



REFERRAL OF CITY OF RIVERSIDE SERVICES PROTECTION MEASURE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

City Manager's Office

City Council
February 16, 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. City Charter (Charter) has called for transfers from its electric utility to the General Fund since voters adopted the first Charter in 1907.
2. In 1968, Riverside voters adopted a Charter amendment that specifically called for a general fund transfer (GFT) from utilities in "an amount equal to 11.5% of the [utilities'] gross operating revenues."
3. City Charter Section 1204, subdivision (f), currently allows a GFT in "an amount not to exceed 11.5%" of the utilities' gross operating revenues for the prior fiscal year.
 - a. This language was approved by 64.5% of Riverside voters in 1981.



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GENERAL FUND TRANSFER (GFT)

1. The GFT provides an unrestricted revenue source to the General Fund
 - a. Funds services that include, but are not limited to: 911 response, fire, paramedic, police, street repairs, parks, senior services, homelessness and other general services
2. The Electric Transfer currently provides approximately \$40 million annually, or about 14% of the total General Fund operating budget



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BALLOT MEASURE

1. To maintain this critical General Fund revenue source, staff is recommending that the voters consider a ballot measure at the June 8, 2021 election which would amend the Riverside City Charter to add a section confirming the Electric Transfer limited to 11.5% of gross revenue.
2. The Charter amendment requires a review by the Charter Review Committee prior to the City Council's consideration to place the measure on the ballot.
 - a. Charter Review Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on February 17, 2021
 - b. March 12, 2021 is the last day to place a measure on the ballot.



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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refer the City of Riverside Services Protection Measure to the Charter Review Committee for review and consideration to place on the June 8, 2021 ballot.



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