



Agenda Report

21-324

Agenda Date: 3/1/2021

REPORT TO CULTURAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Reinstatement of the International Exchange Commission (IEC)

BACKGROUND

At the January 2020 City Council Priority Setting Session, the City Council (Council) directed staff to evaluate the resources needed to reinstate the International Exchange Commission (IEC). This referral was sent to the Governance and Ethics Committee (Committee) for review. At the September 14, 2020 Committee meeting, the Committee directed staff to move forward with reinstatement of the IEC in January 2021 or in early 2021.

At the Committee meeting held on December 7, 2020, staff brought forward the attached report (Attachment 1) which outlined several considerations related to the reinstatement of the IEC. The Committee approved (3-0) forwarding a proposed ordinance to reinstate the IEC to the full City Council (Council) for consideration, with the postponement of IEC meetings until COVID-19 travel and event restrictions are lifted and can safely be planned.

It was clarified that, while the IEC meetings would be postponed until after COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted, staff would start the process to set up the infrastructure by first forwarding the ordinance to reinstate the IEC in 2021. It was also acknowledged by the Committee that it would likely take up to a year to reinstate the IEC.

DISCUSSION

City Council will consider reinstatement of the IEC at its March 23, 2021 meeting. To reinstate the IEC, the Santa Clara City Code will need to be amended to add a new section regarding the IEC and amend the section pertaining to the Cultural Commission to remove certain powers, functions, and duties.

Below are the current powers, functions, and duties of the Cultural Commission. The bolded items were originally functions of the IEC. If the reinstatement of the IEC is approved by City Council, the IEC will be charged with the bolded powers, functions, and duties and remove them from the Cultural Commission:

- **Act in an advisory capacity to the Council in all matters pertaining to** cultural enrichment and beautification of the City, **sister city relationships and international exchanges.**
- Encourage the beautification of the City and programs for the cultural enrichment of the City
- Foster cultural events, activities and displays that celebrate the City's native and historic cultures and present diversity
- **Assist in the planning and supervision of international exchange activities with our sister communities, sharing friendship, skills and concerns**

- **Develop individual contacts designed to enhance international communication and understanding**
- **Encourage educational, cultural, sports, technical and governmental exchanges to help acquaint citizens of Santa Clara with cultural and political diversity abroad.**
- Perform other such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may impose or require.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City’s website and in the City Clerk’s Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>>.

RECOMMENDATION

Note and file this report on the reinstatement of the International Exchange Commission.

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Approved by: James Teixeira, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. RTC 20-907