

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2009

To: Harbor Commission

From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director

Subject: **Charter Amendment Proposal – Expansion of Harbor Commission Board**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission review and consider the Charter Amendment proposal to expand the Board of Harbor Commissioners from five to seven members and to allow for appointment of one member to be a non-city resident.

DISCUSSION:

In 1999, the Harbor Commission and the City Council took action and approved a potential change to the membership of the Board of Harbor Commissioners. The Council, based on advice of the Harbor Commission, directed that a proposed expansion of the Board of Harbor Commissioners (5 to 7 members) and a non-city residency requirement for one of the Board members, be placed on a General Election ballot. The Harbor Commission is governed by the City Charter and any changes require a vote of Santa Barbara electors. For a variety of reasons, the Charter amendment proposal did not move forward and has not yet been placed on a General Municipal Election ballot.

On April 28, 2009, the City Council considered several potential ballot measures that may qualify and be placed on the November 2009 General Municipal Election ballot this fall. As part of this review and consideration, the Council directed staff to return these proposals to the appropriate Boards and Commissions for their input. Council will then receive this input and recommendations before a final decision is taken on the proposed ballot measures.

Staff has attached the April 2, 1999, Council Agenda Report, which summarizes the background discussion, details of the proposed expansion in membership, City residency requirements and comparison to other advisory Groups, Boards, and Commissions that have more than five members. The report also highlights some of the issues discussed or deliberated at that time.

Charter Amendment Proposal

May 21, 2009

Page 2

Staff believes that the report provides the necessary opinions and background on this proposal. City Council will reconsider this item June 16th and therefore, the Harbor Commission should be prepared to provide comments and/or a recommendation on the merits of this possible Charter Amendment for inclusion in the upcoming November 2009 election.

Attachment: Council Agenda Report – April 2, 1999