

DATE ISSUED: January 19, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-020

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of January 24, 2005

SUBJECT: Issuance of Request for Qualifications – Consulting Services for the
Strong Mayor Transition Process

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the City Council issue a Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) for consulting services related to the Strong Mayor transition process?

Manager’s Recommendation – Authorize issuance of a Request for Qualifications.

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

BACKGROUND

On November 2, 2004, City of San Diego voters approved Proposition F to change the current Council – Manager form of government to a Mayor – Council system, also known as the Strong Mayor form of government. In accordance with the proposition the change will go into effect on January 1, 2005, and end on December 31, 2010, after which voters will decide whether or not to make the shift permanent.

DISCUSSION

The transition from the present form of government to a new model will change many aspects of the current government structure. During preliminary research and discussions, the issue of utilizing a professional outside consultant was suggested. The expertise and experience provided by a consultant could prove valuable as we proceed into the transition process.

Staff is seeking direction from the Mayor and City Council to initiate a Request for Qualifications to commence the selection process. Some of the issue areas where we may be able to draw from a consultant's expertise and experience include, but are not limited to assistance with:

- Determining the new organizational structure;
- Establishing the new Office of Independent Budget Analyst;
- Determining the method of selecting the new Presiding Officer of the City Council;
- Determining changes to City Council Committees, if desired;
- Establishing City Council Permanent Rules including meeting procedures, tie-breaks, enactments over Mayoral vetos, etc.;
- Establishing a plan for communication and interaction between Mayor, City Council, Manager and city departments;
- Providing expertise and experience from other cities transitioning to the Strong Mayor form of government.

If directed by the Mayor and City Council, staff will prepare a detailed scope of work and potential budget for the scope of services.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant to the City Manager

Herring / BAM