

ORDINANCE NO. 23-2308

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2707 (STIPEND AND EXPENSES) OF CHAPTER 7 (DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS) OF ARTICLE II (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CARSON MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCREASE PLANNING COMMISSIONER STIPENDS FROM \$50 TO \$100 PER MEETING, AND TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY STIPEND LIMIT FROM \$200 TO \$400 PER MONTH PER COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, Section 604 (Compensation) of the City of Carson (“City”) Charter provides as follows:

“As may be adjusted by ordinance or resolution in the future, upon approval of this charter, all members of appointive boards, committees and commissions, including the alternates, shall receive compensation for their services in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) per meeting and shall receive reimbursement for necessary traveling and other expenses incurred on official duty when such expenditures have received authorization by the city council.”

WHEREAS, Carson Municipal Code (“CMC”) Section 2707 provides as follows:

“Each member and alternate member of the Planning Commission shall receive as a stipend for service on the Planning Commission \$50.00 for each meeting of the Planning Commission attended by such member, not to exceed a total stipend of \$200.00 in any one (1) month. The Secretary of the Planning Commission shall submit to the Finance Officer at the end of each calendar month a statement showing the number of meetings of the Planning Commission attended by each member during such month. No additional stipend shall be paid for expenses incurred by the members of the Planning Commission in the performance of their duties, except that the City Council may, from time to time, authorize in advance expenditures for attendance at seminars, institutes, or other meetings which the City Council finds beneficial to the Commissioners in the performance of their duties, and in the best interest of the City. Claims for such expenditures shall be filed with the Finance Officer and shall be subject to audit and approval by the City Council.”

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission is tasked with many important duties, including those set forth in City Charter Section 606 and CMC Section 2704. Planning Commission meetings often require the Planning Commissioners to review hundreds of pages of agenda packet materials in order to prepare for meeting agenda items including public hearings which involve important decisions affecting the rights of the City and third parties such as applicants for development permits and property owners. Additionally, Planning Commission meetings can be lengthy. Between the time necessary to prepare for and attend the meeting, Planning Commissioners are frequently required to devote many hours to a single meeting in order to properly prepare for and carry out their duties for the particular meeting.

WHEREAS, City commissioners graciously volunteer their time in the interest of public service and for the benefit of the public health, safety and welfare in the City. Although the stipends

authorized by the Charter and CMC are not meant to compensate commissioners as though they were City employees or contractors, they are meant to recognize the Commissioners' public service.

WHEREAS, the current stipend amounts (\$50 per meeting and no more than \$200 per commissioner per month) were set in 2005, by Ordinance No. 05-1335 adopted March 15, 2005.

WHEREAS, in light of the significant duties of the Planning Commission and the significant time commitment required for Planning Commissioners to adequately carry out their duties for each meeting, and in light of the significant inflation that has occurred in the 18+ years since the current stipend amounts were set, the City Council finds that the current stipend amounts are insufficient to recognize the Planning Commissioners' significant service to the City.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that although the current Planning Commission has selflessly performed their duties as necessary despite the current stipend amounts, an increase is needed to avoid disincentivizing current or future Planning Commissioners from devoting the time necessary to properly perform their duties, and to avoid discouraging members of the community from being willing to serve as Planning Commissioners moving forward.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a stipend increase of \$50 per meeting, from \$50 to \$100, and a corresponding increase in the monthly stipend limit, from \$200 to \$400 per commissioner per month, would more appropriately demonstrate a recognition of the Planning Commissioners' service while still respecting the volunteerism concept, and that such an increase would constitute a responsible use of City funds that will serve to benefit the City and promote the public health, safety and welfare in the City by helping ensure the preservation of a quality City Planning Commission moving forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 2707 of Chapter 7 (Departments, Boards and Commissions) of Article II (Administration) of the Carson Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

“2707 Stipend and Expenses.

Each member and alternate member of the Planning Commission shall receive as a stipend for service on the Planning Commission ~~\$100.00~~ \$50.00 for each meeting of the Planning Commission attended by such member, not to exceed a total stipend of ~~\$400.00~~ \$200.00 in any one (1) month. The Secretary of the Planning Commission shall submit to the Finance Officer at the end of each calendar month a statement showing the number of meetings of the Planning Commission attended by each member during such month. No additional stipend shall be paid for

expenses incurred by the members of the Planning Commission in the performance of their duties, except that the City Council may, from time to time, authorize in advance expenditures for attendance at seminars, institutes, or other meetings which the City Council finds beneficial to the Commissioners in the performance of their duties, and in the best interest of the City. Claims for such expenditures shall be filed with the Finance Officer and shall be subject to audit and approval by the City Council.”

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

SECTION 5. CERTIFICATION. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance, and shall cause the same to be posted and codified in the manner required by law.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council on this ___ day of _____, 2023.

Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sunny K. Soltani, City Attorney