



Agenda Item B.1
PRESENTATION
Meeting Date: May 21, 2025

TO: Chair and Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Lopez, City Clerk
Kelly Hoover, Community Relations Manager/PIO

SUBJECT: Update of Spanish Language Interpretation at City Council Meetings

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive an update on Spanish interpretation services for all City Council meetings; and
- B. Provide recommendations to engage public interest for Spanish Interpretation Services.

BACKGROUND:

On February 21, 2024, staff provided a report to the Public Engagement Commission (Commission) to consider moving forward with Spanish Interpretation services at City Council meetings. Spanish interpretation services were launched at the July 16, 2024, City Council meeting, and has been available at all Council meetings since. To ensure that all interpretation demands are captured, the city utilizes Voices Translation and Interpretation Services (Voices) who ensures the presence of staff at every City Council meeting. At each City Council meeting, the mayor introduces the interpreter who provide instructions for Spanish speakers to use the service if they so desire. The interpreters stay until the end of the meeting to ensure interpretation services are available for any attendees.

At that same time, agendas for City Council meetings were also translated into Spanish, providing residents with a clear understanding of the topics being discussed and published online to have a wide access for community members who are not able to read the agenda to determine whether to participate in a meeting.

In addition to Spanish Interpretation services at Council meetings, and translating the agendas into Spanish, in March 2025, YouTube was also launched for City Council meetings. YouTube is an additional option to transmit City Council meetings and is a popular and mobile-friendly platform. While Spanish captions are available on City YouTube videos, that option is not available until the following day. To access the Spanish captions a viewer simply needs to click Settings, then in Subtitles, click auto-translate and choose Spanish or any other language.

The City promoted both Spanish interpretation at Council meetings and Council meetings available to watch on YouTube using all of the City's outreach platforms in both English and Spanish. These include press releases, GovDelivery (email/text message system), Monarch Press (e-newsletter), City website, Nextdoor, and social media. The interpretation and YouTube resources are also promoted in the Council agenda summaries sent to the public via press release, Gov Delivery, the City's website and Nextdoor. The City also promoted the Spanish interpretation at Council meetings via a short video announcement in English and Spanish that was played on all of the City's outreach channels and on Goleta TV Channel 19.

DISCUSSION:

As part of ongoing efforts to increase accessibility and public engagement, staff have researched various tools to support real-time translation and interpretation during City Council meetings. Just to recap, options currently provided are:

- Spanish Interpretation in person at Council meetings
- Agendas translated into Spanish and published online
- YouTube transmitting City Council meetings with Spanish captions available on City YouTube videos the following day after a meeting

To complement the above options already provided by the City, staff are also looking to enhance the equipment in the City Council Chamber to allow for the opportunity to provide live translation of City Council meetings to the viewing public in real time. This allows non-English-speaking residents to better understand and participate in Council discussions by providing translation services directly through personal devices such as smartphones. This upgrade to equipment would work in coordination with the Spanish interpreters and will be available to those residents attending Council meetings in the Chamber and those watching meetings elsewhere.

Those updates would include:

- Sending a dedicated Live-Stream in Spanish for each City Council meeting in addition to the English stream.
- Send Spanish Audio to City Cable Channel 19 to the SAP (Secondary Audio Program) function of the City's Channel.

As observed in other agencies, the demand for real-time interpretation services can be relatively low, and it is challenging to predict whether these services will be utilized at all Council meetings. One of the responsibilities outlined for the Commission is to "To provide a venue to address opportunities and ways to improve public outreach and increase public engagement, including, but not limited to, participation in public meetings...." Staff realize that public participation tends to fluctuate depending on the specific agenda items under discussion.

This report provides staff the opportunity to update the Commission on Spanish Interpretation Services currently underway and enhancements currently in process for

City Council meetings. Staff is also requesting input from the Commission on how to better engage more Spanish-speakers to attend, participate and/or watch Goleta City Council meetings.

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime Valdez", is written over a horizontal line.

Jaime Valdez
Assistant City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. Spanish Language Interpretation at City Council Meetings PowerPoint Presentation

ATTACHMENT 1

Spanish Language Interpretation at City Council Meetings PowerPoint Presentation

Update of Spanish Language Interpretation at City Council Meetings

Public Engagement Commission
Meeting - May 21, 2025



Recommendation

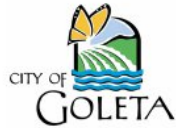
- Receive an update on Spanish interpretation for all City Council meetings.
- Provide recommendations to engage public interest for Spanish interpretation services.

Background

- Feb. 21, 2024: PEC received a report to consider moving forward with Spanish interpretation services at City Council meetings
- July 16, 2024: Spanish interpretation services launched at City Council meetings
 - Agendas also translated into Spanish
- March 4, 2025: YouTube launched for City Council meetings
 - Spanish captions available the following day







**Agenda del Concejo Municipal
Martes el 1 de abril de 2025**

Sesión Cerrada 4:30 P.M./Reunión Ordinaria 5:30 P.M.

Ayuntamiento, Cámaras del Consejo
130 Cremona Dr.
Goleta, CA

Miembros del Concejo Municipal

*Alcaldesa Paula Perotte
Alcalde Pro Tempore Stuart Kasdin, Distrito 4
Consejal Luz Reyes-Martin Distrito 1
Consejal James Kyriaco, Distrito 2
Consejal Jennifer Smith, Distrito 3*

*Robert Nisbet,
Administrador de la Ciudad
Isaac Rosen,
Abogado Interino de la
Ciudad
Deborah Lopez, Secretaria
Municipal*



**La Agenda de la Reunión del Concejo Municipal del
6 de mayo de 2025, Está Disponible en Línea**

**AVISO IMPORTANTE SOBRE LA REUNIÓN DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DEL 6 DE
MAYO DE 2025**

La ciudad de Goleta actualmente ofrece participación en persona, así como participación virtual hasta nuevo aviso. El público puede ver la reunión en el Canal 19 de Goleta y/o en línea en www.cityofgoleta.org/meetings-agendas y en las Cámaras del Consejo.


La agenda de la Reunión del Concejo Municipal del 6 de mayo de 2025 ha sido publicada y está disponible [aquí](#).

Tenga en cuenta que, si bien la ciudad se esforzará por garantizar que estos métodos de participación remota estén disponibles, la ciudad no garantiza que sean técnicamente factibles o que funcionen todo el tiempo. Además, la ciudad se reserva el derecho de cancelar estos métodos de participación remota (sujetos a las restricciones del Brown Act) en cualquier momento y por cualquier motivo. Asista en persona o enviando su comentario por correo electrónico a la secretaria municipal para garantizar su participación pública en cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org.

Agenda

YouTube

Search



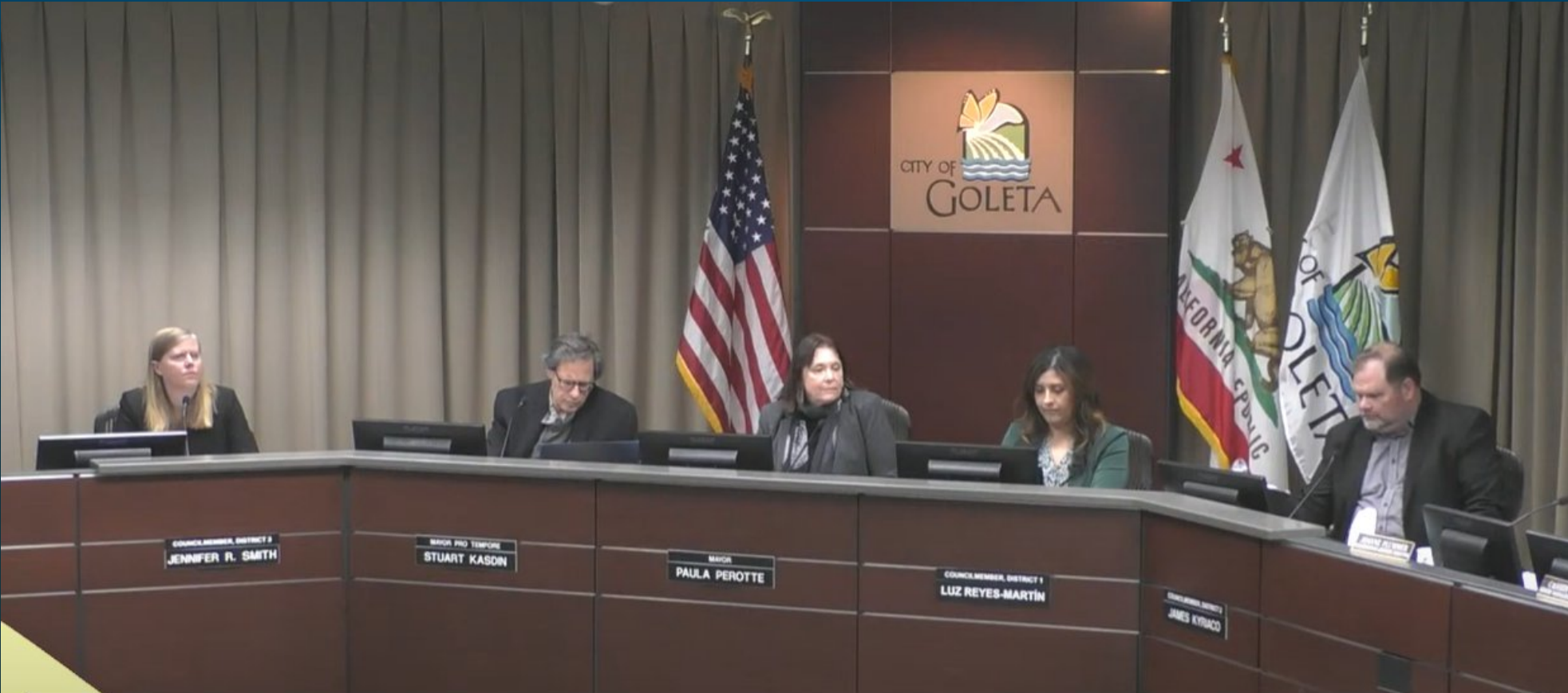
CITY OF
GOLETA

The Meeting of the City of Goleta City Council for March 4, 2025

will reconvene at 5:30 pm

0:00 / 4:48:53

City of Goleta - City Council Meeting of March 4, 2025



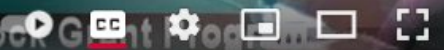
usted y al alcalde no tenemos a nadie que desee hablar en Zoom en este momento
está bien, entonces cerraré

Item C.2 Public Hearing



52:17 / 2:47:12

Needs, Goals, and Funding Priorities of the Community Development Block Grant Program



Promotion / Outreach

- Bilingual on the City's channels
 - Press releases
 - GovDelivery
 - Monarch Press e-newsletter
 - City website
 - Nextdoor
 - Social media
 - Council agenda summaries
 - Video for Spanish interpretation services



Spanish Interpretation Available at Goleta City Council Meetings



Reuniones del Ayuntamiento de Goleta Ahora en YouTube @cityofgoleta1



Goleta City Council Meetings Now on YouTube @cityofgoleta1



Interpretación en Español Disponible en las Reuniones del Concejo Municipal de Goleta



Current Spanish-Language Services Provided for City Council Meetings:

- Spanish Interpretation in person at Council meetings
- Agendas translated into Spanish and published online
- YouTube transmitting City Council meetings with Spanish captions available on City YouTube videos the following day after a meeting.

Next Steps

Sending a dedicated Live-Stream in Spanish for each City Council meeting in addition to the English stream

Send Spanish Audio to City Cable Channel 19 to the SAP (Secondary Audio Program) function of the City's Channel

The background of the slide features a collage of puzzle pieces in shades of blue and teal. Several question marks are scattered across the pieces, and a faint lightbulb icon is visible in the center. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is positioned in the middle of the slide, containing the main text.

**Ideas on how to better engage
more Spanish-speakers to attend,
participate and/or watch Goleta
City Council meetings?**



Thank You