

Argument in Favor of Measure CC

This proposed charter amendment would change the reporting structure for officers of the City, the formal term for the City Administrator, City Attorney, and department heads (City Clerk, Finance Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, Planning Director, and City Engineer).

Under the Charter as it stands now, officers of the City are hired, directed, and fired by the City Council. Separately, the Charter contains conflicting provisions wherein the City Administrator is the Chief Administrative Officer and has responsibility for the administration and supervision of all departments.

The proposed amendments would remove conflicting provisions and reflect both the actual practice in the City of Piedmont for many decades and the typical practice in smaller cities. Because it is not practical for the City Council, meeting twice a month, to direct the daily work of department heads, the Council instead provides strategic direction to staff through the City Administrator, who supervises and provides daily direction to officers and is responsible for evaluating their performance.

The measure would amend the Charter to clarify that the City Administrator and City Attorney are appointed, directed, and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. It also clarifies that other officers of the City are appointed by the City Council but are directed and serve at the pleasure of the City Administrator. This would ensure clear lines of accountability for officers and remove political considerations from personnel decisions, while preserving the City Council's role in appointing officers of the City.

Following public discussion at three Council meetings and a televised town hall, the City Council voted unanimously to place this measure before the voters.

The undersigned proponents or authors of the direct argument in favor of Measure CC at the General Municipal Election for the City of Piedmont to be held on November 6, 2018, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their/knowledge and belief.

Robert S. McBain
Mayor

Tim Rood
Councilmember

Dean Barbieri
Former Mayor