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**LANCASTER AD HOC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vose called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ad Hoc Committee Members: Birden, Cannon, Carrillo, Mercy, Sanchez, Chairman Vose

STAFF MEMBERS:

City Attorney/Agency/Authority Counsel; Assistant City Clerk/Agency/Authority Secretary

INVOCATION

Committee Member Devin Birden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Carrillo

AD HOC COMMITTEE CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Committee Member Mercy and seconded by Committee Member Cannon, the Committee approved the Consent Calendar with a change to reflect the meeting ended at 11:09 a.m. not 11:09 p.m., by the following vote: 6-0-0-1; AYES: Birden, Cannon, Carrillo, Mercy, Sanchez, Vose; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Castellanos

EXCUSED: Committee Member Castellanos

On a motion by Committee Member Canon and seconded by Committee Member Mercy, the Committee excused Committee Member Castellanos, by the following vote: 6-0-0-1; AYES: Birden, Cannon, Carrillo, Mercy, Sanchez, Vose; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: Castellanos

NB 1. REVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA)

Allison Burns, City Attorney, provided the Ad Hoc Committee with a brief review of the information provided at the last committee meeting pertaining to the California Voting Rights Act, what the CVRA requires, how to determine a violation of the CVRA, and the outcomes of past expert evaluations of the City's elections, possible action needing to be taken, and potential CVRA options.

Discussion among the Committee and staff included the option to keep it "as is" based on current findings.

NB 2. CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) OPTIONS

Andrew Westall with Bear Demographics & Research introduced his partner David Ely and Dr. Morgan Kousser, Professor Emeritus from Caltech, who provided the analysis.

Mr. Westall presented an overview of the provided staff report, which identified the different options proposed for the City's consideration of: Council District-based Elections, Elections Consolidation, Cumulative Voting, and Single Transferrable Voting.

Discussion among the Committee, Mr. Westall, and staff included the options proposed for the City's consideration along with the potential liability under the CVRA, geographic boundaries, overall mapping process, demographic data, and District Elections vs. At-Large Elections.

Mr. Ely presented the demographic maps provided with the staff report and discussed how the information is gathered including the purpose behind the data points.

Dr. Kousser discussed the information contained within his provided analysis.

Discussion among the Committee, Mr. Westall, Mr. Ely, Dr. Kousser, and staff included the demographic maps, past election data, population, potential district boundaries, number of council seats, the need to see raw numbers for the drawing of districts, alternatives to limit risk, the need to consider liability and remedy separately, CVRA compliance, the need to do what is best for the City, potential for an amendment to the City's Charter, and the need for more data to be compiled to make an informed decision e.g., additional mapping with regard to each of the protected classes, data regarding the recent elections among the various local districts that are by district and how those have come out, particularly making sure the question is looked at of seats for which no one filed.

Additionally, Dr. Kousser provided information on the number of jurisdictions who have shifted to District Elections within the State including data obtained by National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO).

Discussion among the Committee, Mr. Westall, Mr. Ely, Dr. Kousser, and staff included the importance of the decision needing to be made, overall liability, additional data needing to be considered, and the effects of districts.

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Addressing the Committee on this item:

Jason Zinc – Thanked the Committee Members and discussed his experience advocating for District Elections including how he believes the data should be considered and the need for simplicity.

Richard Greenberg – Questioned the way voting would be included and discussed his desire for more ballot and electronic voting, the need to see more data, and the overall diversity of Lancaster.

NB 3. DISCUSSIONS OF OPTIONS, NEXT STEPS, SCOPE OF POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DIRECTION TO STAFF

Discussion among the Committee, Mr. Westall, Mr. Ely, Dr. Kousser, and staff included the possibility of meeting again in thirty days and the need for additional demographic mapping for African American CVAP and Asian American CVAP to correlate with the data already prepared for the Latino CVAP including the need for data from past district elections that haven taken place within the area.

NB 4. DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING THE NEXT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee and staff discussed the future scheduling of the meetings with afternoon and evenings identified as working best along with avoiding the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; December 17, 2024 at 5 p.m. was identified as the best potential date based on timing and the estimated return of the additional data requested.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vose adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

ANDREA ALEXANDER
CITY CLERK

JAMES VOSE
CHAIRMAN

Ad Hoc Committee

MINUTES

October 22, 2024

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } ss
CITY OF LANCASTER }

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE

I, _____, _____ of the City of Lancaster, CA, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Ad Hoc Committee Minutes, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, CA on this _____ day of _____, _____.

(seal)
