

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For the meeting of: **July 17, 2018**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

VIA: David Boesch, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jessica Blair, City Clerk

TITLE: **PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY REGARDING DRAFT MAPS OF VOTING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR A CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION SYSTEM**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council: 1) conduct a public hearing to receive public input on draft maps of voting district boundaries and the sequence of election; and 2) provide direction to staff and the City's demographer regarding the draft maps and the sequence of elections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this public hearing. However, transitioning to district elections required the City to retain the services of a demographer. The cost of such services is \$45,000. Should the City Council ultimately adopt an ordinance to transition to a district-based electoral system, the plaintiff may seek reimbursement for its attorney's fees and costs up to \$30,000; however, the City will not be exposed to additional legal fees in defense of a lawsuit brought under the California Voting Rights Act.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT:

This recommendation supports the Inclusive Governance Element of the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On April 17, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-34 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to district-based elections for the City Council commencing with the General Municipal Election in November 2020. Elections Code Section 10010 provides that before any map or maps of the boundaries for the proposed districts are drawn, the City must conduct two (2) Public Hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of said districts.

Since adoption of the Resolution of Intention, the City has been engaged in outreach efforts to inform the public about district elections and the process associated with formation. The City's districting webpage, www.drawhmb.com, is live, as well as www.hmbcity.com/districts.

Additionally, public participation kits have been available at City Hall, the City Hall Annex, Adcock Community Center, the Library, and various other locations throughout the City. The online mapping tool has been available to the public as well. The paper map was published as a full-page ad in the Half Moon Bay Review on May 23 and May 30. City staff attended the Senior Coastsiders Luncheon on May 29 to go over the district process and staff hosted a table at the Coastside Farmers Market on June 2 to provide paper maps and answer questions. The Public Hearing Notice for this hearing was published in English and Spanish in the Half Moon Bay Review. As with all Council meetings, an interpreter will be available for these public hearings.

On May 15, 2018, the City Council conducted the first public hearing. The City Council directed staff to move forward with a four-district, elected at-large mayor model. The City Council requested public input on whether the term of the elected mayor should be two years or four years.

On June 5, 2018, the public hearing was continued to the June 19, 2018 City Council meeting due to the amount of items to be heard on June 5.

On June 19, 2018, the City Council directed staff to move forward with a four-year term for the City's elected mayor.

The City's deadline for draft map submittals was July 6, 2018. The City published those draft maps on July 10, 2018, in accordance with state law.

DISCUSSION:

Based on public input, the City Council's direction, and other legally required criteria, the City's demographer has evaluated and submits the proposed draft maps of voting district boundaries for public review and comment (Attachment 1). These maps were publicly released on and posted on the City's website on July 10, 2018.

These maps have been evaluated by the City's demographer and they confirm the maps meet the standards established under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA).

Next Steps

Elections Code Section 10010 requires that modifications to the boundary maps be republished for public review at least seven days prior to consideration by the City Council. It is recommended that the City Council give direction regarding which final map product, with any necessary modifications, the City Council would like to consider at the August 21, 2018 City Council meeting.

The schedule is set up currently to allow the Council one more take at draft maps with introduction of an ordinance scheduled for September 4. If the Council is ready to move

forward with one of the draft maps proposed, staff will return with an ordinance at the August 21 meeting for first reading and introduction.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Maps
2. Election Sequencing Memo