

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

Agenda Date: 03/17/08

Reviewed by: _____

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment for Directly Elected Mayor

REPORT BY: Jacqueline L. Bucholz, CMC, City Clerk

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Review the proposed ballot language, discuss placing before voters and if Council wishes the measure to be on the November 4, 2008 ballot, direct the City Attorney to prepare a ballot measure to amend the City Charter to establish a directly elected Mayor position on the City Council.

BACKGROUND

In April, 2007, the City Council referred the subject of a directly elected Mayor to the Charter Review Committee for its review and recommendation.

The Charter Review Committee has been discussing the issue since May, 2007 and has had the following people attend meetings to give their views on a directly elected Mayor: Sheila Young, former Mayor San Leandro; Gus Morrison, former Mayor Fremont (both directly elected); Nancy McEnroe, Mayor Piedmont (appointed by Council); Nora Dora, former Mayor of Emeryville (appointed by Council). The Committee also heard from Linda Barton, City Manager Livermore and Jim Keane, former City Manager of Berkeley. Former Albany Mayors: Peggy Thomsen, Robert Nichols, Ruth Ganong and Robert Cheasty.

A summary of the comments made by the City Managers is as follows:

Advantages: Consistency in City leadership; develops experience and ability in moderating meetings and other Mayor duties; length of term regarding regional appointments made by the Mayors' Conference, relationship building with other Mayors in the County.

Areas of possible concern: Difficulties if/when directly elected Mayor generally is in the minority on the Council; relationship with City Manager is more important under a directly elected Mayor; success depends on qualities of the individual. Summary comment: Depends on the values and qualities of the community.

A summary of the comments made by the Mayors is as follows:

Recommend the elected Mayor form of government; important to build relationships; the Mayors' Conference only appoints elected Mayors to the regional agencies. Don't believe the size of the City is a factor but the continuity and visibility of the Mayor is very important. Develops consistency and experience. In favor of an appointed Mayor in a small City and believe that each Council Members should have the experience of being Mayor.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Lieber would like the Council to discuss this issue and review the proposed ballot language items so that the City Attorney can prepare the actual ballot language in order to be considered for the November 4, 2008 election. The ballot language must be provided to the County no later than August 8, 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of the election has already been budgeted but there will be incremental expenses for printing, typesetting, translating and publication for each measure.

Attachments:

Proposed ballot language from Mayor Lieber

Draft Interim Report from the Charter Review Committee