

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY, CALIFORNIA,
INITIATING PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING
AND IMPLEMENTING BY-DISTRICT ELECTIONS
FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, members of the City Council of the City of Cathedral City ("City") are currently elected in "at-large" elections, in which each City Council member is elected by the registered voters of the entire city, held concurrently with the Statewide General Election in November of even numbered years; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 34886, effective January 1, 2016, permits the City Council of a city with a population of fewer than 100,000 people, to change the city's method of election by ordinance, with certain formalities, to a "by-district" system in which each City Council member is elected only by the voters in the district in which the candidate resides; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017, the City Council approved a contract with National Demographics Corporation to commence the process of establishing Council districts; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated February 7, 2017, the law firm of Shenkman and Hughes, apparently unaware that the City had already started the process of establishing districts, threatened litigation against the City if it does not convert to district-based elections for City Council members; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2017, the City Council, after meeting in closed session with the City Attorney to discuss the threatened litigation reaffirmed its commitment to switching from "at-large" elections to a "by-district" electoral system; and

WHEREAS, California Elections Code section 10010 requires a total of four public hearings before a public hearing is held for the adoption of an ordinance to establish district boundaries for a by-district electoral system is approved; and

WHEREAS, as a charter city the City is not required to adhere to the procedural requirements of Elections Code section 10010, but is choosing to follow those procedures to maximize public participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

A. The above recitals are true and correct.

B. The City Council hereby resolves to adopt a by-district election system as authorized by Government Code section 34886 for use in the City's General Municipal Election for City Council Members in November 2018.

C. The City Council hereby approves the tentative timeline contained in Exhibit A hereto, and incorporated herein by this reference, for conducting a public process to solicit public input and testimony on proposed by-district electoral plans before adopting any such plan.

D. This timeline contained in Exhibit A shall be subject to adjustment by the City Council as it deems necessary, provided that such adjustments shall not prevent the City from meeting its goal of finalizing the change to by-district elections in time for the November 2018 elections.

E. The City Manager shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal issues necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

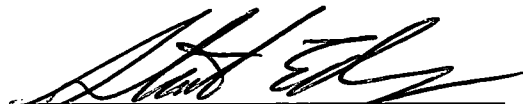
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cathedral City held on this 8th day of Marc, 2017, by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Aguilar, Carnevale and Kaplan; Mayor Pro Tem Pettis and Mayor Henry

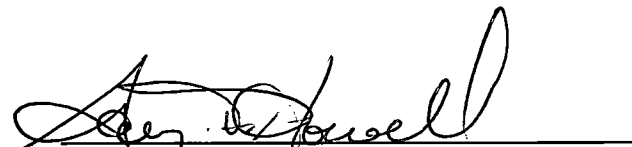
Noes: None

Absent: None


Abstain: None


Stanley E. Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:


Gary F. Howell, City Clerk

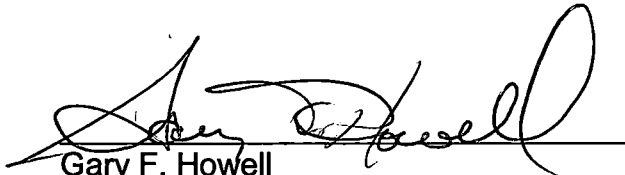
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Eric S. Vail, City Attorney

CERTIFICATION

I, Gary F. Howell, City Clerk to the City of Cathedral City, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council at its regular meeting held on March 8, 2017.

DATED: March 8, 2017



Gary F. Howell
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
TENTATIVE TIMELINE: ADOPTION OF “BY-DISTRICT” ELECTION METHOD

March 8	Adopt Resolution of Intent to Change Elections and Criteria Resolution Discussion of schedule and outreach efforts NDC presentation
April 12	1 st public hearing prior to draft maps Demo of public online line-drawing tools NDC presentation
April 26	2 nd public hearing prior to draft maps (NDC possibly needed)
May 15	<i>No meeting.</i> Deadline for initial public map submissions
May 18	<i>No meeting.</i> NDC Draft Maps and any maps received from the public posted on City website
June 14	1 st public hearing to discuss draft maps. Possible Council direction on map revisions. NDC Presentation
July 12	2 nd public hearing to discuss draft maps. Possible Council direction on map revisions. NDC Presentation
August 9	Public Hearing and Vote to introduce ordinance (with map) NDC in person to answer questions
August 23	2 nd reading and final adoption of ordinance (NDC not needed)
November 2018	First districts hold by-district elections
November 2020	Remaining districts hold by-district elections