



# Agenda Report

**DATE:** November 13, 2023

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: CITY CLERK**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHARTER STUDY TASK FORCE**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" Exemption, which states that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;

(2) Approve the following appointments to the Charter Study Task Force:

Lena Louise Kennedy – District 1 Nomination  
Margaret McAustin – District 2 Nomination  
Marcus D. Hatcher – District 3 Nomination  
Paul A. Novak – District 4 Nomination  
Liberty McCoy – District 5 Nomination  
Ken Chawkins – District 6 Nomination  
Andrew (Andy) Wilson – District 7 Nomination  
Vince Farhat – Mayor Nomination  
Raul Francisco Salinas – At Large Nomination

(3) Consider additional at-large appointments from the following pool of applicants, as well as any late arriving applications received prior to appointments being made:

Charlotte Bland  
Gina Dance  
Christopher Guerrero  
James Oliver Maddox

Diana Carbajal Mejia  
Denise Robb, Ph.D.  
Jacque Robinson-Baisley  
Yadi Younse

**BACKGROUND:**

On September 18, 2023, the City Council approved the charge and scope for a Charter Study Task Force to examine governance issues and consider changes to the City Charter. The Task Force will assist the City Council with a review of the City Governance Charter Amendment topics and submit any recommended amendments to the City Charter as part of a Final Report due in May/June 2024. Attachment A provides the adopted Scope, Charge, and Timeline for the Charter Study Task Force.

On October 23, 2023, the City Council deferred appointments on those individuals nominated to serve on the Charter Study Task Force. It was decided at the meeting to direct staff and Councilmembers to solicit additional applications in order to expand the number of members to serve in this capacity, seeking a more representative body reflective of the City's diverse makeup.

The proposed action formalizes the appointments to the Task Force, and allows the City Council to approve additional at-large appointments as directed at the October meeting. Once completed, the Task Force will begin to meet and work on the assigned topics. Task Force meetings will comply with the Brown Act and be open to the public. Included as Attachment B to this report are all Task Force applications received by the City Clerk's Office, including applications from the individuals nominated to serve. Attachment C provides the applications from those individuals that have not yet been nominated but have submitted an application for City Council consideration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total cost for supporting the work of a Charter Study Task Force is estimated by City staff to be approximately \$150,000. This amount includes expenditures for meeting support, video broadcasting, translation services, and technical consultant services.

Funds to cover anticipated expenses for the Task Force currently exist within the City Clerk's FY 2024 adopted Elections Budget, Account No. 10113002. However, due to new information related to estimated elections costs for the City's upcoming Primary Municipal Election, it may be necessary for City staff to return to the City Council and request additional funds to cover the final election invoice from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC), as well as other election-related expenses. Beyond changes to the Los Angeles County election cost estimator and related formula for cities, additional expenses will occur in order to cover the City's special election (Council District 3), and Charter Amendment ballot measures anticipated for the March 2024 Primary election ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

Attachment A – Adopted Scope, Charge, and Timeline of the Charter Study Task Force

Attachment B – Applications Received From Nominated Individuals

Attachment C – Applications Received From Individuals Wishing To Serve Not Yet  
Nominated