THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED:	January 7, 2016	REPORT NO:	16-002
ATTENTION:	Charter Review Committee		
SUBJECT:	Proposed Preamble for the Charter of the City of San Diego		
REFERENCE:	November 4, 1969 Voter Pamphlet for Proposed Charter Amendments December 3, 2015 Proposed Preamble for the Charter of the City of San Diego Report #109		

REQUESTED ACTION:

Review and either approve or give direction to the Director of Legislative Affairs regarding edits to the proposed preamble for the Charter of the City of San Diego ("Charter").

SUMMARY:

Governments sometimes have a "preamble" to provide a statement-of-purpose before setting forth provisions of a constitution. The California and U.S. Constitutions are prefaced by preambles. In San Diego, a Charter preamble was proposed by the 1969 Charter Review Committee and placed on the November 4, 1969 ballot, but failed to garner the necessary votes to pass.

On March 5, 2015, this Committee considered a proposal from Norma Damashek regarding the addition of a preamble to the city charter. Council President Lightner requested that draft language be prepared and returned for review by the Committee. At the December 3, 2015, Committee meeting, the Committee requested that the Director of Legislative Affairs work with the League of Women Voters to combine the proposed preamble by the Director of Legislative Affairs, docketed for consideration to the committee in December 2015, and the language previosly proposed by Norma Damashek and supported by the League of Women Voters.

The revised draft language for a possible premable is as follows:

City government is the steward of the public good. The purpose and intent of the City of San Diego is to provide for government effectiveness, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility; ensure government responsiveness to local needs; enable equitable development and environmental justice in our communities; foster transparency, ethics, and accountability in government functions; assure fair citizen participation in the affairs of the City; the safety, quality of life, and standard of living of all San Diegans; engage in long-term conservation and sustainable management of our natural resources; protect the integrity of government decision-making; and promote public confidence in city government.

We, the people of the City of San Diego, have established this City Charter under the home-rule provision of the Constitution of the State of California and ordain it as the fundamental law of the City. It shall be the responsibility of the government established by this Charter to provide basic services, including public safety, public works, infrastructure, environmental services, land use and planning, water and waste water, parks and recreation and libraries."

Diana Jurado-Sainz
Director of Legislative Affairs