AGENDA REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Sean P. Quinn, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Public Hearing No. 1 Regarding the Transition from At-Large to By-District Elections

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Hold public hearing.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

On September 17, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution 2019-218 intending to transition from at-large to district-based elections. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010, four public hearings are required to receive public comments on the transition process. Furthermore, a professional demographer will provide a background of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), introduce the mapping tools, and explain the process of transitioning the city from at-large to district-based elections.

DISCUSSION

Over the last several years, cities, school districts and community college districts throughout the state of California have been transitioning from at-large to by-district elections to comply with the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) and / or to avoid litigation. On September 17, 2019, the City Council authorized the transition of the city's election system from at-large to by-district.

The transition process is set forth in the Elections Code. District boundary maps will be drawn by a professional demographer in consultation with the City Attorney and City Manager's Office based on the criteria prescribed by the law and public input. Community input is important to the districting process and all residents are encouraged to attend hearings to provide public input. The hearings are publicly noticed and information about the districting process is also provided on the City's website. Two public hearings are required prior to the maps being drawn and two public hearings are required after the maps and sequencing are published for the specified time period.

A tentative schedule for the public hearings was also approved at the September 17th meeting; however, a 90-day extension was granted by Shenkman & Hughes, PC, which gives the city a total of 180 days to adopt an ordinance establishing district-based elections. The revised tentative schedule is as follows:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WITH 90-DAY EXTENSION

DATE	ACTION
Tuesday, September 17, 2019 (Regular City Council Meeting)	Council adoption of resolution of intent to transition from at-large to district-based elections
Tuesday, October 1, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)	First public hearing to give background on CVRA, introduce mapping tools, and receive input regarding

	composition of districts
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)	Second public hearing to give background on CVRA, explain mapping tools, and receive input regarding composition of districts
Saturday, October 26, 2019 (Location and time to be determined)	Community meeting to receive public input and answer questions
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 (Location and time to be determined)	Community meeting to receive public input and answer questions
Wednesday, November 20, 2019	Deadline for members of the public to submit draft maps
Tuesday, December 10, 2019	Publish draft maps
Tuesday, December 17, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)	Third public hearing to receive public input on draft maps and election sequence
Tuesday, January 14, 2020	Publish any new/revised draft maps
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 (Regular Council Meeting)	Fourth public hearing to receive public input on draft maps and election sequence Map Selection
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 (Regular City Council Meeting)	Introduction and first reading of ordinance to establish district-based elections
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 (Regular City Council Meeting)	Public hearing for second reading and adoption of ordinance to establish district-based elections

It is therefore recommended that the City Council conduct the first of four public hearings tonight to receive public comments regarding the transition from at-large to by-district elections for members of the City Council, an overview of the revised time frame for this transition, the criteria and factors that go into the drawing of maps of single-member voting districts, the composition of the districts, and other matters related to the election of members of the City Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no specific fiscal impact associated with the proposed recommendation.

CITY COUNCIL WORKPLAN

Community Safety	*Community Infrastructure*	*Quality of Life*
Financial and Operational Sustainability	*Economic Development*	*Travis Air Force Base*

City Council Goal this item supports:
Financial and Operational Sustainability

Project:
Not Applicable

PUBLIC CONTACT/ADVISORY BODY RECOMMENDATION
A Notice of Public Hearing was published on September 24, 2019, in the Daily Republic and across all city channels.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION
N/A

STAFF CONTACT
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COORDINATED WITH
City Attorney's Office

REVIEWERS:

Reviewer	Action	Date
Snideman, Laura	Approved	9/19/2019 - 7:41 PM
Henry, Alicia	Approved	9/24/2019 - 5:33 PM
Henry, Alicia	Approved	9/24/2019 - 6:21 PM