



Legislation Text

File #: 19-586, **Version:** 1

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SUBJECT: Discussion on, and Potential Appointments to, the City of Merced Planning Commission (3 Vacancies)

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers options for appointing individuals to the City of Merced Planning Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Directing staff to schedule a Special Meeting to conduct interviews of Planning Commission applicants; **or**,
- B. Appointing a City Council subcommittee to complete interviews of the applicants and make recommendations to the full Council at the next Regular Meeting; **or**,
- C. Appointing one, two or three of the qualified applicants to the open seats either by Council District or At-Large at Council discretion; **or**,
- D. Continuing this item to a future meeting (specify date in motion).

AUTHORITY

City of Merced Charter Section 200, Section 702 and Section 707.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A

DISCUSSION

There are currently three vacancies on the Planning Commission one of which expires in 2021 and the other two expire in 2023. Planning Commissioner Jeremy Martinez resigned from his seat in May of this year after moving out of the City limits. Peter Padilla's second term expired on July 1 of this year but Mr. Padilla has been gracious enough to continue to serve while awaiting a replacement to be appointed to his seat. At the Planning Commission meeting of September 18, Planning Commission Chair Scott Drexel announced his resignation as he will be moving from the area.

With the Planning Commission being the decision making body for important planning matters, it is imperative that a quorum of members be present at each meeting. With only four members and a

fifth temporary member awaiting a qualified replacement, the possibility of meetings being cancelled due to a lack of quorum increases.

A map of the current district location for the four current members is attached for Council reference to assist in the event that appointments are to be considered by Council District. Council may also choose to appoint in an at-large capacity as it sees fit.

Alternatively, the Council may wish to schedule interviews of the applicants at a Special Meeting of the entire Council, as has been the practice for the past few years, or appoint a City Council subcommittee to interview the applicants and make recommendations to the entire Council at the next regular meeting.

The City Clerk's Office has been actively recruiting to fill positions on the Commission through newspaper ads and social media posts. The City Clerk's Office has received seven applications for the Planning Commission vacancies.

The applicants are:

Stephanie Butticci - District 1
Renato Domingo - District 3
Nicholas Koenig - District 4
Casey Steed - District 4
Charles Reyburn - District 5
Jessie Espinosa - District 6
Jose Delgadillo - District 6

The current roster for the Commission is attached. The matter of appointment to this Commission is now before the Council.

History and Past Actions

The Planning Commission, created by City Charter, studies land subdivision, planning, and zoning matters. The Commission recommends to the City Council the adoption, amendment, or repeal of the City's Master Plan for the physical development of the City. The Commission consists of seven members who are qualified electors of the City of Merced. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

No impact on City resources.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Current Roster
2. Planning Commission Applications

3. Map of Planning Commissioners by District