July 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Proposed Charter Amendment for a Directly-Elected Mayor for the November 2011 Election

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Sunnyvale City Charter is the “Constitution” for the City and provides the legal guidelines for the form and function of its government. The City Charter currently provides that the City’s mayor is selected by the City Council from one of its members for a term of two years. An alternate method of selecting the mayor is by direct election as a separate position from that of a council member. On May 25, 2010, the Council reviewed and discussed the Study Issue on a directly-elected mayor and directed staff to return with a proposed Charter amendment for Council consideration to place a Charter amendment on the November 2010 election ballot providing for a directly-elected mayor for a two-year or four-year term. Staff did so on June 15, and after consideration the Council decided to not put a Charter amendment on the 2010 ballot due to cost, unless the City has a ballot measure in addition to directly-elected mayor in November 2010. Council also discussed options for term limits for a directly-elected mayor and requested that the Charter amendment language be brought back on July 20 with options for term limits.

This report provides proposed Charter amendment language for a ballot measure changing to a directly-elected mayor, with options for the term and term limits for the mayor. There are no other City ballot measures for the 2010 election so the Charter amendment would be on the November 2011 ballot. If the Charter ballot measure is placed on the November 2011 ballot, the cost is approximately $42,000. The City Clerk confirmed with the Registrar of Voters that putting the Charter amendment on the 2010 election would be approximately $167,000.

BACKGROUND

Sunnyvale is a Charter City and is governed by the terms of its Charter, which was first adopted in 1949, and has been amended periodically. All Charter amendments must be approved by the voters. Under the California Constitution, Charter amendments may be proposed by the City Council, by voter initiative, or by a Charter commission. The Sunnyvale City Council can, by a majority vote, put proposed Sunnyvale City Charter changes on the ballot for voter approval.
On May 25, 2010, the City Council reviewed and discussed a study issue report summarizing the history of Sunnyvale’s consideration of a directly-elected mayor and advantages and disadvantages of having a directly-elected mayor. At this meeting, Council members voted to move forward with considering a directly-elected mayor to be elected to either a two-year or four-year term. The June 15, 2010, Report to Council outlined alternatives for City Council consideration in order to present the Charter amendment to the voters in a November 2, 2010, special election. After discussion of the cost of $167,000 for a November 2010 ballot measure, in contrast to a cost of $42,000 for a November 2011 ballot measure, the Council voted to not put a Charter amendment on the 2010 ballot unless there is another City ballot measure also going forward. There are no other City ballot measures on the November 2010 election ballot.

The proposed Charter amendment from June 15 would have allowed an individual to serve as both mayor and councilmember for consecutive terms of eight years each. A citizen raised questions about these term limits, and the Council requested that several alternatives be brought back for term limits if the mayor is directly-elected.

**EXISTING POLICY**

Section 605 of the City Charter reads, as follows:

**Section 605. Presiding Officer. Mayor.**

At the first regular meeting in January, at which the City Council shall certify the election results, following each General Municipal Election, and at the first regular meeting in January every two years thereafter, the City Council shall select one of its members as its presiding officer, who shall have the title of Mayor. Such selection shall be by motion of the City Council. The Mayor shall have a voice and vote in all its proceedings. He/she shall be the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or as may be imposed by the City Council consistent with his/her office. The Mayor shall serve in such capacity for a term of two years from and after which the appointment is made, and until a successor is selected; provided, that a person can continue to serve in the capacity of Mayor only while that person remains as a member of the City Council. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Mayor, the City Council shall select one of its members to serve as Mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Mayor may be removed from such office prior to expiration of his/her term by a motion of the City Council adopted by the affirmative votes of at least five members of the City Council.
DISCUSSION

The Council considered the pros and cons of a directly-elected mayor in the May 25, 2010, study issue and directed staff to move forward with presenting a proposed Charter amendment and resolution to place a Charter amendment for a directly-elected mayor on the November 2010 ballot. Accordingly, staff moved expeditiously to return to Council on June 15, 2010, with proposed ballot and Charter amendment language to enable the Council to put a Charter amendment measure on the November 2010 ballot if it desired to do so.

After reviewing the 2010 election cost of approximately $167,000, in contrast to the 2011 election cost of $42,000, the Council decided to defer any Charter amendment ballot to the 2011 election unless there is another City ballot measure on the November 2010 ballot. A councilmember asked for additional research with the Registrar of Voters to determine why the costs are higher for the 2010 general election. The City Clerk contacted the registrar and received this response:

The UDEL or odd-numbered year election is the regularly scheduled election for your City. You would have incurred the regular cost of the election regardless whether or not you have a measure on the ballot. To add a measure in the same UDEL election, the only additional cost will be the cost of printing the information pages in the sample ballot pamphlet, which is estimated at a cost of $42,500.

Although the general election is the cheapest type of election, that is not your City’s regularly scheduled election year. Therefore, by putting a measure in the general election, the City will incur an additional cost of election in an even-numbered year election which it otherwise would not have incurred had the measure been included with your regularly scheduled UDEL election. The measure in November 2010 will be considered as an initial issue and will be charged the 1st issue rate. If your City’s regularly scheduled election were a general election, the measure will be considered as a second issue and will then be charged the lower additional issue rate.

1 The prior RTCs included copies of the reports from prior Charter Review Committees that looked at the issue of a directly-elected mayor. Some additional historical materials were located in archives after the June 15 meeting and copies are attached to this RTC for Council’s information only and to provide as complete a record of prior review as possible.
The Council must make a number of decisions on the term of office and term limits for the mayor on the proposed Charter amendment. First, the Council must decide if they want a two-year or four-year mayoral term. San Jose, Santa Clara and Gilroy have four-year terms for their directly-elected mayors. Morgan Hill and Milpitas have two-year terms for their directly-elected mayors.

Second, the Council must determine what term limits there will be for the mayor position. Current Charter provisions limit Council members to serving for eight years in any twelve-year period, unless appointed to serve an unexpired term of less than two years. The proposed Charter amendment includes a similar term limit of eight years, unless elected to fill an unexpired term of less than two years. The Council could, however, decide to propose a Charter amendment that would have no term limits for the mayor or term limits of more than eight years.

The proposed Charter amendment allows for an incumbent Councilmember to run for mayor, but the incumbent cannot run for both mayor and a council seat in the same election.

Another term limit issue is whether election as mayor will count toward the term limits for a council member. Options are to:

1. Treat term limits for the mayor and council as separate offices. This would permit someone to serve eight years as mayor and eight years as a councilmember for a total of sixteen consecutive years on the Council.

2. Provide that election as mayor will count as a council term for purposes of term limits, thereby limiting service for any combination as mayor and council member to eight years in any twelve-year period.

3. Provide that election as mayor adds one consecutive term to the council member term limit, allowing twelve years of service in a twelve-year period (1 term as mayor, 2 as council member; or 2 as council member, 1 as mayor). This is similar to what Milpitas does.²

If the Charter amendment for a directly-elected mayor is passed by the voters, the proposed Charter amendment will need to specify when the first election for a directly-elected mayor will occur – either at the 2012 election in the middle of an existing two-year mayoral term, or in 2013 at the end of the existing two-year mayoral term. It would be possible to hold a special election in early 2012

² Milpitas has a term limit of three consecutive terms for both the mayor and city council members. However, a fourth consecutive term is allowed if either the mayor is elected as a council member or a council member is elected as mayor.
solely for the purpose of electing a mayor, but costs for such a special election would be much higher than at a general election.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If Council elects to place a Charter amendment on the November 2010 ballot, the City will be consolidating its special municipal election with the state and county election. The County Registrar of Voters charges the City for the costs of handling the ballot measure, and actual costs depend on the number of other ballot measures by the City and other cities on the general election ballot. Estimated cost from the Registrar of Voters for putting the ballot measure on the November 2010 ballot is $167,461. If the ballot measure is placed on the 2011 general election, estimated cost is $42,496.

If there is a change to a directly-elected mayor, there will be election costs for each mayoral election. However, these costs should be approximately the same as the cost for a regular council seat election provided the election for mayor corresponds with the general election for Council seats.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

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

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Move to place a ballot measure for a Charter amendment to a directly-elected mayor on the November 2011 general election and provide direction to staff to draft Charter amendment language and resolution based on Council selection from the options below:

   a. Mayoral term of two or four years

   b. Mayoral term limits of eight years in a twelve-year period, twelve years in a twelve-year period, or no term limits.

   c. Determination of whether election as mayor counts for term limits as a council member, and whether to allow one or more additional consecutive terms if elected as mayor.

2. Do not move to place a ballot measure for a Charter amendment to a directly-elected mayor on the November 2011 general election
**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff makes no recommendation on whether or not to propose a Charter amendment changing to a directly-elected mayor, or the term or term limits for a directly-elected mayor. Staff has provided the reports and recommendations of the prior Charter Review Committees on the issue of a directly-elected mayor for the Council’s information.

In view of current fiscal challenges and the substantially greater cost of placing the Charter amendment on the November 2010 ballot in contrast to the November 2011 ballot, staff recommends that if Council elects to proceed with the Charter amendment it consider placing it on the November 2011 ballot.

Prepared by:

______________________________
David E. Kahn, City Attorney

Reviewed by:

______________________________
Gary Luebbers, City Manager

**Attachments**

Attachment A – Miscellaneous historical information re directly-elected mayor
Sacramento, Ca.
May 3, 1991

Michael Knaebel
Charter Review Committee
City of Sunnyvale
777 Hollenbeck Avenue, #5E
Sunnyvale, CA. 94087
408/756-4518

SUBJECT: Directly elected mayor

* * * * * * THIS MATERIAL IS FROM OUR LENDING FILES * * * * * * * * *

PLEASE RETURN IT WITHIN THE CUSTOMARY
TWO-WEEK LOAN PERIOD.

NOTE: Any ordinances enclosed should be reviewed by the City Attorney for current validity.

REMARKS:

Sincerely,

Alex Terrazas
Researcher

AT:mm

Enc. (4) Corr: Election—Direct El. of Mayor

If we can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH ANY ENCLOSED LOAN MATERIAL TO:

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES, ATTN: Librarian
1400 K Street, 4th Floor, Sacramento, CA. 95814
KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

LOCAL STUDY WORKSHOP
League of Women Voters Richmond Area
December 1976

STUDY: DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR

Local Study Workshop
League of Women Voters Richmond Area
December 1976

[Handwritten note: 7/3/91]
CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Is a change to a directly elected mayor needed in the cities of West Contra Costa? Why?

2. If so, what should be the powers and duties of the office?

3. Should compensation be for a part-time or full-time office? Should it be related to pay for council members?

4. Should staff be provided?

BACKGROUND

The cities in West Contra Costa County now operate under a council-manager form of government. The voters elect the city council on a non-partisan ballot. The council employs a full-time executive, the city manager, to head the administrative structure of the city. The council makes policy and the manager directs the departments which carry out that policy. The mayor is the council's presiding officer and the ceremonial head of the city. He is elected by the council members and the position usually rotates among the members.

Many cities have directly elected mayors (see Appendix). The role of the mayor has been broadened as local governments find local taxes inadequate to provide essential services for their citizens and need to seek state and federal sources. The mayor also serves on regional boards if appointed through the Mayor's Conference. The trend in California's cities is the change to a directly elected mayor.

A chart of local cities compares the compensation and powers and duties. Inquiries of the League of California Cities conclude that most mayors serve 4 year terms. Almost all mayors may vote, but with certain limited exceptions (San Francisco and Los Angeles) none has a veto and most receive some compensation although not generally enough to justify full time attention to mayoral duties. In every city surveyed chart provisions provided for the Council Manager form of government.

Charter provisions concerning the duties and responsibilities of a mayor provide almost exclusively for figurehead and ceremonial functions. As such the mayor is generally responsible for presiding at meetings, is recognized as the official head of the city for ceremonial purposes and is the acknowledged leader in times of crisis. He may use the title of mayor when signing legal documents but otherwise his duties are limited to those that may be conferred by the council. A review of the individual charters, however, reveals several exceptions that tend to place more responsibility in the office of mayor.

For example, the Pomona, Riverside and Anaheim charters contain language that provides essentially as follows:

Among others, the mayor has the power and duty: (1) to report to the council from time to time on the affairs of the city and to recommend for its consideration such matters as he may deem expedient. (2) To assume the primary but not the exclusive responsibility for interpreting for the people the policies, programs and needs of the city government and for informing the people of any change in policy or program.
Glendale's charter provides that the mayor may call special meetings of the city council while charter provisions for Burbank state "Mayor shall be the executive head of the city."

The strongest and most complete responses are in the San Jose charter.

Sec. 501 Political Position. It is the intent of this article that the Mayor shall be the political leader within the community by providing guidance and leadership to the Council by expressing and explaining to the community the city's policies and programs and by assisting the Council in the informed, vigorous and effective exercise of its powers. Political leadership shall be concerned with the general development of the community and the general level of city services and activity programs.

Sec. 502 Powers and Duties: The Mayor shall have the following powers and duties:

a. The Mayor shall have the power to make recommendations to the Council on matters of policy and program which require Council decision; provided that if he recommends any increases in the city budget, he shall recommend the method of financing such expenditures; and provided, further, that if he proposes curtailment of service, such recommendations and his reasons therefore shall be specific. He may also on his own account inform the community on matters of policy or program which he believes the welfare of the community makes necessary;

b. The Mayor shall preside at meetings of the Council and shall have a vote as a member of the Council. He shall have no veto powers.

c. The Mayor shall have authority to preserve order at all Council meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rule of the Council and to determine the order of business under the rules of the Council.

d. The Mayor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council, provided the same are not inconsistent with the charter.

Nothing in this section shall be construed in any way as an infringement or limitation on the powers and duties of the city manager as chief administrative officer, and head of the administrative branch of the city government as prescribed in other sections of this charter. Except as otherwise herein provided, the Mayor shall possess only such authority over the city manager and the administrative branch as he possesses as one member of the Council.

Steve Bauer of the League of California Cities wrote:

"It strikes me that the role of mayor is composed of several sub-roles. First, he becomes the needed legal personification of the city as a corporate body. Second, he represents the city at all ceremonial occasions. Third, he fills the role of political identification for the community. Fourth, he acts as a translator on policy decisions between the council and the voters. As such, there is little coercive power in his office. For all their impressiveness, their roles add up to little power for the Mayor. In most cases, he is not given the power or the resources to cause change. He is primarily meant to be a buffer between the council and the public."

The International City Management Association reported that their group favors a direct election of the mayor, but opposes a full time paid mayor and full time staff for mayor in cities less than 100,000. The largest cities favor a full time paid mayor.
The Richmond City Council voted to place on the November 2 ballot a charter amendment providing for a already, elected mayor, but changed their minds and voted to remove the matter and return to it after further study.

The present Charter Article 3 Sec. 8 reads:

Said Council shall elect one of its members as its presiding officer, who shall be known as Mayor, to serve for one year after his election. In the absence or disability of the Mayor, a Mayor pro tem shall be elected.

The said Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Council, shall be the Chief Executive of said city, and as such shall sign all contracts on behalf of the city, and perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Council. In all other respects he shall perform the same duties as any other member of the Council.

The proposed amendment provided for a mayor with a 4-year term with a limit of two consecutive terms. The annual salary was set at one half of a member of Congress which would be approximately $22,300/year. Additional benefits as medical and pension would be the same as those received by other city employees.

The powers and duties stated in the proposal included:

a. As chief elected officer and ceremonial head, the Mayor will provide political leadership, taking issues to the people and marshalling public interest in support for municipal activity. He will be concerned with the general development of the community and the general level of city services and activities.

b. Shall have the power to make recommendations to the City Council on matters of policy and programs. If any increases in the budget is recommended the method of financing must also be provided. Reasons for curtailment of services must also be given.

c. The Mayor shall have the authority to make appointments and removals from Boards and Commissions. The Council by 5 votes may override an appointment or removal if action is taken within 30 days of the Mayor's action.

d. The Mayor shall preside over the Council and appoint council members to standing committees.

e. The Mayor shall have authority to continue any item under consideration by the City Council for up to two weeks.

f. The City Manager remains the City's administrative head. The Mayor shall work with the City Manager and City staff as necessary.

A person may not be a candidate for both the office of council and mayor.

DISCUSSION

The League from time to time has met with Richmond mayors who have felt that the job was difficult to do adequately while maintaining regular employment. Decisions were made out of necessity based on staff reports and recommendations. Often prior to Council meetings voluminous materials were required reading and it was not always possible to keep up with the activities in the city. The one-year term meant that as one grew accustomed to the duties, it was time for a change.
The constraints of a part-time job was also reflected in our observations as we saw our cities being represented. At LAFCO, for instance, we noted that staff made presentation and questions were deferred to staff. We failed in our Brown Bag series "Meet Your Mayors" to get response to our instructions and only the Mayor of El Cerrito met with the League. City Managers, on the other hand, all were able to come.

These reasons seem important enough to review the role of the Mayor and compare it with cities with directly elected mayors who serve for a longer period.

As the study shows, the duties are similar but the greatest disparity is in compensation. The size of the city seems to determine whether the job is considered full-time or part-time. Hayward compensates less than Oakland but considers the job full-time and Oakland part-time.

Workshop members find merit in a directly elected mayor with a four year term. The prestige and greater independence would provide a valuable balance to the Council and the City Manager. The power of the Mayor in Berkeley to ask for an independent unlimited audit seems especially important. Some staff seems essential whether the job is full or part-time.

There is some concern about what is the appropriate reasonable salary. The proposed salary is in sharp contrast to the present $50 councilmen receive and the disparity would need to be corrected.

On the other hand, if Richmond is as polarized as the city manager believes and the political balance so precarious, a directly elected mayor has unpredictable consequences. On a rotating basis, all segments of the community will have the opportunity of having a representative act as the ceremonial head and presiding officer. City services would be less political.

*******************************
Appendix
California Cities with a Directly Elected Mayor
*General Law City

Alameda
Anaheim
*Antioch
*Arvin
Bakersfield
Belmont
*Benicia
Berkeley
*California City
*Carlsbad
Chino
Chula Vista
*Coachella
*Colton
Compton
*Coronado
*Desert Hot Springs
*El Cajon
Eureka
*Fairfield

*Fontana
Fresno
*Gardena
*Garden Grove
Gilroy
*Hayward
*Hollister
*Imperial Beach
*Inglewood
*La Mesa
*La Verne
Los Angeles
Modesto
*Montclair
Monterey
*McFarland
Napa
*National City

*Newman
*Oakdale
*Gardena
*Garden Grove
*Gilroy
*Hayward
*Hollister
*Imperial Beach
*Inglewood
*La Mesa
*La Verne
Los Angeles
Modesto
*Montclair
Monterey
*McFarland
Napa
*National City

San Luis Obispo
*San Marcos
*San Marino
San Rafael
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
*Santa Maria
*Seaside
*Sierra Madre
*Tiburon
Torrance
*Trinidad
*Turlock
*Ukiah
*Union City
*Upland
Vallejo
Watsonville

League of Women Voters Richmond Area
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>SALARY/FRINGE</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
<th>POWERS AND DUTIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALAMEDA</td>
<td>74,500</td>
<td>4-year</td>
<td>$200/month</td>
<td>City Mgr.</td>
<td>Official and ceremonial head and presides at council meetings.</td>
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<td>plus $20/mtg</td>
<td>responsible</td>
<td>May command police and fire departments and govern city by proclamation whenever</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>limited to 2/mo</td>
<td>for staff</td>
<td>Council determines that public danger or emergency requires such action.</td>
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<td>$50 expenses</td>
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<td>Nominates for Council approval members of Boards.</td>
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<td>without vouchers</td>
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<td>Mayor, Auditor and City Manager shall together count the money in the City</td>
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<td>Treasury at least once in every 3 months and ascertain the amount of money on</td>
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<td>hand and make a written report to Council within 5 days to show whether it</td>
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<td>corresponds to the fiscal records.</td>
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<td>Council gets</td>
<td>One of council. Full council appoints</td>
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<td>$20/mtg also</td>
<td>boards and commissions. No special powers beyond council. Official and</td>
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<td>ceremonial head and presides at council meetings.</td>
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<td>EUREKA</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>4-year</td>
<td>$1000/month</td>
<td>Adm. Asst.</td>
<td>One of council. Full council appoints</td>
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<td>Public employee benefits-health; dental-own. Budget meeting expenses.</td>
<td>-1½ typist clerk</td>
<td>boards and commissions. No special powers beyond council. Official and</td>
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<td>BERKELEY</td>
<td>116,000</td>
<td>4-year</td>
<td>$600/month</td>
<td>Clerical staff</td>
<td>Chairman of the council. Presides at meetings and performs duties consistent</td>
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<td>Reimburse $6000/yr expenses, vouchers required.</td>
<td>assigned by city manager in budget</td>
<td>with office as may be imposed by the council. Official and ceremonial head.</td>
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<td>Employs CPA to examine City's books with unlimited privilege of investigation.</td>
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<td>Council $300/mo</td>
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<td>AKLAND</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>4-year</td>
<td>$1500/year</td>
<td>Secretary and</td>
<td>Has one vote. Full council appoints</td>
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<td>Car allowance</td>
<td>Adm. Assista</td>
<td>boards. Presides at meetings.</td>
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<td>Pension fund</td>
<td>2 clerks (1 reg. and 1 fed.)</td>
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<td>Usual employee benefits</td>
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League of Women Voters' Richmond Area
December 1976
PRINCIPAL FORMS OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Mayor-Council System

5 or more individually elected by voters. Enact local laws and establish city policy.
Council appoints department heads, advisory boards and other personnel.
Mayor elected from Council but may be elected by voters.

Weak Mayor Council

Either Council may elect one of its members to serve as Mayor or he may be elected by voters.
City Council deals with each of the city departments and mayor is not the executive head of the various departments.

Strong Mayor Council – found in larger cities

City powers are divided between a popularly elected city council exercising mainly legislative powers and a popularly elected mayor, exercising mainly executive powers.
Mayor appoints city executive subject usually to council confirmation.
Performs ceremonial functions. Though he does not serve on the city council, he generally has some form of veto power.
A professional administrative officer is generally employed. Authority is less than that of a city manager.

Council-Manager system.

Most popular in medium-smaller cities.
Similar to weak mayor-council system except that the executive administrative responsibilities are exercised by professional managers. Accordingly, the council appoints a city manager, a professional public servant with executive ability but without political functions, who sees to the smooth functioning of city organization. Responsible to the council.

Council Administrator

Variant, less power. No authority to hire and fire.
The Direct Election of the Mayor

A Report for Presentation
to the

Brea City Council

Barbara S. Stone, Chair
Citizens Committee
INTRODUCTION

In early April, 1976, a citizens committee was appointed to study the merits of a proposal for the direct election of the Mayor of Brea. This committee was charged with examining both the positive and negative aspects of such an election and reporting their findings back to the Council by May 1.

The committee met a total of three times. It was provided with voluminous material by the City Clerk and Assistant City Counsel. The members of the committee themselves interviewed numerous relevant individuals in other general law cities which already have some experience with a directly elected mayor, including the cities of Montclair, Coronado, Hemet, Upland, Colton, Ontario, Tracy, and Carlsbad. This report contains the essence of their findings.

OVERVIEW

The city of Brea currently operates under a council-manager form of government. This is a normal practice in cities of Brea's size (population-approximately 22,000). The proposal to add a directly elected mayor would not drastically change the situation, although it would mandate to the mayor one power which is currently within the discretion of the Council.

If the mayor of a general law city is directly elected, he must, with the approval of the city council, make all appointments to boards, commissions, and
committees within the city (see appendix). While this is in fact what occurs now, the discretionary power lies with the Council, which can remove the mayor's prerogatives if they disapprove of his actions. This would no longer be the case if the mayor were directly elected: no one could be appointed whom he did not propose. This is not necessarily good or bad, just a fact which the committee wishes to call to the attention of the Council.

The committee also wishes to make one other general point. What is being discussed in this report is a relatively minor structural change. Good men can probably make any structure work; by the same token, bad men can corrupt almost any form of government. While adjusting the structures of government in Brea might lead to some potentially positive (or negative) changes, no structural change can guarantee good government. Thus, too much should not be read into the potential of this change for either good or evil.

THE ARGUMENTS

The citizen's committee has been asked to present the arguments for and against the direct election of the Mayor. The chart on page 3 summarizes the major points.

Arguments for the Direct Election of the Mayor:

1. A directly elected mayor would represent the expressed opinion of all the voters, not just the preferences which emerge from the negotiations among the councilmen. The mayor is the most visible official in Brea. He serves as its ceremonial head as well as its spokesman on broader arenas such as the League of California Cities. It is appropriate that he be chosen directly by the voters rather than by the
# DIRECT ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

## ARGUMENTS FOR

1. A directly elected mayor would represent the expressed opinion of all the voters, not just the preferences which emerge from the negotiations among the councilmen.

2. An independently elected mayor helps prevent cliquish politics from dominating the city.

3. There is an advantage to the continuity provided by a mayor elected to a two or four year term.

4. If there is a need for additional policy leadership in the city, a directly elected mayor has the potential to provide it.

## ARGUMENTS AGAINST

1. A directly elected mayor could result in some outstanding men being unable to serve the city in an elected capacity.

2. Brea needs a unified, integrated administration.

3. There is a need to guard against providing too much power for one man.

4. In a city the size of Brea, there is no need for an independent political executive to bring about change.

5. There is no overwhelming need to change.
compromise procedure demanded by the interplay of the personalities on the Council. This method could also free the mayor from having to make promises to the other councilmen in order to achieve his position.

2. **An independently elected mayor helps prevent cliquish politics from dominating the city.** A city can arrive at a point where a single clique dominates the Council and elects only its own members as mayor. A directly elected mayor would give outsiders a chance to go directly to the people as a way around such narrow politics.

3. **There is an advantage to the continuity provided by a mayor elected to a two or four year term.** The manager, the people, and other governmental bodies know who will be there for what period of time, which can contribute to the smooth running of the city.

4. **If there is a need for additional "policy" leadership in the city, a directly elected mayor has the potential to provide it.** Both his power to appoint commissioners as well as the informal powers of persuasion which arise from his popular mandate could lend themselves to a mayor who wished to take an active role in directing the policies of the city.

**Arguments Against the Direct Election of the Mayor:**

1. A directly elected mayor could result in some outstanding men being unable to serve the city in an elected capacity. Under the present system the people elect the five best (or most popular) men to serve on the Council; one of these is then elected mayor by his peers. With a direct-
ly elected mayor, two or more of these men could run for mayor, with
the losers being left out of city government. This could result in
the loss to the city of the services of some very able men.

2. Brea needs a unified, integrated administration, not the potential
disruption which could come from a directly elected mayor. In the city
of Carlsbad, the committee uncovered a case in which a determined, strong-
minded mayor managed to disrupt the functioning of the city's government
for an eight-year period.

3. There is a need to guard against providing too much power for one man.
Separate election can over-magnify the mayor so that he is tempted to
presume he is more important than he is or to justify his position by
interfering with administrative responsibilities of the manager.

4. In a city the size of Brea, there is no need for an independent political
executive to bring about change. If the people really want change, they
have easy access to the Council, which is unlikely to ignore their wishes.

5. There is no overwhelming need to change. The current problem seems to
be based on personalities, not governmental need, which seems a poor
reason to change a structure which has served the city well.

A report of this type normally ends with recommendations. Since this was
specifically omitted from the charge to the committee, our task is completed
with the listings above.
DIRECT ELECTION OF MAYORS

All cities in California have the choice of directly electing their mayor and, in recent years, more cities have been leaning in this direction. The total number of cities directly electing their mayor has almost doubled since 1974, going from only 60 to the 1981 total of 111.

The authorizing legislation for general law cities to adopt a directly elected mayor can be found in Section 34900 of the Government Code:

"At any general municipal election, or at a special election held for that purpose, the city council may submit to the electors the question of whether electors shall thereafter elect a mayor and four city councilmen, and whether the mayor shall serve a two-year or four-year term. In cities presently having elected mayors, the city council may also submit to the electors the question of whether the mayor shall thereafter serve a two-year or four-year term."

Charter cities get their authorization under the "municipal affairs" definition of Article XI, Section 5 in the California Constitution. Several examples of Charter Provisions calling for a directly elected mayor include:

Bakersfield: "The Mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the City and shall hold his office four years from and after the first Monday after the first day of January subsequent to his election . . . "

Pacific Grove: "A Mayor shall be elected at each general election and shall hold office for the term of two years from and after the Tuesday next succeeding the day of such election and until his successor is elected and qualified."

San Bernardino: "There shall be elected at the general election in 1977, and every fourth year thereafter, a Mayor who shall be elected at large for a term of four years commencing on the first Monday in June next succeeding such election."

There does not seem to be any clear-cut pattern concerning the length of terms except to say that a good portion of the Charter cities utilize the four-year term and, also, a good portion of the larger cities utilize the four year term. One noticeable difference between 1974 and 1981 is that a 1974 League of California Cities information sheet on this subject said, " . . . most mayors serve a term of four years, although a few have two-year terms." A quick scan down a 1981 list showing lengths of terms shows that approximately half the cities with a directly elected mayor have the mayoral term set at two years.
Advantages and Disadvantages Concerning the Direct Election of a Mayor

Source: League Library (pamphlets from city officials)

ADVANTAGES

- A directly elected mayor would represent the expressed opinion of all the voters, not just the preferences which emerge from the negotiations among the councilmen.

- An independently elected mayor helps prevent cliquish politics from dominating the city.

- A directly elected mayor provides continuity through a two or four year term.

- A directly elected mayor has the potential to provide any needed additional policy leadership in the city.

- A directly elected mayor can assume a certain amount of independence in his views since his office is not secured by a majority vote of the council.

- A directly elected mayor is autonomous, to a degree, from the council and, therefore, can take a stronger role in regional activities (i.e., a single voice for the city).

- A directly elected mayor can be the focal point for community involvement.

- A directly elected mayor can offer a more adept view of the city political climate.

DISADVANTAGES

- A directly elected mayor could result in some outstanding men being unable to serve the city in an elected capacity (i.e., the loser does not become a councilmember).

- A directly elected mayor may control too much centralized power.

- A directly elected mayor may create a divisive atmosphere in council relations.

- A directly elected mayor may come into conflict with the city administration (e.g., political authority versus administrative authority).

- A directly elected mayor, as an independent authority, may have expressions which are contrary to the whole of the council.

- A directly elected mayor cannot be removed from office, save in a recall election, for unethical conduct for the duration of his term (unlike a mayor who serves at the pleasure of the council).

- A directly elected mayor, in general law cities, has no authority other than what state law prescribes and this can create a conflict between political authority and statutory authority (creating a frustration which might be shown negatively).

- A directly elected mayor does not allow for each councilmember to sit as the mayor and, therefore, revokes an honor that might otherwise attract qualified people to the council.
CITIES WITH DIRECT ELECTION OF MAYOR — Comparison between 1974 and 1981

SOURCES: League Library
           State Department of Finance, Population Research Unit

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<th>Percent</th>
<th>Calculation</th>
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<td>426</td>
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<td>Total number of general law cities</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>345</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>Total cities over 100,000 population</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total cities under 100,000 population</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total cities with D.E.M. under 100,000 population</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>94</td>
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<td>Percent of cities over 100,000 population with D.E.M.</td>
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<td>Percent of cities under 100,000 population with D.E.M.</td>
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<td>12.56</td>
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*D.E.M. = Directly Elected Mayor
CITIES OVER 100,000 POPULATION WITH DIRECT ELECTION OF MAYOR*

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<td>Anaheim</td>
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<td>Bakersfield</td>
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<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>102,900</td>
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<td>Fremont</td>
<td>134,400</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
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<td>Garden Grove</td>
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<td>Modesto</td>
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<td>Oakland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxnard</td>
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<td>Sacramento</td>
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<td>887,700</td>
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<td>680,700</td>
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<td>San Jose</td>
<td>654,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>155,100</td>
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<td>Torrance</td>
<td>131,400</td>
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*Population: 1/1/81 - Department of Finance, Population Research Unit
Cities which have gone to direct election of mayor (change from 1980 League Roster to 1981 League Roster) (5/20/81)

Clovis
Dorris
Huron
Monterey Park
Orange
Orange Cove
Oroville
Pacific Grove
Patterson
Patterson
Sutter Creek
MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: Joni
Date: July 28, 1987

RE: DIRECT ELECTION OF MAYOR IN CALIFORNIA

AUTHORITY TO DIRECTLY ELECT MAYORS: Resides in Charters or Government Code Section 34900 (effective 1959) for general law cities.

GROWING TREND TOWARDS D.E.M.*

1974 - 60 D.E.M.
1981 - 111 D.E.M.
1984 - 119 D.E.M.
1987 - 122 D.E.M.

Recent Cities to elect D.E.M.

The cities of Greenfield, La Quinta, and Tracy elected their First D.E.M. in 1986.


Long Beach will elect D.E.M. in either April or June of 1988.

Pasadena - will elect D.E.M. in May of 1988


Avalon will directly elect mayor in April of 1988.

* D.E.M. = Directly Elected Mayor

ANALYSIS OF CITIES WITH D.E.M.

Total Cities

Number of cities - 444
Number of cities with D.E.M. - 122
27% of all cities have a D.E.M.
THE SUNNYVALE ADVANTAGE

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

So low as to be virtually nonexistent: minimum rate, $30 per year and the
maximum rate $300 per year.

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

Statewide average is 5%, some cities as high as 7%.

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

No other public or private water company affords lower rates.

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

Not the lowest, but below average in cost.

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

Sunnyvale levies no assessments for any basic service delivery nor has it levied
assessments even for capital improvements.

رياضياًًاً وقتماً تأكد من أن كافة نظريات: مناطق، لا هناك مصاريف وظيفية:

The City has no voter-approved debt. Voter-approved debt is an override on top
of the 1% Proposition 13 tax rate for Sunnyvale.
The Sunnyvale Advantage

🌟 **Highly Reliable Water System.**

Sunnyvale is the only city in Santa Clara County that receives its water from three independent systems. The City receives water from the San Francisco Water Department (Hetch Hetchy), the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and its own groundwater supply. This system assures a continuity of water supply even when one of the water systems is potentially out of service and provides a buffer during times of drought and water conservation.

🌟 **Utility System Capacity.**

The City’s sanitary sewer treatment facility has capacity well in excess of projected build-out in the City. There is little chance that capacity will be reached, therefore little chance that building moratoria or rapidly increasing sewer fees are in the City’s future. The City’s contract for water supply is well in excess of present usage, with little reason to worry that capacity may be stretched in the future. The City has secured 35 years of environmentally safe and cost efficient landfill space assuring that this municipal service will continue uninterrupted and in a cost effective way in the foreseeable future.

🌟 **Express Plan Check (Over The Counter).**

Over 65% of the building permits issued in Sunnyvale are issued the same day they are requested. Reasonably, simple plans are immediately checked and permitted the day they are brought in.

🌟 **One Stop Permit Center.**

Development and rehabilitation needs are handled at one point for our clients. Planning, building safety, fire, and public works permit requirements are all dealt with through one service employee assigned to a particular business client.

🌟 **Rapid Turnaround on More Complex Plans.**

Even for more complex construction, the City has a service objective no more than 40 days in plan check. This unparalleled turnaround time for development recognizes businesses’ time and money issues.
The Sunnyvale Advantage

Star

Job Training.

The City's NOVA program provides employers with employee specific training, outplacement assistance, assessment and employment development planning, on-the-job training reimbursement for companies, on-site recruiting, and identifying and training a qualified workforce.

Star

Highest Quality Emergency, Police and Fire Services.

Sunnyvale has the lowest crime rate of cities over 100,000 in the United States, even though it is a major industrial center. It is sensitive to the unique business needs of the high tech community. Prevention services are offered. Fire services have a rapid response time resulting in a very low fire loss rate within our community. An attractive Class III fire insurance rating has been conferred on the City, reducing the cost of fire insurance in Sunnyvale to private parties. The city has a very active Emergency Preparedness unit with a component designed to assist business with their emergency preparedness needs.

Star

Sunnyvale is a Full Service City.

All City services are provided directly by the City, not by contract with other governmental agencies, not by special districts. This means that Sunnyvale is able to handle all local government service needs for our business clients.

Star

Low Transient Occupancy Taxes:

This is a tax on those who stay in hotels and motels. Sunnyvale's rate of 8% is 2% below the Bay Area average.

Star

The City Takes a Long-Term Approach.

Sunnyvale constantly looks ten years out into the future. This orientation allows the City to prepare for contingencies and to minimize budgetary surprises. The City doesn't take on new services without calculating their long-term costs. This translates into low taxes for individuals and businesses. But, despite the low costs of doing business in Sunnyvale, the City provides complete and high quality level of services for residents and businesses.
The Sunnyvale Advantage

Infrastructure is a Priority.

The City’s roads are in premium maintenance condition. High investments in routine maintenance occur annually, with little risk that there will be road breakdown or that the City may have to revert to high cost assessments for a major rebuilding effort. Utility systems are maintained with the same high degree of maintenance.

Economic Development Department.

City-Business relationships are a high priority for Sunnyvale. The City has created an Economic Development Division to work directly with businesses and become a one-stop link to City government. Sunnyvale is one of few cities in Santa Clara County to establish an economic development office. We’re serious about economic development.

Contact: Gerl Cross
Economic Development Manager
P.O. Box 3707
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
(408) 730-7607
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Monte Sereno</td>
<td>U</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Morgan Hill</td>
<td>U</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>U</td>
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ALAMEDA (direct elec. only)

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<td>PLEASANTON 1988</td>
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<td>SAN LEANDRO</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNION CITY 1914</td>
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CONTRA COSTA (6 largest)

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MARIN (2 largest)

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<td>SAN RAFAEL</td>
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NAPA (all cities elect-only largest noted here)

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SAN FRANCISCO 1856

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<th>COUNCIL U/O</th>
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<td>VACAVILLE</td>
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<td>VALLEJO</td>
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<td>Santa Rosa</td>
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Sunnyvale council vetoes direct election of mayor

Sunnyvale residents won't have an opportunity to elect their mayor directly, the Sunnyvale City Council decided Monday night on a 5-2 vote.

Despite Councilman Larry Stone's attempts to persuade fellow council members to go along with his proposal, the council resoundingly defeated an effort to let Sunnyvale citizens choose their mayor. Stone and Mayor Ron Gonzales voted in favor of the measure.

Under the present system, the seven-member council elects the mayor by a majority vote for a one-year term.

Most of the opposition to Stone's proposal focused on the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Opponents also said that a directly elected mayor would create tension between the mayor and the city manager.

The mayor now acts more as a housekeeper, presiding over council meetings and signing proclamations.

Stone argued vehemently that Sunnyvale's population of 106,000 warrants a mayor who has some political clout at the state and federal level and a mayor who is more responsive to the electorate and less beholden to the council.
Choosing a mayor

AN EFFORT afoot in Sunnyvale to let voters elect their mayor directly and for a four-year term has been shot down, for the time being at least, by a charter review committee considering several changes for City Council consideration in June.

The charter review panel has rejected member Louis Cava's elect-a-mayor proposal, which also is championed by second-term councilman and former mayor Larry Stone, by a 10-4 vote. A followup motion — for the direct election of a mayor without deciding on the length of the term until later — also was voted down. Cava then asked for a committee vote on an elected mayor for a two-year term, but he lost again.

Stone, a vigorous municipal practitioner who can't run for a third term next year because of the charter's two-term limit on council duty, made a hardy personal pitch to the charter reviewers for the elected mayor setup. Current Mayor Ron Tortalos also is tilting toward giving the change a try. But Councilwoman Dianne McKenna, who wielded the mayor's gavel last year, is challenging the mayoral switch as a self-styled devil's advocate.

Councilman Stone contends that an elected mayor would have more clout for the city in dealing with federal, state and regional agencies on financial aid for priority projects. He reminds that Sunnyvale is "no longer a small potatoes town" and is California's 18th largest city. And, he points out, of the 17 cities in the state larger than Sunnyvale, 16 have directly elected mayors. Statewide, 120 cities elect their mayors, Stone stresses, so Sunnyvale's conversion to that method wouldn't be unusual.

Stone's immediate role model in urging the elected mayor format is bigger sister San Jose and its mayor, Janet Gray Hayes, a four-year incumbent who indeed has been an effective lobbyist for that sprawling community.

Councilwoman McKenna's chief hangup with the elected mayor concept is one we've long shared. She fears that changing the current procedure, in which council members generally are rotated to the chairmanship every year by majority vote of their colleagues, may create more tension in the mayor-city manager relationship because an entrenched mayor in such an arrangement would have much more authority because of his or her longer term. This could politicize the mayor's slot far beyond the current limitations of one-year mayoral terms.

With a population of about 108,000 — making it the sixth-largest Bay Area city — Sunnyvale indeed has grown bigger municipal muscles. But we think its appointive mayor system gives both the City Council and taxpayers firmer control on accountability than would a leap in the other direction.

We think Sunnyvale voters, if the City Council puts the provocative proposal on the November ballot, should stick with the status quo.

Sunnyvale in recent years has been a model city in frugal governmental management and relative harmony. Charter reviewer Bill Thomas said it in a nutshell Thursday when he declared, "An elected mayor might get overly involved. It's a drastic step. The stakes are far too high. We have a finely tuned machine here."

In a city the size of Sunnyvale, where grass-roots candidates still have a chance to serve at City Hall, we say he's right.
Mayoral election rejected

By Cinde Chorness
Valley Journal staff

SUNNYVALE — A proposal to let Sunnyvale voters elect their mayor was rejected this week by a citizens' group reviewing the city charter, despite an appeal from the mayor himself that they approve the idea.

Sunnyvale's mayor now is elected to a one-year term by the other six council members. But a member of the committee, Lou Cava, proposed that Sunnyvale voters be allowed to elect the mayor to a four-year term.

The committee rejected Cava’s proposal with a 10-4 vote.

The group also rejected a two-year term limit for a directly-elected mayor. The committee finally turned down the whole idea when it refused 8-6 to consider even the concept of a directly-elected mayor.

The 15-member charter review committee was appointed by the City Council to study the charter — a document outlining the city’s form of government — and to make recommendations for change. The group also is studying handcart control, district election of council members and council members’ pay, among other issues.

Committee member Bob Reese said Friday he voted against the motions because he thinks the current system for electing the mayor works well.

However, committee chairman Dave Barram disagreed, saying he voted for the motions because, “When I vote for a City Council member, I don’t think of them as a mayor. I think we should elect the best person for the job.”
Why change way of electing mayor?

The current issue simmering in Sunnyvale is whether we should elect our mayors by direct election or stay with our time-tested method that allows the city council to appoint one from their number.

Why this should be an issue causing expenditure of valuable time and money to settle is puzzling to most citizens in Sunnyvale, most of whom are well pleased with the manner the city has been operating. Most of us like the responsive government we enjoy, which has spared us the posturing, showmanship and personal agenda diplomacy evident in the cities that have the direct election method to get their mayors.

The situation is deserving of study by someone needing a thesis for their doctoral degree in political science or sociology. Sunnyvale is a city of moderate size, compact and extremely well-run. It has the perfect background against which one could measure the effect of forced political change — with all the ramifications. All the elements are there: personal ambition, politicization, agendas, egos, press coverage, voter apathy, voter interest and more.

Sunnyvale has been an exemplary city on how to run city business and city government. An in-depth study of the attempt to change its system might show the way to other regional cities on how to get away from their burden of directly elected mayors.

— W.K. Walker
Sunnyvale
6-5-91

THE MONDAY MORNING (6-5-91) MERCURY NEWS BUSINESS SECTION
PRESENTS THIS SIGNIFICANT DATA:

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTED IN BAY AREA CITIES WITH COUNCIL MANAGER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS SIX TIMES GREATER THAN THAT IN CITIES WITH DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS.

THE RATIO BETWEEN THIS FORM OF VITAL CAPITAL AUGMENTATION ENJOYED BY SUNNYVALE AND THAT RECEIVED BY SAN JOSE DURING THIS PERIOD WAS ALSO SIX DOLLARS PER SUNNYVALE RESIDENT FOR EVERY ONE DOLLAR FOR SAN JOSE.

THIS IS ANOTHER SUBSTANTIAL INDICATION THAT THE COUNCIL MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT, SO WELL DEMONSTRATED BY SUNNYVALE, IS FAR MORE VALUED BY TODAY'S POTENTIALLY WINNING INDUSTRIES AND THEIR VALUE-FOCUSED FINANCIAL BACKERS THAN THE BACKWARD-TRENDING FORM THAT DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO FREQUENTLY PRODUCE.
One politician too many

Directly electing a mayor wouldn't necessarily make Sunnyvale a better-run city

SUNNYVALE City Councilman Larry Stone may be a visionary. Then again, he may be a guy who just doesn't know when to quit.

Stone wants Sunnyvale residents to elect their mayor every four years instead of letting city council members choose among themselves every two years.

He says a directly elected mayor would give the city's 117,000 people more say in their local government and would give the city a higher profile in the region. The time has come, he says, for Sunnyvale to act like a big city.

Actually, Stone thought the time had come back in 1978 when he first proposed this change. He raised it several times since.

Each time his fellow council members rejected it, saying the current system works fine. The tired refrain, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," has been heard time and again around City Hall.

But Stone isn't one to give up. He is gathering signatures to put the directly elected mayor issue on the November ballot. He says that he already has gathered about 3,000 of the 9,000 signatures he needs and is confident that he will meet the deadline.

It is not surprising that Stone is finding more support for his plan outside local supermarkets than inside City Hall. Few voters, when given the chance, are going to say, "Let someone else choose my mayor for me. I don't want to be bothered."

Yet the opponents of this proposal have legitimate concerns. Sunnyvale has one of the best-run city governments around. Before tampering with it, voters should know what the effects would be.

A high-profile mayor could weaken the position of the city manager, who has been responsible for keeping Sunnyvale running so smoothly. A high-cost mayoral election could divert money and attention from city council campaigns. A mayor who takes the position seriously could turn it into a full-time job and ask for a full-time salary.

Sunnyvale may be the second-largest city in Santa Clara County, but it is not yet big enough to need a full-time professional politician in the mayor's office.

Some say Larry Stone wants an elected mayor because he wants to run for mayor himself. While he doesn't deny that he might run, he urges voters to consider the idea on its merits, regardless of his motivations.

Fine. On its merits, this is an idea whose time has not yet come.
SAVE OUR SUNNYVALE

Add your name to the growing list of Sunnyvale residents who believe that our current form of City Government serves us well. Fill out the coupon below and mail it in TODAY!!!

Print Name ___________________________ Sign Name ___________________________

Address ________________________________

Phone _____ Don't change Sunnyvale Government _______

Mail to: Save Our Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2645, Sunnyvale Ca. 94087
(408) 736-5070

Should we have a directly elected Mayor?

The Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee, of which I'm a member, has been working diligently researching information from other cities, holding public hearings and interviewing knowledgeable people on the subject of a Directly Elected Mayor vs. the Council/Manager type of city government.

It has been an education!

Did you know Sunnyvale is a nationally recognized "model" city? Or that it is powerfully successful in its influence in the county, in the State and the Nation?

Did you know our city's performance-based budgeting technique was introduced in the U.S. Congress as a bill in early 1991? The merits of this method were recognized by our City Council members, who then delayed its implementation, demonstrating the effectiveness of their good judgement.

It is no wonder Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee arrived at the decision it did.

The Ad Hoc Charter Review recommendation on the question "Should the Mayor be directly elected by the voters?" is NO by a 12 to two vote.

The Committee came to this conclusion, after its research, because:

#1. There are no major problems in Sunnyvale to create a reason to change its successful Council/Manager government.

#2. Input from the public hearings, interviews with individuals and a study of other cities with Council/Manager or Directly Elected Mayor city governments resulted in strong support of Sunnyvale's current system from the Committee.

#3. Public opinion indicates there is public apprehension that a Directly Elected Mayor would be inclined to move toward having more power. An overview of reports indicated this to be the pattern in cities who change from Council/Manager to a Directly Elected Mayor.

When you are asked, "Should the Mayor be directly elected by the voters?" pause and think on it. It seems to imply your right to
GENERAL LAW CITIES

Number of general law cities - 362
Number of general law cities with D.E.M. - 82
23% of all general law cities have a D.E.M.
19% of all cities are general law cities with a D.E.M.

Charter Cities

Number of charter cities - 82
Number of charter cities with D.E.M. - 40
49% of all charter cities have a D.E.M.
9% of all cities are charter cities with a D.E.M.

Population Range

Cities 25,000 and under - 249 cities or 57% of all cities fall within range
- 41 or 16% of cities within range have a D.E.M.

Cities from 25,001 to 50,000 - 88 cities or 20% of all cities within range
- 31 or 35% of cities within range have a D.E.M.

Cities from 50,001 to 75,000 - 45 or 10% of all cities fall within range
- 17 or 39% of cities in range have a D.E.M.

Cities from 75,001 to 100,000 - 28 or 4% of all cities fall in population range
11 or 39% of cities within range have a D.E.M.

Cities 100,000 and up - 34 or 8% of cities fall within range
24 or 71% of cities within range have a D.E.M.
Comparison of Recommendations

Question #10
What should be the maximum length of time a member could serve continuously on the Council as a Councilmember and Mayor?

Bricker/McComb
1. Primary Recommendation: two consecutive terms as Councilmember followed by two consecutive terms as Mayor.
2. Alternative Recommendation: two four-year terms as a Councilmember followed by one six-year term as Mayor.

Noll/Rowe
1. Primary Recommendation: eight-year lifetime limit as Councilmember or Mayor.
2. Alternative Recommendation: 12-year lifetime limit as Councilmember or Mayor.
3. Alternative Recommendation: Cycles of eight years on and eight years off.

Question #11
Should there be "lifetime" limits on total service as Mayor and on the Council (whether continuous or not)?

Bricker/McComb
1. No "lifetime" limits.

Noll/Rowe
1. Primary Recommendation: Yes, there should be lifetime limits - eight years.

Question #12
How much time should elapse between the time a Councilmember leaves office and the time he/she can again run for Council?
1. **Primary Recommendation:** No change in the current two-year layoff.

**Noll/Rowe**

1. **Primary Recommendation:** If consecutive lifetime term limits are not adopted, there should be an eight-year layoff period.
May 21, 1991
Group 1 (Noll, Rowe)
Draft

Recommendations

It is our position that the Charter Review Committee should recommend to the Council that a ballot measure relating to term limits be placed before the voters of Sunnyvale.

The Charter Review Committee should recommend one of the following term limitation plans, listed below in order of preference:

A: "8 year style lifetime limit"
   After one has served 6 or more years since the election at which this term limit was approved, one may not be appointed or elected to office.
   This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 6 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

B: "12 year style lifetime limit"
   After one has served 10 or more years since the election at which this term limit was approved, one may not be appointed or elected to office.
   This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 10 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

C: "8 years on, 8 years off style consecutive limit"
   If one has served 6 or more out of the past 8 years, one must wait a minimum of 8 years before being appointed, or elected to office.
   This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 8 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

The term limit should apply to any time served as Mayor or as a Councilmember, than independent limits for each type of service.

The Charter Review Committee should make a term limit recommendation regardless of if it recommends a directly elected Mayor or not.

If the Mayor is directly elected, a term of office should be 4 years.

The Charter Review Committee should recommend that a term limit ballot measure be placed before the voters of Sunnyvale as a separate and independent ballot measure.
Comments on term limit recommendation (A)

"8 year style lifetime limit"

After one has served 6 or more years since the election at which this term limit was approved, one may not be appointed or elected to office.

This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 6 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

This recommendation would permit one to serve 2, 4 year terms. The phrase '6 or more years' permits people who are served less than 1/2 of an expired term to serve 2 additional 4 year terms.

This limit applies to the combined time served as a Councilmember or Mayor.

The 6 year delay will prevent this term limit from being applied to service prior to becoming law. The existing term limit system for Councilmembers would remain in effect until the 6 year delay has passed.

If an office of a directly elected Mayor is established during the 6 year delay period, the current term limit system would be extended to include time served as Mayor.

We believe that 8 years of office holding is long enough.

If Sunnyvale elected officials stay in office too long, they run the risk of becoming entrenched, unresponsive or corrupted. It has been suggested by some testimony that the longer the term of office, the greater the chance that such problems could arise.

Lifetime limits do not deny citizens the chance to obtain good elected officials. In a city as large and diverse as Sunnyvale, one will always find well qualified citizens that are willing and able to hold office.

Lifetime limits do not prevent an individual from service the public. If someone if well qualified one really wants to serve the public, one may seek other forms of public service such as a board or commission position, or seek some other type of public office.

This term limit permits other qualified Sunnyvale citizens to run for office without always having to expend the effort of defeating an incumbent. Lifetime limits reduce the chance that one will be challenged by a former office holder. This will help reduce campaign spending.

The people of Sunnyvale are in favor of lifetime term limits. Of the 34,104 registered Sunnyvale voters who voted on Prop 140, over 51.9% (17,714) voted in favor of lifetime term limits at the state level.
Comments on term limit recommendation (B)

"12 year style lifetime limit"

After one has served 10 or more years since the election at which this term limit was approved, one may not be appointed or elected to office.

This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 10 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

This recommendation is a slight variation on recommendation (A). An extra 4 years is added onto (A) to permit an additional term of service.

It has been suggested by some testimony that the trend towards "self-service" rather than "public-service" often begins around the 12th year of office. This alternative is offered to permit someone to remain in office up to, but not exceeding that observed trend.

With the above comment added, the comments on term limit recommendation (A) apply to this recommendation.
"8 years on, 8 years off style consecutive limit"

If one has served 6 or more out of the past 8 years, one must wait a minimum of 8 years before being appointed, or elected to office.

This term limit comes into effect on the election day, 8 years after the election at which this term limit was approved.

This recommendation is a variation on recommendation (A), where the lifetime limit is replaced by an 8 year layoff period.

This recommendation would permit one to serve 2, 4 year terms. The phrase '6 or more years out of the last 8' permits people who are served less than 1/2 of an expired term to serve 2 addition 4 years terms.

Like recommendations (A) and (B), this limit applies to the combined time served as a Councilmember or Mayor.

The 8 year delay will prevent this term limit from being applied to service prior to becoming law. The existing term limit system for Councilmembers would remain in effect until the 8 year delay has passed.

If an office of a directly elected Mayor is established during the 8 year delay period, the current term limit system would be extended to include time served as Mayor.

The present system of term limits requires a layoff period of only 2 years. This period is far too short. The name recognition allows a regular office holder to maintain much of their incumbent power after being out of office for only 2 years.

The layoff period of 8 years was selected to achieve a half on/half off effect. Consider the case where an office holder stays in office for 8 years (2 terms). At the end of the 8th year, that person would have been in office for more than 6 of the last 8 years, so they would step out of office for at least 8 years. This 8 years on, 8 years off achieves a maximum of 50% time in office.

Unlike a simple consecutive term limits, this recommendation would prevent one from serving for a 4 year term, staying off 2 years, serving another 4 year term, staying off 2 years, and so on ...
Question 9

What should be the term length for the Mayor and the maximum number of terms an individual could serve as Mayor?

The term of a directly elected mayor should be 4 years.

If the term limit recommendation (A) is adopted, the maximum number of terms one could serve would be 2.

If the term limit recommendation (B) is adopted, the maximum number of terms one could serve would be 3.

If the term limit recommendation (C) is adopted, the maximum number of consecutive terms one could serve would be 2.

Because we recommend that term limits apply to the combined time served as a Councilmember and Mayor, the above consecutive limits apply to both offices.

The term of a directly elected mayor should be the same as a Councilmember. A Councilmember's term currently is 4 years. A limit of 2 years would force an individual to run too many campaigns. A limit of 6 or more years would result in too long of a gap between selections, and thus could reduce accountability to the voters.
Question 10

What should the maximum length of the time a member could serve continuously on the Council as a Councilmember or Mayor?

If the term limit recommendation (A) is adopted, the maximum length one could continuously serve would be 8 years.

If the term limit recommendation (B) is adopted, the maximum length one could continuously serve would be 12 years.

If the term limit recommendation (C) is adopted, the maximum length one could continuously serve would be 8 years.

Because we recommend that term limits apply to the combined time served as a Councilmember and Mayor, the above consecutive limits apply to both offices.
Question 11

Should there be "lifetime" limits of total service as Mayor and on the Council (whether continuous or not)?

It is our primary recommendation that lifetime limits be imposed on the Mayor and the Council. We favor recommendation (A), a lifetime limit of 8 years.

If alternative recommendation (B) is adopted, a lifetime limit of 12 years would be in effect.

Because we recommend that term limits apply to the combined time served as a Councilmember and Mayor, the above consecutive limits apply to both offices.
Question 12

How much time should elapse between the time a Councilmember leaves office and the time he/she can run again for Council?

If recommendations (A) or (B) (lifetime limits) are adopted, this question becomes mute.

Recommendation (C) would impose an 8 years layoff period.
CITY OF SUNNYVALE

Interoffice Memorandum

April 29, 1991

TO: All Members - Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee

FROM: James Webb, Jr. - Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Documentation and General Comments

Documentation

Attached are the following documents for your information and review:

- an April 30, 1991 information report to Council on the appointment of Mr. Michael Knaebel as the replacement for Committee member Marcello Lanfranchi;

- the flyer that has been distributed to the public;

- questions developed by Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4;

- a chart prepared by Committee member Max Anning; and

- the initial written report of Committee member Betty Nelson.

In addition, the City Attorney has prepared copies of items the Committee requested at its last hearing including:

- the Government Code;

- provisions from the Elections Code concerning election dates;

- legal cases involving limits on successive terms of office; and

- portions of the Charters of several Bay Area cities relating to service on the City Council.

The City Attorney's material may address a number of questions that members raised during the meeting of April 24. Accordingly, you are advised to review all the material thoroughly to determine which of your questions it answers and which requires further information.
Meeting Minutes

The official Minutes of the Committee will be prepared and distributed next week (most likely at the May 2 public hearing) by Deputy City Clerk Carol Butler. You should be able to review them for approval at your meeting of May 6.

Publicizing the Hearings

1,200 flyers announcing the public hearings (see attached copy) have been prepared by staff. 500 copies were distributed by Committee member Fran Rowe (who indicated at the meeting that she planned to distribute flyers in her neighborhood). Another 500 copies were given to Ann Hines of Leadership Sunnyvale for distribution at the State of the City activities. The remaining 200 copies will be distributed to attending members of the public at the hearings. Copies were also posted at the Library, the Senior Center, City Hall lobby and the Council Chamber lobby. Finally, the Mayor was requested to mention the hearings during his State of the City address. The Mayor considered the request but decided that given the nature of his remarks, the amount of time he had to give them and the short notice of the request, the availability of flyers at the Leadership Sunnyvale exhibit provided a sufficient avenue of publicizing the hearings at the State of the City activities.

Request for Council Input

In an April 26 memo, I requested members of Council interested in addressing the Committee on May 6 - or at any other scheduled study session - to contact me so that I could brief the Committee on who planned to attend and when. I emphasized that since the Committee would be in an "intake mode" during the first week of May, Council input would be appreciated sooner rather than later. I also made the same point in relaying the Committee's request for written clarification of the study issues.

Setting Due Dates for Subcommittee Reports

I would like to suggest that the Committee consider setting due dates for written subcommittee reports to the full Committee so that the Committee may have the opportunity to discuss and take preliminary positions on the issues it is studying. Setting such a schedule would allow each subcommittee to plan its work according to when its material would be due to the full committee for consideration and would allow the full committee the opportunity to revisit particularly difficult issues in the month of June before the full report is prepared for Council. In that regard, the Committee should also set its June meeting dates as early as possible so that staff can have adequate time to secure meeting facilities. I suggest that this item be placed on the agenda for the Committee meeting of May 6.

cc: City Attorney
    Deputy City Clerk

Attachments: as stated
REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

DATE: April 30, 1991

SUBJECT: COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF AD HOC CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REPLACEMENT MEMBER - INFORMATION ONLY

REPORT IN BRIEF

At its meeting of April 9, Council appointed a 15-member Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee to study recommending possible revisions to the City Charter. Each Councilmember appointed two Committee members with one member selected by the Council as an entire body. On April 23, Mr. Marcello Lanfranchi, a Committee member appointed by Councilmember Hanlon informed staff that due to unforeseen circumstances he would not be able to continue his participation on the Committee. The purpose of this information report is to advise Council that Councilmember Hanlon has selected Mr. Michael Knaebel to fill the unexpected vacancy created by Mr. Lanfranchi.

BACKGROUND

On April 9, 1991, Council appointed a 15-member Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee to study a series of Council-identified issues related to the direct election of the Mayor and service on the Council. In accordance with the appointment criteria established by Council, each Councilmember appointed two Committee members with one at large member appointed by the entire Council. Since its appointment, the Committee has met twice (April 15 and April 24) and has held one public hearing (April 29). The Committee plans to meet six times in the month of May (including two public hearings).

DISCUSSION

On April 23, Charter Review Committee member Marcello Lanfranchi informed staff that due to unforeseen circumstances, he would be unable to participate in the Committee’s study.

Since Mr. Lanfranchi was appointed by Councilmember Hanlon, Mr. Lanfranchi’s departure meant that Councilmember Hanlon no longer had two appointees on the Committee. Accordingly, Councilmember Hanlon has selected Mr. Michael Knaebel as his appointee to replace Mr. Lanfranchi on the Committee. Mr. Knaebel is one of the 31 Sunnyvale residents who submitted applications for membership on the Charter Review Committee. He met the Council-established Committee eligibility requirements of being a Sunnyvale resident who is currently a registered voter and was one of the 29...
candidates interviewed by Council. He attended the April 29 public hearing as a Committee member.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Copies of this report have been made available to the press and any interested members of the public.

Prepared by

James Webb, Jr.
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by

Karen L. Davis
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved by

Edward R. James
Assistant City Manager

Thomas F. Lewcock
City Manager
SHOULD THE MAYOR OF SUNNYVALE
BE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY THE VOTERS?

The Council-appointed Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee is currently considering whether it should recommend to the City Council that the City Charter be amended to provide for the direct election of the Mayor by City residents. The Committee is considering this issue as well as several other issues for possible Charter amendment relating to service on the City Council.

To assist it in developing its recommendations to the City Council, the Charter Review Committee has scheduled three public hearings in three City parks. Members of the public are invited to attend any or all of the meetings to offer comment and testimony on the Charter issues the Committee is reviewing.

Any proposed changes to the City Charter must ultimately be approved by City voters.

Issues Under Committee Study:

For a complete listing of the issues the Committee is reviewing, please see the reverse side of this flyer.

Dates and Locations of Public Hearings:

- Monday, April 29, Braly Park, 704 Daffodil Court
- Thursday, May 2, Lakewood Park, 834 Lakechime Drive
- Wednesday, May 8, Washington Park, 840 W. Washington Avenue

Time:

All public hearings will start at 7 p.m. For further information, contact the Office of the City Manager at 730-7599.
The City Council has identified the following issues for study and recommendation by the Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee:

1. Should the Mayor be directly elected by the voters?
2. Should the City Council return to the prior method of selecting a mayor to serve a term of one year?
3. What would be the effect of a directly elected Mayor on the Mayor-Council relationship, on the Council-Manager relationship and on how the City operates?
4. Should rebuttal arguments for and against a directly elected Mayor be included in the election materials sent to voters?
5. Should Councilmembers who run for Mayor vacate their Council seats at the time of declaring for Mayor?
6. Should Councilmembers who run for Mayor declare their intention in ample time to allow potential candidates interested in Council service to qualify for November elections? (How much is "ample time?")
7. Which Council seat should be designated as the Mayor's seat?
8. If approved by the voters, how should the transition to a directly elected mayor occur?
9. What should be the term length for the Mayor and the maximum number of terms an individual could serve as Mayor?
10. What should be the maximum length of time a member could serve continuously on the Council as a Councilmember and Mayor?
11. Should there be "lifetime" limits on total service as Mayor and on the Council (whether continuous or not)?
12. How much time should elapse between the time a Councilmember leaves office and the time he/she can again run for Council?
13. How can it be ensured that members elected to fill unexpired terms will be able to serve the maximum of two full terms as provided by the City Charter should the member choose to run again and is re-elected?
14. How should the City Charter be amended to facilitate Council's ability to determine special election dates to fill Council vacancies that will encourage maximum voter turnout?
15. How much is to be deducted from the salary of a Councilmember who takes a voluntary leave of absence?
Charter Review Subcommittee Information Questions
April 29, 1991

**Group 1** (McComb, Rowe, Knoll, Bricker)

Issues: 9, 10, 11, 12

For specific cities:
- Do you have lifetime or consecutive term limits?
- If so, what are they?
- If you elect your Mayor directly, are the term limits applied to Council and Mayor equally? (e.g., if there is a 2-term limit, is that 2 terms as a Councilmember and 2 terms as Mayor or terms as one or the other that equals 2 terms in total)
- If you have lifetime or consecutive term limits, were the limits imposed by the voters?
- If so, can we have copies of your ballot arguments?

**Group 2** (Nelson, Davis, Knaebel)

Issues: 5, 6, 7, 8

For City Clerks:
- Do you have written procedures for how you made the transition to a directly elected mayor?
- If so, can we obtain a copy?
- If there is no record of the process you used in transitioning to a directly elected mayor, can you direct us to an individual for information?

The Subcommittee is interested in information from at least the following cities who have directly elected mayors: Livermore (1980); Pleasanton (1980); Fremont (1977); Milpitas (1978); and Union City (1974).

**Group 3** (Spitaleri, Norman, Schiavo)

Issues: 13, 14, 15
Information Questions - Subcommittees
Page 2

- What are the total days needed for the state, federal and county requirements to be met to conduct an election?

- What are the election results for regular municipal elections for the last four years and special elections in the same time period?

**Group 4 (Anning, Kapowich, Daley-McCrum, Gardner)**

Issues: 1, 2, 3, 4

- What changes occur when the Mayor is directly elected?

- How many cities in population from 50,000 - 200,000 have directly elected mayors?
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<tr>
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<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>HAS MAYOR</th>
<th>VOTERS COUNCIL</th>
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| CITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 50000 AND 200000, BASED ON DATA FROM THE 1980 CENSUS AND RESOURCE MATERIAL HANDOUTS 2, SURVEY AND 3, ROSTER | PAGE 1 OF 2 |
### MAYORITY VOTE STATISTICS FOR CALIFORNIA CITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 50,000 AND 200,000, BASED ON DATA FROM THE 1980 CENSUS AND RESOURCE MATERIAL HANDOUTS 2, SURVEY AND 3, ROSTER.

#### Summary:
- Of 73 cities in this study, 58 have mayors, of which 41.4% were elected by voters.
- 22 cities don't have mayors.
- 22 cities have mayors elected by city councils.
- 6 voter elections were authorised by initiative.

#### Incidentally:
- 375 California cities have populations of under 50,000.
- 160 or 42.7% have mayors, 29 or 8% of which were elected by voters. 137 or about five times as many were elected by city councils.
- Ten cities have over 200,000 population. All of them have voter elected mayors.

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**Subtotals:**
- **This Page:** 23/17/12/5/1/8
- **Page 1:** 50/41/24/8/5/13
- **Totals:** 73/58/36/13/6/21
### Serious crimes

#### 10 most crime-ridden cities in the U.S. plus selected California cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities according to rank</th>
<th>Number of major crimes in 1990</th>
<th>Crimes per 100,000 population</th>
<th>Percent of change '89-'90</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Miami</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Ft. L'dale, Fla.</td>
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<td>4. Newark, N.J.</td>
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<td>5. N. Haven, Conn.</td>
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<td>6. Dallas</td>
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<td>10. St. Louis</td>
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<td>22. Berkeley</td>
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<td>172. Sunnyvale</td>
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* THESE CITIES HAVE DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS

Source: Preliminary 1990 crime and population data released Sunday by the FBI and calculations by the Detroit Free Press

Wes Killingbeck – Mercury News