

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

AGENDA DATE: 5/10/2011

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney (915) 541-4550

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: ALL

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action on a Resolution establishing a Districting Commission for 2011, as identified in Article II, Section 2.4(B) of the El Paso City Charter.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

Article II, Section 2.4(B) of the El Paso City Charter requires that following each decennial census, a Districting Commission be formed by City Council. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to City Council concerning adjustments of the boundaries of Representative Districts. Upon receiving the Commission's recommendation, Council shall review the population of each district, as soon as possible, shall change the boundaries as necessary to insure substantial equality in the population of the districts. All changes shall be made in a manner that complies with the constitutional principles and laws governing voting rights of the United States and Texas. Once City Council approves a redistricting plan, the plan will be submitted to the U.S. Attorney General's office for acceptance. All Districting Commission members must be appointed by September 1, 2011.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

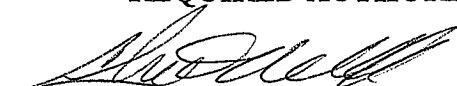
N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, under Public Law 94-171, after the completion of the 2010 U.S. Census, realignment of representative district boundaries of the City of El Paso is required when the difference in population between the largest and smallest district exceeds 10%; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 2.4(B) of the City Charter ("Charter") states that a Districting Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") shall be convened on or before September 1st, following publication of the results of each decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the Charter provides that the Commission shall consist of one qualified voter appointed by each of the City representatives from their respective Districts, and one qualified voter from the City at large appointed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, all changes to boundaries of the representative district must comply with the constitutional principles and laws governing voting rights of the United States and Texas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That a Districting Commission shall be convened;
2. That the Mayor and each of the Representatives shall appoint one member to the Commission on or before September 1, 2011, as provided by the Charter;
3. That the Commission shall perform the duties identified in the Charter, shall comply with all requirements of the laws governing voting rights and redistricting criteria within the allotted time frame, shall solicit input from the general public, and shall prepare a consensus recommendation for approval by City Council; and
4. That all members appointed to the Commission shall serve, without compensation, until City Council adoption of a Redistricting Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2011.

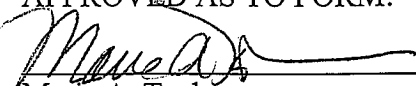
THE CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Marie A. Taylor
Assistant City Attorney