



CITY OF CARSON

Legislation Text

File #: 2019-103, Version: 1

Report to Mayor and City Council

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Consent

SUBJECT:

REVIEW THE COSTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE AND STATUTORY PUBLICATION ASSOCIATED WITH CONVERTING TO A CHARTER CITY (CITY COUNCIL)

I. SUMMARY

On May 1, 2018, the City Council determined that it would like to explore the possibility of a city charter for adoption by the voters in the November 6, 2018 general election. Ultimately, a charter was developed and presented to the voters on November 6, 2018. Carson voters approved the Charter, and it became effective January 17, 2019.

In preparation for putting a ballot measure before the voters, a substantial informational initiative needed to occur to gather input from the community and educate them on the difference between a general law city and a charter city. The process of developing a draft city charter was a significant undertaking and needed to commence immediately due to the short time frame in which staff had to educate the community, work with the community on the draft charter language and meet all legally obligated deadlines. This report, requested by Councilmember Davis-Holmes, is specifically to review the costs of that informational initiative. Attached as Exhibit No. 1 are the costs of the educational initiative and the statutory publishing obligations.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE.

III. ALTERNATIVES

None.

IV. BACKGROUND

The process of developing the city charter involved establishing a charter committee,

drafting the city charter, and holding a minimum of two public hearings on the proposed city charter.

The charter committee had the responsibility of considering what topics would be addressed in the charter, and were tasked with providing input on those topics as to how the language should be drafted for presentation to the voters for consideration and possible approval. The committee did not receive a stipend for their service.

Prior to submitting the proposed city charter to the voters, the City Council held five public hearings on the proposal and shared the content of the proposed charter. A charter could only be adopted by the voters of the City as long as that election date was at least eighty-eight (88) days after the proposal for adopting the charter was filed with the City Clerk. Once the charter was approved by the voters on November 6, it was deemed ratified. The ratified charter became effective upon approval and filing by the Secretary of State. These conditions are reflected in the California Government Code.

The educational initiative consisted of a community survey and two special editions of the Carson report. These are same educational activities the city has engaged in for previous ballot measures, such as the utility users tax extension. In addition to the educational activities there are statutory publishing obligations which include advertising the public hearings, producing and mailing the charter information booklet and the notice of election. These costs would have been incurred even if the City opted not to undertake a public educational initiative. All of these costs can be reviewed in Exhibit No. 1.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Costs of the educational initiative and statutory publication. (pg. 3).

1.

Prepared by: City Manager's Office