



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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City Council:

Subject: Community Engagement Activities

The development of the FY 2019-20 City Work Program, beginning with the Priority Setting Session on February 2, has included a discussion on adding additional community engagement activities. The item initially was focused on filling in geographical gaps in the Block Leader and Neighborhood Watch Programs.

Two additional activities have been discussed by individual councilmembers, as described below:

Town Hall-Councilmember Office Hours Support

Vice Mayor Chao has initiated "Town Hall" meetings which are generally described as councilmember office hours. Any councilmember, or perhaps pair of councilmembers, can coordinate with staff to reserve space in City Hall, another city venue, or even at a park. We will then send out a notice advertising the place and time. Residents can come and provide comments or ask questions on any subject.

Recommendation: Because most of the work on this item will be on the individual councilmembers, it is recommended that this activity be included in the City Work Program. Staff resources will be minimal to reserve meeting locations and to send out online announcements.

Resident Advisor Program

Councilmember Willey has proposed a Resident Advisor Program whereby residents representing nine geographical areas of the City advise councilmembers on a variety of current topics. Each councilmember would appoint a member to a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would determine Advisory Resident job descriptions, group rules, and methodology of selecting random resident volunteers from each of the geographical areas. There would then be a monthly, two-way dialogue between the City Council and the Resident Advisory Group. These would be noticed, brown-act meetings with agendas, likely video streamed and recorded, and would also include minutes.

Recommendation: I am recommending against including this initiative in the City Work Program for two significant reasons. First, the City resources to support the effort would be very sizable. The venue coordination and set up, the noticing, the City Channel resources, the meetings minutes, the follow-up on questions and comments from the meeting, etc. would necessitate removing other initiatives from the proposed City Work Program.

An even more important concern is the duplication and potential conflicts with our existing commissions and committees. Most all of the issues that would be discussed between the City Council and the Resident Advisors would be duplicative and may undermine the role of our City commissioners.

If the City Council would like to proceed with this initiative, it would need to consider other items in the proposed Work Program that may be dropped.

Sincerely,

Timm Borden
Interim City Manager