



Legislation Text

File #: 2016-889, Version: 1

Report to Mayor and City Council

Tuesday, August 02, 2016

Discussion

SUBJECT:

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 16-1595 ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF CARSON

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Robles. Historically, elected officials in the City of Carson have been entitled to serve unlimited terms of office. While this has assured continuity over the years, it has also limited input from citizens and groups promoting new ideas and proposals to make Carson a more vibrant community. Many cities in California have imposed term limits on elected officials in an effort to assure more active participation by the electorate in city government. In an effort to provide the citizens of the City of Carson more opportunities to contribute to the community, the Mayor has requested that the City Council consider an ordinance be prepared for submission to the electorate at the upcoming election in November of 2016. The ordinance, if adopted, would establish a maximum of three terms of office for any elected official in the in a particular elected office. Each office will be separately limited, so that a councilmember, for example, might serve for three terms in that office and still be eligible to run for City Treasurer, subject to another three term limitation.

II. RECOMMENDATION

CONSIDER and PROVIDE direction.

III. ALTERNATIVES

1. WAIVE further reading and INTRODUCE Ordinance No. 16-1595, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, ADDING A NEW SECTION 2305 TO CHAPTER 3 OF THE CARSON MUNICIPAL

CODE, ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY ”

2. TAKE such other action as the City Council deems appropriate consistent with the requirements of law.

IV. BACKGROUND

Under the California Government Code section 36502(b), cities have the authority to establish term limits for members of the City Council and Mayor. Because the City of Carson also elects a City Clerk and a City Treasurer, those elective offices may also be subject to term limits as provided in the ordinance in the city. The law requires that such limits be imposed only after a vote of the people and that they apply only prospectively, so that they do not take effect until the expiration of any term that exists at the time of adoption of the measure. As such, the proposed ordinance will take effect and apply to only those terms of office entered into after November 8, 2016.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

In the event the City Council determines to establish term limits for elected officials, there will be no discernable fiscal impact on the City.

VI. EXHIBITS

- A. Ordinance No. 16-1595 (Pages 3-5)

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