



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**
FROM: CITY CLERK **WARD: 7**
SUBJECT: WARD 7 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY INTERVIEWS

ISSUE:

Interview of Ward 7 registered voters expressing interest in appointment to the vacant Ward 7 City Council seat.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council conduct interviews and appoint a Ward 7 registered voter to the vacant City Council seat.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Ward 7 Councilmember John Burnard resigned, effective August 8, 2017. Charter Section 404 provides:

“A vacancy in an elective office, from whatever cause arising, except in the event of a successful recall, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council, such appointee to hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general election and until his successor qualifies. At the next general municipal election following any vacancy, a successor shall be elected to serve for the remainder of any unexpired term.

The City Council shall declare the existence of any vacancy. In the event it shall fail to fill a vacancy by appointment within sixty days after such office shall have been so declared vacant, it shall cause an election to be held forthwith to fill such vacancy.”

On August 8, 2017, the City Council declared the City Council Ward 7 vacant and approved (1) acceptance of applications until August 28, 2017, at 5 p.m., from persons interested in appointment as the Ward 7 Councilmember; (2) scheduling of a Special City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 29, 2017, in the Art Pick Council Chamber for evening interviews to appoint an individual to the City Council Ward 7 vacant seat; and (3) that applicants will be requested to pledge not to be a candidate for the Ward 7 seat in the June 2019 election.

As of August 28, 2017, nineteen letters of interest were received. Three of those expressing interest are registered voters in Ward 6 and as such are not eligible for the appointment and four have reconsidered and withdrawn from consideration. The twelve remaining candidates are:

1. Steven Robillard
2. William Pearce
3. Alysia Webb
4. Gil Ocegueda
5. Joe F. Ahlert
6. Mia Villetta Alvarado
7. Bob Gano
8. Gloria Huerta
9. Ronald Shirley
10. Christopher Allen
11. Steve Adams
12. Clarissa Cervantes

At the meeting of August 29, 2017, the City Council continued the interviews to following their discussion of the California Voter Participation Rights Act scheduled for September 12, 2017. The Act may prompt a change in City Council election dates including extending or shortening current or future City Council terms. The letters of interest and supporting documents are attached to this report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Colleen J. Nicol, City Clerk
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments: Letters of Interest