27, 2018 STUDY SESSION

SUBJECT: STUDY SESSION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP RELATED TO THE CITY'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, ELECTION METHOD, ELECTION YEAR, SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS, DIVERSIFICATION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: Office of the City Clerk

SUMMARY

The City Council established the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) Community Working Group (CVRA Working Group) to independently develop and present recommendations related to the City's governance structure and other election related matters. The CVRA Working Group has submitted its written report (Attachment 1) and will present its recommendations at the City Council Study Session on September 27, 2018. On October 4, 2018, the City Council has scheduled a Special Meeting to deliberate and make decisions related to the CVRA Working Group's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive and file the recommendations of the CVRA Community Working Group.
2. Receive public comment regarding the recommendations of the CVRA Community Working Group.

BACKGROUND:

On April 19, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 24406 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections. The City Council *Ad Hoc* Subcommittee on the California Voting Rights Act (Kors/Middleton) established a Community Working Group to independently develop and present recommendations related to the City's governance structure, number of districts, and draft district maps. The current CVRA Working Group members are:

- Aftab Dada
- Grace Garner
- Dixie Miller
- Stephen Moses
- Alexis Ortega
- Kathy Weremiuk
- Tobias Wolff

On May 10, 2018, the CVRA Working Group developed the below listed Statement of Principles to provide guidance related to the transitioning to district elections, which the City Council subsequently adopted on May 16, 2018.

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.

In addition to meeting on a weekly basis, the CVRA Working Group has attended, participated in, and/or coordinated the following Community Engagement Events:

Date/2018	Location	Meeting Type
June 20	City Council Chamber	Public Hearing
July 9	Convention Center	Community Engagement Forum
July 10	James O. Jessie Unity Center	Community Engagement Forum
July 11	City Council Chamber	Public Hearing
July 12	City Yard	One-PS Community Engagement Event
July 12	Demuth Community Center	Community Engagement Forum
Aug. 28	James O. Jessie Unity Center	Map Drawing Workshop
Aug. 29	Convention Center	Map Drawing Workshop
Sept. 4	Main Street Meeting	Business Community Engagement Event
Sept. 4	Katherine Finchy Elementary	Spanish Language Community Engagement Event
Sept. 5	Chamber of Commerce Mixer	Business Community Engagement Event
Sept. 8	Four Seasons	Community Engagement Event
Sept. 8	Demuth Community Center	Filipino-American Community Engagement Event
Sept. 11	James O. Jessie Unity Center	Map Drawing Workshop

Proposed Maps

The City's demographer, National Demographics Corporation, has developed a total of eight (8) maps and the community has developed an additional thirty-three (33) maps. These maps, together with related demographic reports and written comments, are provided as Attachment 2. The City Council is not being asked to narrow down or select a preferred map at this time. Rather, the City Council will discuss whether it prefers an electoral system that includes four (4) districts with an at-large Mayor, or five (5) districts with a Mayor selected from amongst the City Council. Maps inconsistent with the City Council's direction will be eliminated from future consideration.

Next Steps

Subsequent to the Study Session on September 27, 2018, the City Council will conduct a Special Meeting on October 4, 2018, to discuss the recommendations and provide direction as appropriate. Additional information about the upcoming schedule of event and public hearings can be found at www.psdistricts.com

FISCAL IMPACT:

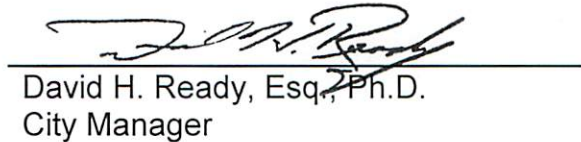
There will be significant staff time needed to transition to a district-based electoral system due to the need to conduct multiple Public Hearings and community workshops. The City Council has allocated one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for costs associated with public notification, specialized legal counsel, and the demographic consultant.



Anthony J. Mejia, MMC
City Clerk



Edward Z. Kotkin
City Attorney



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

Attachment:

1. California Voting Rights Act Community Working Group Report to City Council
2. District-Based Maps from the City's Demographer and Community