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Memorandum

TO: RULES COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment for Redistricting **DATE:** February 4, 2008

Approved

Date

2-5-08

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Attorney to draft for Council consideration a memo detailing the amendment of Section 403 of the City Charter, to change the beginning of the 120-day period for the submission of the report of the Redistricting Advisory Commission ("Commission") from the date of receipt of federal census data, or from the date of appointment of the Commission, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Upon the completion of the U.S. Census in 2010, the City will need to recalibrate its district borders to comply with Section 403 of the Charter, to ensure relatively equivalent populations in each district. Through my conversations with former Commission member and San Jose State University Professor Terry Christensen, I have learned that substantial difficulties arose during the last episode of redistricting. Due to delays in the provision of census information from the federal government, the Commission lacked sufficient time to be able to conduct its study and submit a report.

Currently, Section 403 of the Charter provides in relevant part:

By no later than February 1 in the year following the decennial census, the Council shall appoint an Advisory Commission whose purpose shall be to study and make appropriate recommendations with respect to such redistricting. . . . The Advisory Commission shall conduct at least three public hearings, at various locations in the City, concerning its recommendations regarding District boundaries, and shall submit its report and recommendations to the Council within one hundred twenty (120) days following its appointment.

In May of 2001, the Advisory Commission charged with determining council district boundaries issued a report to the City Council, recommending that the Charter be amended to delay the tolling of the 120-day reporting period until the full Commission is re-established *and* federal census data on San Jose's population is released. Delaying the initiation of this period

will allow the Advisory Commission a full 120 days to do the work that they need to effectuate redistricting efforts.