

Amendment to the Planning Commission Composition Ordinance

June 2, 2020
Item 8.1

Presenter: Rosalynn Hughey, Director, PBCE



*Planning, Building and
Code Enforcement*

Background

April 18, 2019 Memorandum from the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers Esparza and Carrasco to the Rules Committee:

- 1. Amend Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code** to:
 - Prohibit any new or renewing applicants for Planning Commission where two sitting commissioners come from the same Council District
 - Provide that Commissioners may be reappointed no more than once
- 2. Draft Charter amendment for November 2020 ballot** to restructure Planning Commission to include 11 members with one from each Council District and one at-large member
- 3. Amend the Lobbyist Ordinance** to prohibit an individual who has been a registered lobbyist within the previous two years from appointment to the Planning Commission
- 4. Extend the Revolving Door Ordinance** provisions to apply to former Planning Commissioners
- 5. Conduct convenings** to get input on improving outreach and training for future Planning Commissioners; Create a recruitment plan; and Consider partnerships to assist with outreach and recruitment
- 6. Improve online application process; improve application package format** to Councilmembers; and **reevaluate the prohibition on communication with applicants** prior to the public interview to better allow Councilmembers to evaluate applicants

Initial Staff Strategy

- Planning Commission study session – held February 26, 2020

Due to COVID 19 Shelter In Place Order:

- Neighborhoods Commission briefing – March 11, 2020 meeting cancelled
- 3 community meetings in March and April (2 evening, 1 Saturday) – cancelled
- Polling planned for March – put on hold

Proposed Staff Strategy

- Upcoming 5 vacancies on Planning Commission
- Phased approach
- Phase 1: Amend Chapter 2.08, Title 2 of the Municipal Code
 - a) Limit the number of members of the Planning Commission who reside in the same Council District to two;
 - b) Adopt a two-term limit for Commission membership;
 - c) Consider an alternative limit on the number of members of the Planning Commission who reside in the same Council District to one; and
 - d) Consider a provision allowing the Council to override the District limitation by a majority vote.
- Phase 2: Charter amendment

Planning Commission Recommendation

May 27, 2020 Planning Commission meeting – recommended that the City Council:

- a) Approve an ordinance amending Section 2.08.4000 of Chapter 2.08 of Title 2 of the San José Municipal Code to **limit the number of members of the Planning Commission who reside in the same Council District to one**, with a seven-member Commission; and
- b) Direct staff to focus recruitment efforts to members of other City commissions and boards, in addition to the general public

Discussion / Q&A