

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE THE CITY COUNCIL TO PLACE BEFORE THE VOTERS AT THE NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2015 THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO ESTABLISH DISTRICT ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, since April 29, 2014, the City Council of the City of Santa Barbara has been actively considering the question of whether to propose to the voters a change from the current at-large voting system to by-district elections;

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2104, the City Council conducted a public work session at the Faulkner Gallery in order to receive a report from the City Attorney on the California Voting Rights Act and different election system options, including by-district elections, and to receive public comment on the question of whether to switch to by-district elections or some other form of election option;

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2014, the City Council appointed three Council Members to an ad hoc committee to discuss the issue of district elections with community groups supporting such a change to the City's election system;

WHEREAS, the Council ad hoc committee met with those community groups;

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2014, the City Council considered a presentation from the National Demographics Corporation concerning District Elections and the California Voting Rights Act, and received public comment. The City Council decided to request the City Attorney to consider developing additional data regarding the existence of racially polarized voting patterns in Santa Barbara;

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2014, the City was sued pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act in *Banales, et al. v. City of Santa Barbara*, SBSC Case No.1468167, including allegations that racially polarized voting patterns exist in the City and seeking the establishment of by-district elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to place the question of whether to establish by-district elections before the City's voters at the earliest lawful time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Elections Code section 1415, at the next regularly scheduled general municipal election the City Council intends to place before the voters the question of whether to establish by-district elections in Santa Barbara.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk and City Attorney are hereby directed to prepare in a timely manner such actions, resolutions, charter amendments, and ordinances as are necessary to place the following matters on the above-described ballot:

- A. Establishment of six council districts elected by-district, and a directly elected mayor elected by the voters at large.
- B. Establishment of an appointed independent districting commission which shall be charged, if district elections are approved by the voters in November 2015, with establishing the geographical boundaries of the initial six council districts. The geographical boundaries of future districts shall be established by the Council following the receipt of subsequent decennial census results.
- C. District elections will commence at the regularly scheduled general municipal election occurring in November 2017.
- D. Such other related matters as the City Clerk and City Attorney may deem necessary and advisable.

SECTION 3. Before the November 2015 election, the Acting City Administrator is directed to develop a civic engagement process to involve Santa Barbara residents in the process of drafting the ballot measures for establishing by-district elections, and to return to Council with that proposal for review and approval.