



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



November 3, 2020

File ID: 20-0433

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN CRESSLER, CANEISHA FORTNER, AND MICHAEL JUAN TO THE 2020 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 300.5.D

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The City's Charter requires that the City Council approve the selection of the final three 2020 Redistricting Commission members, as selected by the initial Redistricting Commission, consisting of four members. The Redistricting Commission has selected the final three members and their selection is presented to the City Council for final approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Development Services Director has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it involves only approval of the appointment of three individuals to the Redistricting Commission and, therefore, is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is necessary.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The 2020 Redistricting Commission recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of the three recommended individuals to the Redistricting Commission.

DISCUSSION

The City Charter was amended in 2012 to provide that the City Council members would be elected by-district, rather than at-large, beginning with the 2016 election cycle. In 2014, the initial Districting Commission was selected and in 2015, the City Council approved the recommended Districting Plan to establish the four Council Districts. Charter Section 300.5 mandates future Redistricting Commissions recommend a Districting Plan for adjusting the boundaries of the four Council Districts within one year of receipt by the City of the final Federal Decennial Census information. In an effort to have the Council

district boundaries adjusted sufficiently in advance of the 2022 elections, City staff has begun the process of establishing the 2020 Redistricting Commission.

The selection process for the Redistricting Commission members began with the solicitation of applications. The City received 45 applications that met the minimum qualifications. Pursuant to the Charter, the Charter Review Commission (“CRC”) then undertook the task of selecting the 10 most qualified applicants.

To select the 10 most qualified applicants, the CRC reviewed the applications, considered input from the City’s Human Resources staff regarding the City’s ethnic and racial make-up, based on the most recent census data, and received public comment. It then invited 16 applicants to submit a three-minute video candidate statement. From those, the CRC selected the final pool of ten candidates, at the CRC meeting on October 14, 2020. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 300.5 and Chula Vista Municipal Code section 2.51, the City Clerk then randomly selected four of the candidates: Stelle Andrade, Elidia Dostal, Gloria Hurtado, and Robert Moreno. Those four candidates were sworn-in as the first 2020 Redistricting Commission members.

The initial Redistricting Commission of four members is tasked with selecting the final three members from among the six remaining candidates in the pool of ten. After selection by the Redistricting Commission, those final three members shall then be approved by the City Council. Specifically, Section 300.5.D.3. provides:

“Three Commission Members shall be selected by the randomly selected Commission Members from the pool of eligible applicants, subject to approval by the City Council. The goal of such selections shall be to ensure that, to the extent possible and as permitted by law, the Commission includes:

- a. Women and men who reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the City;*
- b. Persons who have relevant knowledge and/or demonstrated analytical abilities that would allow the Commission to carry out its responsibilities with a high degree of competence;*
- c. Persons who have demonstrated the ability to serve impartially in a nonpartisan role;*
- d. Persons who have experience in the areas of public communication and/or public outreach in the City;*
and
- e. Persons who have experience in civic and/or volunteer activities in the City.*

The City Council shall approve nominees for selection to the Commission unless the City Council finds by at least four (4) affirmative votes that the approval of one or more of the nominees would be inconsistent with this goal. In such case, the City Council shall approve for selection to the Commission one or more persons from the remaining pool of eligible applicants.”

Appointment of the recommended candidates will be accomplished by a majority vote of the City Council. If, for some reason, four members of the City Council determine that appointment of any one of the nominees would be inconsistent with the Charter’s enumerated goals, the Council must approve one of the remaining candidates. This would be done at the next City Council meeting, after the City Council members

have had an opportunity to review the applications of the remaining three candidates. (Chula Vista Municipal Code section 2.51.060(L))

In accordance with the Charter and the Municipal Code, the 2020 Redistricting Commission met on October 21, 2020, at a public meeting. The Commission reviewed the applications of the remaining six candidates, received input from the City staff regarding the City's census data, and the ethnic, racial, gender and geographic information of the candidates, and considered public comment. The Commission then selected the following three candidates: John Cressler, Caneisha Fortner, and Michael Juan. Attachment 1 to this staff report contains the applications for the three nominees, Attachment 2 contains the applications of the four initial Redistricting Commission members. The Redistricting Commission submits the three selected candidates to the City Council for approval.

Once the three candidates are approved for appointment, the full Commission can begin its task of identifying proposed district boundary adjustments for recommendation to the City Council.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site specific and consequently, the 500-foot rule found in California Code of Regulations section 18704.2(a)(1), is not applicable to this decision. Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Applications of Redistricting Commission Nominees

Attachment 2: Applications of Initial Redistricting Commission Members

Staff Contact: Kerry Bigelow, City Clerk