

**Council Meeting: January 8, 2008****SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Seating Arrangements for City Council****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Based on the November 6, 2007 Consolidated Election results, the City Council needs to determine seating arrangements of its members for January 2008 through January 2009. Council Policy 7.3.11 (Attachment A) establishes the method for requires that City Council seating arrangements be determined as the last item of business at the meeting during which the Mayor and/or Vice Mayor is selected.

The Mayor's seat will be held from January 2008 through January 2010, based on voter-approved Measure H, which specifies the term of office for the Mayor as two years. Measure H also specifies that the Vice Mayor shall serve a one-year term and selection of a Vice Mayor will take place each January.

The actual changing of seats will commence with the Council's next regular meeting scheduled on January 15, 2008.

EXISTING POLICY

Current Council Policy 7.3.11 outlines the method for determining seating arrangements as follows:

- Seating of the Mayor: The Mayor shall be seated in the center seat, Should the Mayor be absent, the Vice Mayor shall assume the Mayor's seat.
- Seating of Vice Mayor: The Vice Mayor shall be seated to either side of the Mayor, with the Vice Mayor receiving preference for obtaining the seat.
- Councilmember Seating: Councilmembers shall select where they wish to sit on the basis of length of continuous time of service on the City Council. The selection process shall be in the order of most senior to least senior. When two or more Councilmembers have equivalent time of service, those Councilmembers shall be given priority in seat selection by the highest number of votes in his/her most recent election.

After selection of the seat to be occupied by the Vice Mayor, the following order is to be used to select the remaining seats:

First Elected	Councilmember	# Votes last Election	Last Election date
2001	John Howe	6,702	2005
2003	Otto Lee	13,330	2007
2003	Ron Swegles	9,577	2007
2003	Melinda Hamilton	9,205	2007
2005	Anthony Spitaleri	13,793	2005
2005	Christopher Moylan	12,904	2005
2007	David Whittum	8,271	2007

FISCAL IMPACT

None

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk

RECOMMENDATION

Council determines the seating arrangements for 2008/2009 in accordance with existing Council Policy 7.3.11.

Reviewed by:

Robert Walker, Assistant City Manager
Prepared by: Gail Borkowski, City Clerk

Approved by:

Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachments

Attachment A: Council Policy 7.3.11

Policy 7.3.11 Seating Arrangements/City Council

POLICY PURPOSE:

Section 613 of the Charter provides that the City Council shall establish rules for the conduct of its proceedings. It is the purpose of this policy to establish a process to determine the seating arrangement of Councilmembers at Council meetings.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. Seating of Mayor The Mayor shall be seated in the center seat. Should the Mayor be absent, the Vice Mayor will assume the Mayor's seat.
2. Seating of the Vice Mayor The Vice Mayor shall be seated to either side of the Mayor, with the vice Mayor receiving preference for obtaining the seat.
3. Councilmember Seating
 - A. When Determined: Seating arrangements will be determined as the last item of business at a meeting during which a mayor and/or vice mayor is selected.
 - B. How Determined: Councilmembers shall select where they wish to sit on the basis of length of continuous time of service on the City Council. The selection process shall be in the order of most senior to least senior. When two or more Councilmembers have equivalent time of service, those Councilmembers shall be given priority in seat selection by the highest number of votes in his/her most recent election.

(Adopted: RTC 81-602 (10/6/1981); Amended: 84-673 (11/6/1984), 85-554 (11/12/1985), 87-590 (11/10/1987), 88-701 (11/29/1988), 89-729 (11/14/1989), 91-522 (11/12/1991), 05-357 (11/29/05))

Lead Department: Office of the City Manager