



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 25, 2019

Riverside Charter Review Committee  
c/o City Clerk Colleen J. Nicol, MMC  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main St., 7<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Riverside, CA 92522

Dear Committee Members:

I am in receipt of your questions regarding consideration of granting the Mayor of Riverside a vote in City Council decisions. If approved by voters, this would result in eight voting members on the Riverside City Council, identical to the current model used by the Pasadena City Council. Following are my responses to your questions:

**How often does Pasadena experience tie votes?** There are very few occasions where an action of the Pasadena City Council has resulted in a tie vote. In the past 10 years, I can think of just one or two occasions where this has occurred.

**What overall impact do the tie votes have on City operations/decisions?** According to Pasadena City Charter, Section 506 (ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL), "No action by the City Council, including the adoption of ordinances, resolutions and motions, shall be valid unless it receives the affirmative vote of five members." In other words, without five affirmative votes, tie or otherwise, the action is not approved.

**How successful is a "renewal" vote to remedy/or not the inaction caused by a tie vote?** As it happens, the Pasadena City Council recently experienced a tie vote last month. At that meeting, the City Council voted on the motion well after midnight (the subject matter, an affordable housing concession permit, received lengthy debate and public comment). Given the late hour, a compromise was not available that night. The proposed development project did not receive the necessary five affirmative votes, and was deemed not approved.

Following the meeting, staff continued to engage with the applicant, and after several days, requested that the matter be agendaized for the City Council to consider a Motion to Renew. During consideration of the Motion to Renew, the applicant suggested that thoughtful modifications to the project might garner more support from the City Council and the community. Following some discussion, the Motion to Renew was approved, with the applicant to present a modified project at a future date.

The City Council has yet to see any modifications to the project, with more time needed by the applicant. Therefore, it is too soon to say whether or not the Motion to Renew has been successful.

**Do you have any other insights or thoughts on the Mayor having a vote?** In my estimation, the Mayor MUST have a vote. The voting participation of the Mayor will have minimal impact on his or her ability to chair the meeting. Most importantly, and central idea to providing the vote to the Mayor, is to have at least one VOTING member of the City Council with a citywide perspective to issues that come before the legislative body.

I hope these responses are helpful in your work as the Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,



TERRY TORNEK  
Mayor