



City of BUENA PARK

AGENDA REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: January 12, 2016

TO: The Mayor and City Council

TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIVE DISTRICTS FOR ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Adopt an ordinance establishing a City Council district electoral system; and 2) Adopt a resolution establishing the boundaries of the five City Council districts.

PURPOSE: To hold a public hearing and receive comments (1) on changing the system for electing members of the City Council from an at-large system to an election by district and (2) on the proposed City Council district map.

DISCUSSION: On January 27, 2015, the City Council initiated the process to consider changing to a by-district electoral system and entered into an agreement with National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to study the City's current at-large electoral system. Since that time, the City has engaged in an extensive public engagement process to identify communities of interest, encourage the community to submit proposed boundary maps, and receive public testimony on the proposals. The public engagement process included messaging through television, newspapers, the City's website, a website dedicated to the election by district issue, social media, signage, and two direct mailers to all households in the city. As a result of the extensive public outreach, the City received 30 proposed boundary maps from members of the community, and two proposed boundary maps prepared by its consultant based on the public comments, applicable legal standards, and other relevant factors. Some of the highlights of the public outreach included:

July 28, 2015	Public Hearing to adopt criteria for establishing districts and launch of the dedicated website and public participation kits
August 3, 4, & 5, 2015	Community Forums & distribution of participation kits
September 22, 2015	Public Hearing on 23 plans submitted by the public. The City Council selected six plans for active consideration
September 28, 29, and October 5, 2015	Community Forums on the six active consideration plan
October 27, 2015	Public Hearing to select a preferred plan. Public Hearing continued after receiving an additional map from the public.
November 10, 2015	Public Hearing to select a preferred plan. Public Hearing continued after receiving four additional four-district maps and three additional five-district maps, all containing one district with a 50%+ Hispanic citizen voting age population. The City Council directed NDC to prepare a four-district map and a five-district map after reviewing these additional maps as well as public testimony received.

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December 8, 2015	Public Hearing to select a preferred plan. The City Council selected its Preferred Map, with final adoption set for January 12, 2016.
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Attachment 1 is the Preferred Map selected by the City Council. It is a five-district map with five Council Members elected by district. Each district is identified by number as depicted on the Preferred Map.

The timeline for implementing the by-district electoral system is as follows:

November 8, 2016	Council election for District 3 and District 4 (only two Council Member terms will expire in 2016)
November 6, 2018	Council election for District 1, District 2, and District 5 (three Council Member terms will expire in 2018)

At this time, staff is recommending the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance establishing five districts for election of five City Council Members and adopt the proposed resolution setting the district boundaries as depicted in the Preferred Map. This will ensure ample time for citizens and all potential candidates to understand the districts prior to the election cycle in 2016.

BUDGET IMPACT: There is no budget impact. The City Council previously appropriated \$20,000 from the General Fund for public participation materials and two direct mailings to all households.

Prepared by: Shalice Tilton, City Clerk

Approved by: Jim Vanderpool, City Manager

Presented by: Shalice Tilton, City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Ordinance
- 2) Resolution
- 3) Preferred Map and Demographics