



**Agenda Item C.3**  
**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**  
**Meeting Date: September 4, 2018**

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**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Carmen Nichols, Deputy City Manager

**CONTACT:** Valerie Kushnerov, Community Relations Manager

**SUBJECT:** Establishing a Youth Appointment for the Public Engagement Commission

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution 18-\_\_\_ entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, Goleta, CA, Establishing and Organizing the Public Engagement Commission to Amend Sections 8 and 15 to include a Youth Member and Revising the Term of the Position" and Rescind Resolution 17-18A.

**BACKGROUND:**

Several discussions and meetings have occurred recently between staff, City Council members and staff, and the Public Engagement Commission (PEC) as to how better communicate, engage, and encourage civic participation.

Councilmember Richards recently contacted the City Manager and shared his interest in engaging Goleta youth and creating opportunities for them to participate in various activities. Councilmember Richards provided staff with information and examples of youth involvement in various cities, made available at a League of California Cities meeting. Mayor Perotte supported the request to meet with staff and discuss ideas and explore possible projects.

In consideration of these requests, City staff studied several opportunities and programs that could be created. In reviewing the current work load of staff members that could potentially work on this initiative, and reviewing the FY 18-19 work plan of the City Manager's office, staff provided the following suggestions as first year implementations:

1. Include a youth component, such as a cohort, as part of the Citizens Academy currently being designed. The Citizens Academy will provide an opportunity to educate a group of interested citizens about the various aspects and processes of local government, study and discuss community issues, and provide a dialogue with the community. The goals of academy are two-fold, 1) Educate the community of

government processes and services provided by opening a dialogue with community members, 2) By providing this education, citizens can be better informed of the services, process, and roles of staff and Councilmembers and could encourage community members to run for elected office. The Citizens Academy is a project in the City Manager's Department approved work plan. Therefore, no additional requests or review of priorities are required at this time to incorporate a youth component. However, the curriculum should be flexible and developed in a manner that will sustain participant interest.

2. Similar to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), the City Council could identify one of the seven members of the Public Engagement Commission as a youth appointment. For the PRC it is defined by Ordinance 12-15, Section 2.11.30 as "One member shall be a student (15 years or older)". Staff recommends that a change of the formation of the PEC be made at the first available vacancy. This would require City Council action by Resolution. Appointing a youth member to the Commission would provide representation of this age group. Since commission discussions are often about how to better communicate and engage the Community, the youth member can provide input that affects his or her peers.

3. Staff is also reaching out the Santa Barbara Unified School District and Partners in Education to find other ways in which staff can engage with junior high and high school students such as Career Days, leadership class, etc. The School District's assistance in identifying and encouraging student to participate in the Citizens' Academy will be essential to its success. High school students have a requirement of satisfying community service hours, therefore, staff will be seeking the District's authorization of City initiatives to be counted towards the requirement. Staff is hopeful that future projects and initiatives can be explored with school staff and students.

These suggestions were supported by both Councilmember Richards and Mayor Perotte with the understanding that staff has a full work plan this upcoming year, and that implementing these suggestions would have the least impact to the plan and require a re-prioritization of projects. They encouraged staff to continue working towards a project such as Summer Internship program. Some other ideas that were shared include Youth in Government Day, Youth Council or Commission or Advisory Councils.

At a meeting hosted by the Community Relations Manager to discuss how to better communicate with and inform community members that are limited English, primarily Spanish speakers, attendees supported the idea of youth engagement. They also shared that the youth are often a primary conduit for communicating important information to the elders in the Spanish-speaking community.

At the PEC meeting on August 15, 2018, the PEC discussed the possibility of including a youth member on the Commission. The Commission defined youth as an individual between the ages of 15 and 21, residing in the City of Goleta and did not feel it should be limited to a student. The Commission strongly supported the idea of incorporating a youth member at the next vacancy.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Engaging youth provides a number of benefits to the community. The input from the younger generation is important to understand how to better communicate and serve this sector of the community by participating in the planning processes for programs and services that affect them. This interaction can be a catalyst to better educating and creating informed and engaged citizens directly, and indirectly with their family members. Educating the younger community about local government processes not only builds a youth awareness of potential public sector careers, but also encourages future governance and involvement in local issues.

One Commissioner from the PRC is designated a youth appointee. This Commissioner is appointed to represent the younger community members. The Commissioner's input has been invaluable as the City continues to expand its programming and recreational facilities. The Commissioner is highly encouraged to communicate with peers and serve as a conduit for two-way information about City projects.

The PEC currently has a vacancy with the resignation of Commissioner Kyriaco who was appointed to a two year term ending November 2019. Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution amending the membership of the commission to include a youth member with a one year term. Often times, the youth member is a student in the junior or senior year of high school and cannot commit to serving more than one year because of plans to attend college outside of this community. By making this a one year term, it may attract more applicants because it doesn't require a longer commitment. Alternatively, the youth member could remain a two-year term as the vacant seat and the youth appointee could fill the unexpired portion of the term through November 2019.

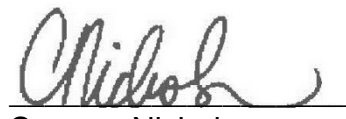
If the Council approves this resolution, staff will advertise for a youth appointee using the City's regular communication and social media tools and also make contact with the Santa Barbara School District and staff at the area secondary schools. Council could plan to interview candidates at the October 2, 2018, City Council meeting and make an appointment in time for the October 10, 2018 Public Engagement Commission meeting. This schedule would be helpful as it would fairly closely coincide with the school schedule.

The Resolution, Attachment A, has the corresponding changes in Sections 8 and 15.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact to provide in this report. FY 2018/19 funding for the Public Engagement Commission compensation of \$2,000 is programmed in account 101-5-1500-100.


**Reviewed By:**

  
Carmen Nichols  
Deputy City Manager

**Legal Review By:**

  
Michael Jenkins  
City Attorney

**Approved By:**

  
Michelle Greene  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, Goleta, CA, Establishing and Organizing the Public Engagement Commission to Amend Sections 8 and 15 to include a Youth Member and Revising the Term of the Position” and Rescind Resolution 17-18A

**ATTACHMENT 1:**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, Goleta, CA, Establishing and Organizing the Public Engagement Commission to Amend Sections 8 and 15 to include a Youth Member and Revising the Term of the Position” and Rescind Resolution 17-18A



## **RESOLUTION NO. 18-\_\_**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, GOLETA, CA, ESTABLISHING AND ORGANIZING THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION AND AMENDING SECTIONS 8 AND 15 TO INCLUDE A YOUTH MEMBER AND REVISING THE TERM OF THE POSITION AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 17-18A**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council agreed to establish a public engagement commission by way of a settlement agreement with Lindsay Rojas and Hector Mendez pursuant to a notice of violation of the California Voting Rights Act dated February 27, 2017 by Resolution 17-18 on May 16, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 5, 2017 the Council adopted Resolution No. 17-18A to include terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the commission is to advise the City Council pertaining to increasing public engagement in the governance of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution serves to establish the Public Engagement Commission, organize and define its duties, delineate the appointment and removal of its members, and provide for its dissolution after all its goals have been achieved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **SECTION 1. CREATED**

The Public Engagement Commission for the City was hereby created on September 5, 2017.

#### **SECTION 2. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Public Engagement Commission is to advise the City Council on issues related to public engagement in the governance of the City. The Commission will provide City residents a venue to address opportunities and ways to increase public engagement in City government.

#### **SECTION 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Public Engagement Commission shall have the power and duty to make recommendations to the City Council on matters pertaining to:

- A. Whether the City should become a charter city;

- B. Whether councilmembers should be paid greater compensation, and, if so, how much;
- C. Whether regular City Council meetings should be scheduled after 5:00 p.m.;
- D. Whether the directly elected mayor's term should be four (4) years;
- E. How to increase resident participation in government;
- F. The district mapping process in determining district lines for future district elections; and
- G. Any other matters as directed by the City Council.

#### **SECTION 4. MEETINGS**

Every year the Commission shall establish dates for six regular meetings and may hold such additional adjourned or special meetings as it or the City Council deems necessary or expedient. The City Clerk shall publicly notice the dates and times of the regularly scheduled meetings. The date, time and location along with the meeting agenda shall be noticed in accordance with Government Code Sections 54970-54975.

#### **SECTION 5. ORGANIZATION**

Each year, at its first regular televised meeting of the calendar year, the Commission shall elect from its membership a Chair and Vice-Chair.

The City shall maintain a public record of the Commission's resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations.

#### **SECTION 6. STAFFING**

The Public Engagement Commission shall be supported by the City Manager's Office.

#### **SECTION 7. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The Public Engagement Commission shall encourage residents and organizations which have an interest and purpose in increasing civic engagement within the City of Goleta to participate in the meetings of the Public Engagement Commission.

#### **SECTION 8. MEMBERS**

The Public Engagement Commission shall be composed of seven (7) members. One (1) member is a Goleta Elections Committee appointment and one member (1) shall be a youth appointee between the ages of 15-21.



## **SECTION 9. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS**

- (a) Members of the Public Engagement Commission shall be residents of the City.
- (b) No member of the Public Engagement Commission may be an employee or officer of the City.

## **SECTION 10. APPOINTMENT**

Following the procedures of California Government Code Section 54970, each Public Engagement Commissioner shall be appointed by the City Council at large. Appointment requires at least three affirmative votes.

## **SECTION 11. COMPENSATION**

The Public Engagement Commission members shall be compensated at the rate of \$50.00 per meeting. No additional compensation shall be provided to the commissioners.

## **SECTION 12. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

A member of the Public Engagement Commission is automatically removed from office if the member is absent without excuse from three consecutive regular meetings of the Commission. Excuse shall be determined by the Commission. A member of the Public Engagement Commission may be removed by a majority vote of the City Council.

## **SECTION 13. VACANCY IN OFFICE**

A vacancy on the Public Engagement Commission caused by death, resignation, removal of a commissioner, or any other cause before the expiration of a commissioner's term shall be filled by an appointment by the Council for the unexpired term.

## **SECTION 14. DISSOLUTION**

The City Council may dissolve the Public Engagement Commission at any time upon its determination that the Commission has completed its Duties and Responsibilities as described in Section 3.

## **SECTION 15. TERMS**

Members of the Public Engagement Commission shall be appointed for a term of four years. Initial appointments shall be staggered so that three commissioners initially serve two-year terms expiring November 2019. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed by the City Council. The Goleta Election Committee appointee would also serve a four year term. The Youth Appointee shall serve a one year term. After the initial terms are served, all commissioners shall serve four year terms

**SECTION 16. RESCINDED**

Resolution No.17-18A is hereby rescinded.

**SECTION 17. CERTIFICATION**

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of Goleta, California, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PAULA PEROTTE  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DEBORAH S. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL JENKINS  
CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA        )       ss.  
CITY OF GOLETA                        )

I, DEBORAH S. LOPEZ, City Clerk of the City of Goleta, California, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 18-\_\_ was duly adopted by  
the City Council of the City of Goleta at a regular meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 2018 by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

(SEAL)

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DEBORAH S. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK