



ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MODEL DEAF COMMUNITY COMMISSION

City Manager's Office

City Council
January 24, 2023

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BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2022 - Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes Committee (ICGC) began the review and revision of Resolution No. 23618, City Council Rules of Procedure and Order of Business.

On July 6, 2022, ICGC received and discussed Section XIII; B.6 of Resolution No. 23618, related to the number and roll of Boards and Commissions. Through discussion the Committee requested the item be continued for further review and discussion.

On September 7, 2022, ICGC continued the review and discussion of the number and roll of Boards and Commissions. Recommendations included bringing a separate resolution addressing the purview and reporting structure of Boards and Commissions and the introduction of a Commission of the Deaf.



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COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

- The Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC) was created in April 1998.
- Assigned as a Regional Organization to a designated Councilmember after an election year.
- Traditionally monthly meetings were coordinated by the Mayor's Office.
- In alignment with Regional Organization assignments, the budget allocation for interpreter services was moved from the Mayor's Office to the City Council Office effective July 1, 2022.



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DISCUSSION

On August 11, 2022, a meeting was held with the City Manager's Office, Mayor's Office, City Clerk's Office, City Councilmembers assigned as Regional Organization representatives to the Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), and current members of the MDCC.

- Recommendation to establish the MDCC as a City Council recognized commission.
- Brown Act/Sunshine Ordinance requirements
- Reporting structure



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DISCUSSION

2 Regionally established schools:

- California School for the Deaf Fremont (Northern California)
- California School for the Deaf Riverside (Southern California)

2019 American Community Survey:

- Estimated 156,176 individuals with hearing difficulty live in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Membership

- Pursuant to Sections 800 and 803 of the Riverside City Charter, the Commission of the Deaf shall be comprised of thirteen (13) members appointed by the Mayor and City Council.
- Membership composition shall include one representative from Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, & 7, two representatives from Ward 3, two youth ex officio members, and three Citywide members.



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Membership

- Youth ex officio members shall be under eighteen years of age and a current high school student attending a high school within the City of Riverside. For a youth ex officio member that becomes eighteen years of age during their term, the term will end the March preceding their birthday or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first.
- The term of each member of the Commission shall be four years with the exception of the youth ex officio members. The term for each ex official member shall be two years.



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Membership

- Initial appointments of youth ex officio, Ward 3, and Citywide members shall be determined by a drawing at the Commission's first meeting to decide which members shall serve one, two, or four-year terms.
- Inaugural appointments of the thirteen members will adhere to staggered terms as follows:



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Membership

- Assignment of a one-year term through March 1, 2024, will be assigned to one youth ex officio.
- Assignment of a two-year term through March 1, 2025, will be assigned to Ward seats 1, 5, and 7, one Ward 3 seat, one Citywide seat, and one youth ex officio.
- Assignment of a four-year term through March 1, 2027, will be assigned to Ward seats 2, 4, and 6, one Ward 3 seats, and two Citywide seats.



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Powers, Duties, and Functions

- Serve in an advisory capacity to help create an integrated community that promotes full participation in society, education and employment, effective communication, and cultural awareness.
- Review community policies, programs, and actions which affect persons within the deaf community and make appropriate recommendations to City Council.
- Render advice and assistance as requested to other City boards, commissions, and City departments on matters affecting members of the deaf community.
- Perform other functions, community outreach, and duties as may be directed by the City.



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COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Advantages

- Standard level of Commission support or sustainability.

Disadvantages

- Powers, duties, and functions could be considered the purview of existing Board or Commission.
- Transitioning of existing MDCC members into the proposed membership composition pursuant to Sections 800 and 803 of the Riverside City Charter.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority No. 5 – High Performing Government

Goal No. 5.2 – Utilize technology, data, and process improvement strategies to increase efficiencies, guide decision making, and ensure services are accessible and distributed equitably throughout all geographic areas of the City.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Introduce and subsequently adopt an Ordinance of the City of Riverside, California establishing a Commission of the Deaf by amending Title 2 of the Riverside Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.100 to advise the City Council on matters affecting members of the deaf community; and
2. For inaugural appointments only, assign one youth ex officio seat to a one-year term through March 1, 2024; assign Ward seats 1, 5, and 7, one Ward 3 seat, one Citywide seat, and one youth ex officio seat to a two-year term through March 1, 2025; and assign Ward seats 2, 4, and 6, one Ward 3 seat, and two Citywide seats to a four-year term through March 1, 2027.



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