

Policy 7.4.12 Council Appointments to Intergovernmental Agencies

POLICY PURPOSE:

It is the purpose of this policy to establish guidelines and standards regarding City resources and support for Councilmembers. This policy is supplementary to and in no way intended to conflict with the City Charter. For further information on this subject, see:

- City Charter, Section 807
- Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected Officials (available on the City's internal Web site or in the Office of the City Clerk)

Additionally, this policy provides clarity around the appointment of Councilmembers and non-Councilmembers to intergovernmental (IGR) assignments, including appointment criteria, appointment process, and term length. The policy also addresses Council subcommittees and task forces.

POLICY STATEMENT:

I. City Councilmember Appointments to Intergovernmental Agencies

- The City Council appoints members to a variety of intergovernmental agencies in order to represent the City's interests and to influence policies and regulations of other agencies.

In general, appointments are governed by the following principles:

- A. For those IGR assignments where the City's representative serves at the discretion of the Council, the City Council will nominate members to fill vacancies on IGR bodies as part of a noticed agenda item at a regular meeting.
- B. For appointments made by outside bodies (for example, the Cities Association or the League of California Cities), the City Council must ratify the appointment of a Councilmember as part of a noticed agenda item at a regular meeting. No further Council ratification is needed for subcommittee appointments if the appointing committee assignment has already been ratified by Council.
- C. The term of office for the Sunnyvale representative shall be in accordance with the by-laws of the intergovernmental agency to which they were appointed. For agencies with no defined terms, the appointments shall be made annually in January. Notwithstanding, in all cases, Councilmember assignments and appointments shall terminate automatically when a Councilmember leaves office, effective upon the Councilmember's last day of service.
- D. In the event a vacancy occurs during a term, the Council will select a member to serve the remainder of that term as part of a noticed agenda at a regular meeting.

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Councilmembers shall notify the IGR Manager of any changes to IGR assignments.

- E. Council shall appoint a member to serve as an alternate to IGR bodies at the request of the agency or when the nature of the assignment requires a representative always be present.
- F. Staff support is provided to Councilmembers serving on IGR bodies as directed by the City Manager and in accordance with this Policy.
- G. When representing the City on an intergovernmental committee, Councilmembers must vote in accordance with the official City position on an issue, regardless of the Councilmember's individual position.
- H. Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC): City Council Representation

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County was formed in 1990 (formerly the "Intergovernmental Council") in order to represent the mutual interests of the diverse fifteen cities of Santa Clara County and to present a unified voice for the cities in dealing with other agencies, organizations and levels of government. The Association was established through a joint powers agreement, and is funded exclusively by the fifteen cities.

Each city appoints a city Councilmember to the Board of Directors, which meets monthly. In its role as an advocate for the cities, the group monitors legislative activities at the state and federal levels.

The issue of selection of the representative shall be placed on the agenda of the Council meeting following the meeting when the Mayor is selected. By tradition, the Mayor represents the City of Sunnyvale on the Board of Directors. The Mayor has the discretion to designate another Councilmember to serve on the Board of the CASCC in his or her stead.

- I. City Council Appointment of a Non-Councilmember to an IGR Assignment

The City Council may, on occasion, appoint a non-Councilmember to represent the City's interest on an intergovernmental body. These appointments must be made as part of a noticed agenda item at a regular meeting. In those circumstances:

- 1. Staff support is not provided to non-Councilmembers who serve on an intergovernmental body, although a staff member liaison will be designated by the City Manager.
- 2. Non-Councilmembers serving on intergovernmental bodies shall provide a summary written report to the entire City Council and the City Manager after each intergovernmental agency meeting they attend.

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II. Mayoral Appointments to Intergovernmental Agencies

The Mayor appoints members to a variety of intergovernmental agencies in order to represent the City's interests and to influence policies and regulations of other agencies.

In general, appointments are governed by the following principles:

- A. The Mayor may appoint him/herself.
- B. For those IGR assignments where the City's representative serves at the discretion of the Mayor, the Mayor will appoint members to fill vacancies on IGR bodies.
- C. Mayoral appointments include appointments to the US Conference of Mayors' Policy Committees; Cities Association of Santa Clara County's Board of Directors, City Selection Committee, and Legislative Action Committee; the Advisory Council to the Council on Aging; and Council voting delegates and alternates for annual League of California Cities and National League of Cities conferences.
- D. As vacancies occur to the Mayoral appointment to the Advisory Council to the Council on Aging, the Mayor may direct staff to recommend individuals for consideration.

III. Staff Support to IGR Assignments

Staff assistance shall be provided to Councilmembers serving on intergovernmental bodies when the Council has approved the appointments of a member to that body, or in the case when the Council is not the approving body, if the Council has consented to that member sitting on that body (see Council Policy, 7.3.12 regarding the City Council Appointments to Intergovernmental Agencies, City Council Subcommittees and Council or Mayor-Created Advisory Task Forces). Unless officially approved by the Council, no staff support shall be provided once a Councilmember leaves City office. The City's Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Program is coordinated within the Office of the City Manager. The Office of the City Manager is responsible for assisting Council with applications for IGR committees, determining levels of staff support, presenting Reports to Council to ratify IGR appointments, and maintaining the Council IGR committee database.

For purposes of this policy, intergovernmental bodies are broadly defined to include committees of intergovernmental agencies or organizations. Staff support shall be consistent with the following guidelines:

- A. Assignments will be made by the City Manager.

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- B. If the intergovernmental body has its own professional staff, such staff should be utilized to the greatest practical extent, rather than City staff.
- C. Assigned staff shall meet with newly assigned Councilmembers regarding the expected level of support. A form will be provided to reflect the agreed upon level of support with appropriate signatures. This form is updated at a Councilmember's request, or upon a change in assignment.
- D. Staff shall request that the Councilmember be placed on the committee's mailing list to receive all required information.
- E. Assigned City staff shall not attend the intergovernmental meeting unless the Councilmember requests such attendance from the City Manager, and the Manager approves.
- F. The primary responsibility of assigned staff is to review issues before the intergovernmental body as they may affect the City, and to advise and assist the Councilmember in presenting issues before the full Council. Staff is encouraged to communicate with Council in writing to avoid miscommunication. IGR information provided to Council shall be consistent with adopted City policies (consider General Plan Sub-elements, adopted legislative advocacy positions, or past Council practice).
- G. In the absence of adopted policy, staff should determine whether the issue is significant enough to warrant a Council adopted position. If so, the City Manager should be notified in a timely manner so that the issue can be placed on a Council agenda.
- H. Councilmembers shall not direct staff to conduct major research. Major research shall occur only upon the direction of the City Manager.
- I. As directed by the City Manager, assigned staff may prepare formal IGR correspondence on behalf of Councilmembers only on issues arising from a Councilmember's IGR committee assignment. Always copy the originating department Director, City Manager and IGR Officer on all IGR-related correspondence (For more detail on IGR advocacy correspondence, see Section E: "Correspondence Preparation").
- J. Council may provide updates on their IGR assignments during the Council Updates on Intergovernmental Activities section of the Council agenda.
- K. Legislative Briefings. Staff prepares briefing reports for Councilmembers attending conferences and meetings as directed by the City Manager. Such reports include up-to-date information on the issues at hand. When the subject is to be

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discussed with specific legislators, their position (if known on the matter) should be included in the report.

IV. Implementation.

The City Manager shall monitor those provisions of this policy within the City Manager's Charter responsibilities. Disagreement in interpretation shall be resolved by the City Council. The City Manager shall institute administrative policy to implement this policy. At the time a new Councilmember is seated, the Mayor and City Manager should review this policy with him/her.

Annually, the City Manager shall review the resource requirements necessary to support the level of service specified in this policy, and recommend as a part of the proposed budget necessary changes of budget resources.

(Adopted: RTC 81-602 (10/6/1981); Amended: [No RTC] (6/21/1994); [No RTC, Budget workshop] (5/20/1997); Amended by RTC 05-163 (6/7/05); Amended: [No RTC] (4/19/06); Amended: RTC 08-089 (4/1/08); Amended: RTC 09-001 (1/6/09); Amended: RTC 12-006 (1/10/12); Updated for clarity (8/21/12); Clerical update (1/25/13); Adopted: Council Policy Update, RTC #14-0061 (November 25, 2014))

Lead Department: Office of the City Manager

For Reference, see also: 7.4.13 Council Subcommittees and Council or Mayor-Created Advisory Task Forces; 7.4.15 Legislative Advocacy Positions; 7.4.15 Council Advocacy