

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Johnny Khamis

SUBJECT: BOARD AND COMMISSIONER TERMS **DATE:** June 29, 2020

Approved

Date

06/28/2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Extend to June 30, 2021 volunteer board and/or commissioner terms for those otherwise not eligible for reappointment.
2. Extend the terms of all Neighborhoods Commissioners to June 30, 2021.
3. Approve staff recommendations for all other Board & Commission appointments.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor notes in his memorandum that many of the City's voluntary boards and commissions have been unable to meet since February or March. While certainly understandable, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the result was the loss of opportunity for these boards and commissions to provide input to the City Council. In addition, the City Manager recently stated publicly that he remains concerned about staff workload, which includes the work necessary to process new appointments to volunteer boards and commissions.

ANALYSIS

While most commissions may convene virtually in August, we should, over the first few months, anticipate agendas focused on policy changes related to the City's COVID response and revised budgets. Most commissions do not meet in July or December. Therefore, I believe that a full one-year extension is warranted for those commissioners that have lost the opportunity to provide input to the City Council on budget and policy issues, in addition to not being able to participate in the election of their leadership for 2020-2021.

Neighborhoods Commission members are not appointed by the Mayor and Councilmembers. It may take considerable staff time to organize, train for, and execute the neighborhood caucus elections to conform to the City ordinance. As with other commission members, it is prudent to retain experienced commissioners during the challenging months ahead.

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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 06-30-20

ITEM: 3.6 – BOARD AND COMMISSIONER TERMS

The City faces an uncertain financial future. The expertise of commissioners who are coming to the end of their terms, that have dedicated years of voluntary public service to our City, will be invaluable as we cope with the continuing impacts of COVID-19. Because it is common for qualified applicants for voluntary boards and commissions to wait for a year or more for appointment, it seems both fair and equitable for current members of boards and commissions be granted a one-year extension to complete their public service commitments. These extensions will also provide breathing room to City staff to navigate the process of filling board and commission posts.