



REPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

STAFF REPORT
September 24, 2009

To: Members of the Planning Commission

Subject: Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 2.60 Relating to the Planning Commission **(M09-033)**

Location/Council District:

Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and File. Information only item for Planning Commission.

Contact: David Kwong, Planning Director, 966-808-2691; Joy Patterson, Principal Planner, 916-808-5607.

Summary:

On August 25, 2009 the City Council approved a motion to change the appointment procedure and residency requirements for members of the City Planning Commission from nine “at-large seats” to one seat representing each of the eight council districts and one representing the Mayor. The City Council has the discretion to modify the City Code to change the provisions of any board or commission. This change shifts the nominating authority from the Personnel and Public Employees Committee to the City Council. The City Attorney’s Office is currently drafting an Ordinance to implement these changes. The PFP of the ordinance and Council discussion is scheduled for the September 29, 2009 City Council meeting under Staff Reports, with final Council action on the item on October 6, 2009.

Background Information:

The Planning Commission currently consists of nine (9) members, appointed by the Mayor with the approval of a majority of the City Council, with the requirement that each member reside in the City of Sacramento. Pursuant to the City Council and Commission Appointment Procedure Reform Ordinance of 1983 (Article I of Chapter 2.40 of the City Code), the Personnel and Public Employees Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Mayor for appointments to the Planning Commission.

On August 25, 2009, the City Council approved a motion to change the residency requirements from nine “at-large seats” to one seat representing each of the eight Council districts and one representing the Mayor. This would shift the recommendation authority to the City Council.

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To implement the changes requested by the City Council on August 25, 2009, the City Attorney's Office is drafting an Ordinance that calls for each Council member to recommend to the Mayor an individual from his or her district for appointment to the Planning Commission. The Mayor would make the appointment subject to the concurrence of a majority of the City Council (see City Charter Article XV). Because the recommendations for appointment will come directly from each Council member, these appointments would *not* be subject to review and recommendation by the Personnel and Public Employees Committee.

It is anticipated that the proposed Ordinance would dissolve the existing Planning Commission and replace it with a newly constituted Planning Commission upon the effective date of the Ordinance. To facilitate the transition to the new Planning Commission, it is likely that the ordinance will take effect on January 1, 2010. This delay would allow time (1) for the Clerk's Office to notice an application period for the new seats (which is typically 30 days) and forward the applications to the respective Council member's and Mayor's offices, (2) for the Council members and the Mayor to review the applications and submit a recommendation to the Mayor, and (3) to schedule Council confirmation of the appointments on the Council's first meeting in January, 2010. The delay would also allow planning staff to inform applicants of the impending change and to schedule hearings in a manner to minimize disruptions and delays to the applicants.

The terms of the current Planning Commission are for four years and are staggered in groups of three. This results in three terms expiring each year for three years, and none expiring in the fourth year. It is anticipated that the proposed Ordinance will provide for similar staggered terms.

The Pass for Publication (PFP) and discussion of the proposed Ordinance is scheduled for the September 29, 2009 City Council meeting. The proposed Ordinance will be available on-line at www.cityofsacramento.org/clerk/council-agendas/ on the afternoon of September 25, 2009. Council action on the proposed Ordinance is scheduled for the October 6, 2009 City Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:


for DAVID KWONG
PLANNING DIRECTOR