



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **FROM:** Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

SUBJECT: BALLOT MEASURE TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER **DATE:** June 30, 2020

APPROVED: *Sergio Jimenez* **DATE:** June 30, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Replace my memo dated June 23, 2020 with this memorandum on the proposed ballot measure consisting of the following direction:

1. Campaign Finance & Conflict of Interest Reforms

- A. Adopt and apply to the Mayor and City Council the provisions laid out in California Government Code Section 84308 that governs members to the VTA Board of Directors and other regional bodies, requiring recusal where a matter involves a person or entity that has made a contribution in the prior 12 months, and prohibiting such contributions for three months following a decision on that matter.
- B. Mayor, Councilmembers, and Senior City management may not receive gifts of any value from any registered lobbyist, City contractor, nor any direct beneficiary of a City contract.
- C. Lobbyists and City contractors shall not serve on City boards or commissions within two years of any work involving the City. This provision will apply prospectively from the date of passage to any City board or commission.
- D. Prohibit individuals who are registered City lobbyists from making campaign contributions to the Mayor and City Councilmembers.

2. Inclusive Government

- A. Amend the City Charter in the manner of the March, 2015 Measure 1 in the City of Los Angeles and move the next mayoral election to the November 2024 general election, and extend the term of the current mayor to December 31, 2024.
- B. If the council decides to proceed with a ballot measure, convene a special council meeting on July 28, 2020.

3. Accountable Government

- A. Establish a Charter Review Commission to study potential reforms and provide recommendations to the Council by July 2021. The scope of work by the Commission shall be limited to evaluation of provisions consistent with “strong mayor/strong

council” governmental structures found in other major U.S. cities in which the executive responsibility of the city resides in the Mayor, and the Council has legislative authority.

DISCUSSION

When handling a decision of this magnitude, we should always seek bipartisanship and compromise. That was the spirit with which I came to view the issue when I submitted my memo on June 23, 2020, a memo which mirrored Vice Mayor Jones’ memo. Since the writing of my memo, I have deepened my understanding of the plethora of concerns shared by many people in diverse roles across this city, both in and out of city hall.

Further solidifying the need to view this complex, politically charged issue in an objective thoughtful manner, the Supplemental Memorandum released by the City Manager this afternoon has highlighted many compelling and salient points regarding the need for greater participation and transparency when evaluating changes in how our government operates. Of note is his statement, ***“Effective transition and modification requires time with the community and focus from the organization.”*** Additionally, now more than ever, the statement ***“Local governments are closest to the people they serve, and it is important that their actions represent the views of their communities”*** rings true and in tune with many of the issues we currently face.

As stated well by colleagues, a Charter Review Committee before changes are made is the ideal way to move forward. The date of July 2021 for the commission to come back with recommendations requires that we move swiftly, which benefits proponents of increasing mayoral powers balanced with an inclusive process that gives the community and all stakeholders a venue to share their concerns and ideas. As outlined in the memo from Councilmember Khamis, it is quite evident that these are complex issues that continue to give rise to scenarios and questions that we do not fully understand or imagine. The Charter Review Commission will be essential in soliciting and incorporating public input. The Commission must be independent, and its mission should be narrowly scoped to evaluating the desirability and feasibility of a strong mayor system or its desired components.

I continue to be willing to provide the current mayor two additional years while at the same time aligning our future mayoral election cycle to future presidential elections. These set of compromises seem to me to be the best options if we are all to have a win on this issue.