

Agenda Report

August 6, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Office of the City Manager
SUBJECT: Continued Adherence to the Ralph M. Brown Act

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council and all city commissions, operating companies, and other bodies subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act continue to adhere to all of the provisions despite the State decision to suspend its requirements for fiscal reasons.

BACKGROUND:

The state legislature recently passed AB 1464, a budget trailer bill signed into law on June 27, 2012, which contains a schedule of state mandates that are suspended during the 2012-2013 budget year. Included in these suspended mandates are certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq) and any reimbursement to local governments. The California League of Cities recently passes a resolution urging cities to continue to uphold the Brown Act.

In 1953, the State legislators passed the Ralph M. Brown Act, also known as California Open Meeting Law, which guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in local legislative bodies. Since then, cities including Pasadena have posted agendas 72 hours prior to a public meeting with agendas that provide a general description of matters to be considered or discussed.

The City Council has maintained a policy of open and transparent meetings so that the public is fully engaged in the decision making processes. Staff continues to support and uphold the principles of the Brown Act because despite the State's eliminating the reimbursement, it is important to have public deliberation on items impacting our residents and businesses. Having City Council affirm this action will publicly announce that the City of Pasadena upholds the need for open public discussions consistent with the provisions of the Brown Act on matters affecting the City business and ultimately the City's quality of life.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION

Affirming the City's commitment to the Ralph M. Brown Act is consistent with the City Council's core values of open and clear communications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

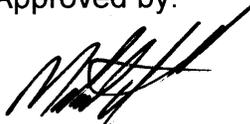
As a result of the State's suspension, it is estimated that the city will no longer receive approximately \$1,000 in state reimbursement.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager