



Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilmember Kansen Chu

SUBJECT: **STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS;
POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATION
OR ELIMINATION OF BOARDS
AND COMMISSIONS**

DATE: October 19, 2012

APPROVED:

DATE:

10/19/12

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve recommendations from the City Clerk with the following amendments:

1. Consider merging the Airport Noise Advisory Committee with the County's Airport Land-Use Commission;
2. Maintain the Parks and Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, Senior Commission, Advisory Commission on Rents, and Mobilehome Advisory Commission as it currently operates;
3. Establish a Human Services Commission by consolidating the Disability Advisory and Human Rights Commissions;
4. Maintain the Small Business Development Commission and revise its mission as requested by the commission to continue their work to promote and support small businesses;
5. For the remaining commissions, do not change the commission membership size and structure to include district and at-large representation;
6. Allow Boards and Commissions to have the flexibility to meet monthly to complete their work plans;
7. Direct the City Clerk to provide a cost analysis of staff support and work with Department Heads to come back with a workload assessment from the recommended changes before this item returns to council for final adoption.

ANALYSIS:

Residents who serve on City Boards and Commissions should be commended for the significant amount of time, expertise, passion, and advocacy they bring to the table. We need to recognize that our commissioners are all community volunteers and play an integral role in providing valuable feedback to the City Council.

I believe the standardization of work plan formats and reporting requirements, posting of agendas, and development of commission trainings are all good steps. However, it is still unclear to me the

cost savings and efficiencies that would result from the recommended actions from restructuring, eliminating, and consolidating our boards and commissions. In addition, it is important to keep in mind the monetary value of volunteer time and contributions made by our community members. This must be carefully analyzed before we make any major decisions.

While the recommendation on the table is to merge the Airport Noise Advisory Committee with the Airport Commission, I believe it would make more sense to merge this committee with the County's Airport Land-Use Commission due to their overlapping scopes. Airport noise is one of the major focuses of the County's commission.

Commissions such as the Parks and Recreation, Youth, and Seniors are highly specialized and focused areas. A super commission comprised of so many members would not be conducive to productivity and efficiency needs of these diverse groups. With so many different stakeholders, there is no guarantee how many youth and senior voices will be on the commission.

I support the establishment of a Human Services Commission by consolidating the Disability Advisory and Human Rights Commission and maintaining their work plans. Both commissions focus on human rights issues and a merged commission will continue to provide a venue for people with knowledge and expertise of these issues.

The Commission on Rents and Mobilehome Advisory Commission are unique from our other boards and commissions. My recommendation to maintain both commissions as it currently operates is due to the fact that the City collects fees collected from renters to cover these staffing costs.

Lastly, the Small Business Development Commission was established to study, review, and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the City's efforts on behalf of disadvantaged and small businesses to encourage greater participation in City contracts and to increase greater overall economic vitality for businesses. Due to its outdated scope, the Commission over the years has expressed their desire and has submitted new plans to the City Clerk to repurpose their mission to continuing their work to promote, support, outreach, and bring resources to our small businesses.

Many commissioners have expressed their concerns about the recommendations to consolidate and increase membership size as well as the current meeting frequency. All boards and commissions should have the flexibility to meet monthly to complete their work plan. While consolidations will reduce the total number of boards and commissions, this recommendation may not yield the desired efficiencies or cost savings. Boards and commissions cease to be efficient with too many members. Super commissions may find it more difficult to get any work done and make decisions. In addition, many voices will be drowned out due to the broader scope of the consolidation.

I want to thank the City Clerk and his staff for the amount of time they have spent reaching out to our boards and commissions and putting forth his recommendations for restructuring our boards and commissions. While I agree that some changes are necessary, we need to give thoughtful consideration on how we move forwards with our recommendations for changes.

ATTACHMENT A

CITY COMMISSIONS TO BE MAINTAINED:

BOARD OR COMMISSION	RATIONALE
Advisory Commission on Rents	Cost neutral
Airport Commission	Specialized focus
Arts Commission	Specialized focus
Board of Administration, Police and Fire Department Retirement Plan	Specialized focus; possible meet and confer issues
Board of Administration, Federated City Employees Retirement System	Specialized focus; possible meet and confer issues
Civil Service Commission	City Charter
Council Salary Setting Commission	City Charter
Deferred Compensation Advisory Commission	Specialized focus; possible meet and confer issues
Downtown Parking Board	Specialized focus
Elections Commission	Specialized focus
Historic Landmark Commission	Specialized focus
Housing and Community Development Commission	Specialized focus
Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force	Specialized focus
Mobilehome Advisory Commission	Cost neutral
Planning Commission	City Charter
Public Safety Bond Oversight	Specialized focus
Redistricting Advisory Commission	City Charter
Senior Commission	Specialized focus
Small Business Development Commission	Specialized focus
Schools/City Collaborative	Specialized focus; change would require coordination with other agencies
Treatment Plant Advisory Committee	Specialized focus; change would require coordination with other agencies
Work2Future Board	Specialized focus; federal legislation created entity
Youth Commission	Specialized focus

ATTACHMENT B

CITY COMMISSIONS TO BE CONSOLIDATED:

Consolidation	Membership
Appeals Hearing Board (7 members) Traffic Appeals Board (7 members) Building Codes and Disabled Access Boards (5 members)	9 members
Parks and Recreation Commission (9 members) Parks and Recreation Bond Oversight Committee	9 members
Early Care and Education Commission (13 members) Library Commission (9 members) Library Parcel Tax Oversight Committee	9 members
Disability Advisory Commission (11 members) Human Rights Commission (13 members)	9 members

CITY COMMISSIONS TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONS:

Consolidation	Rationale
Airport Noise Advisory Committee	Similar issues