

MEASURE C – 2009

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

C 2009	Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 809 and Charter Section 810 to combine the Board of Park Commissioners with the Recreation Commission to form a new commission called the "Parks and Recreation Commission" and to allow the City Council to appoint a youth member of the new Parks and Recreation Commission?	YES
		NO

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE C – 2009

This ballot measure would amend the City Charter to combine the language of existing Charter section 809 ("Board of Park Commissioners. Powers and Duties") with the language of existing Charter section 810 ("Recreation Commission. Powers and Duties") in order to form a new combined City "Parks and Recreation Commission."

The proposed Commission would consist of seven (7) commissioners whereas the existing separate Commissions have five (5) commissioners each. For the most part, the powers and duties of the proposed new Commission will be the same as that of the separate Commissions. However, this measure would also grant the proposed new Commission authority to advise the City Council on matters concerning creeks within the City.

The proposed ballot measure would also authorize, but not require, the City Council to appoint a youth member of age 16 years or older to the proposed Parks and Recreation Commission so long as the youth member appointed resides within the City. The manner of appointing the youth member and the term of office for the youth member would be established by an ordinance to be adopted by the City Council. This City ordinance would also establish a process for appropriately transitioning from the existing two Commissions to a new combined seven (7) member Commission.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure C.

/s/ Stephen P. Wiley
City Attorney

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE C - 2009

SHOWING CHANGES FROM EXISTING CHARTER LANGUAGE

DELETIONS IN STRIKE-OUT TEXT
NEW LANGUAGE IN UNDERLINE

Section 809. Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Powers and Duties.

There shall be a Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners consisting of ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) members. Notwithstanding Section 802 of this Charter, the City Council may, by ordinance, establish a method for transitioning the former Board of Park Commissioners and the former Recreation Commission into a combined Parks and Recreation Commission as well as to provide that one member of the Parks and Recreation Commission may be an individual residing within the City who is of age sixteen (16) years or older to be nominated, appointed, and to serve in a manner specified by the ordinance adopted by the City Council. The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners shall have the power and duty to:

(a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to parks, recreation, beaches, creeks, plazas, parkways, and street trees.

(b) Consider the annual budget for parks, recreation, beaches, creeks, plazas, parkways, and street tree purposes during the process of its preparation and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Council and the City Administrator.

(c) Assist in the planning of parks, recreation, beaches, creeks, plazas, and street trees for the inhabitants of the City, promote and stimulate public interest therein, and to that end solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities, ~~Recreation Commission~~ and other public and private agencies interested therein.

(d) Perform such other duties not inconsistent with this Charter as may be prescribed by ordinance.

~~Section 810. Recreation Commission. Powers and Duties.~~

~~There shall be a Recreation Commission consisting of five (5) members. The Recreation Commission shall have the power and duty to:~~

~~(a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to recreation.~~

~~(b) Consider the annual budget for recreation purposes during the process of its preparation and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Council and City Administrator.~~

~~(c) Assist in the planning of recreation programs for the inhabitants of the City, promote and stimulate public interest therein, and to that end solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities, Board of Park Commissioners and other public and private agencies interested therein.~~ (d) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by ordinance not inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

A vote for Measure C is a vote for efficiency in government, increased citizen oversight, and recognition that our youth must be a part of ending youth violence in Santa Barbara.

A “yes” vote formally consolidates two five-person commissions, the Parks Commission and the Recreation Commission, into one seven-person commission to save money and staff time. It will also mean there are seven citizens that can hold city staff accountable for the condition of our parks and the results of our senior and youth recreation programs.

A “yes” vote allows a youth leader to inform the commission and vote on matters of direct concern for children and teens. There have been incredible young leaders emerging from our youth council for many years, which are making a positive example for a population that is in real trouble.

A “yes” vote will allow the City Council to appoint a youth representative to one of the seven seats of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Council will not be forced to appoint one if no one between the age of 16 and 18, and all financial decision made by the body go on to the Council for final approval.

Teens today are confronted with a host of responsibilities and challenges. We ask them to avoid drugs, pregnancy, and gangs. We need recreation programs that help keep our kids out of trouble. To do this effectively, we need a youth member that can speak for them on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

These changes have been requested by both the Youth Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission and now we have brought them to you the voters for approval.

/s/ Das Williams
City Councilmember,
Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission

/s/ Roger Horton
City Councilmember,
Chair, Committee on Youth and Children

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C

(None Filed)