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**METRO WESTSIDE/CENTRAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

February 7, 2005

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF OFFICE FOR GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file report regarding terms of office for Governance Council members and officers

**BACKGROUND**

On January 3, 2006, the Council asked staff to investigate options regarding the terms of office for Governance Council members and how they align with the terms of office for officers of the Governance Council.

**DISCUSSION**

The bylaws for Service Sector Governance Councils (attachment A) specify that membership on a Governance Council shall be for a term of three years and that the terms will be staggered among the members. The bylaws also specify that Governance Council officers shall be elected annually in June and serve for a term of one year beginning in July. This is consistent with the bylaws for the Metro Board of Directors (attachment B).

Governance Council members may be reappointed to serve an additional three-year term and Governance Council officers may serve additional terms. Both of these have occurred at other Governance Councils and one member of the Westside/Central Governance Council has been reappointed to a second three-year term.

The Westside/Central Governance Council began meeting in January 2004 with eight members and one vacancy. At that first meeting, the eight members drew lots to determine whether their first term would be for two years ending in December 2005, or three years ending in December 2006. An option for an initial one-year term was not included.

Culver City Councilwoman Carol Gross was elected to serve as the first chair of the Governance Council, and Dr. Peter Capone-Newton was elected to serve as Vice-Chair. In January 2005, General Manager David Armijo explained that it had been decided that officers of all Governance Councils would begin their terms in July, instead of the anniversary of the Council. Rather than elect new officers for a six-month term from January-June 2005, it was determined to extend the terms of Chair Gross and Vice-Chair Capone-Newton until June 2005.

Since the first meeting of the Governance Council, two new members have joined. Greg Fisher was appointed to the last remaining vacancy for a term ending in December 2006. Carlos Collard was appointed to complete the term of the late Helen Ann Johnson, a term that ended in December 2005.

In January 2006, the Westside/Central Governance Council experienced its first membership turnover coinciding with the terms of membership that began when the Council started meeting in January 2004. Of the four terms that expired in December 2005, one member was reappointed, and three new members have been appointed all for three-year terms expiring in December 2008.

Governance Council members have discussed that the current arrangement only provides for one opportunity when they might serve as an officer. It was felt that they are unlikely to be elected as an officer in their first year on the Council, and they may not be able to fully serve their term as an officer if they were elected in their third year on the Council and are not reappointed as a member of the Council.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Change the time of election of officers for the Governance Council: The Council members may individually or collectively seek a change to the bylaws requiring officers to serve terms beginning in July of each year. This would require action by the Metro Board of Directors and would impact the other four Governance Councils.
2. Seek to realign terms of membership on the Governance Council so they begin in July: Governance Council members could choose, individually or collectively, to step down from the Council before the end of their three-year term and request that their nominator appoint someone to a new three-year term that would begin in July.
3. Do nothing: The Governance Council may choose to leave the current situation alone. If this option is chosen, the Governance Council may wish to ask a member seeking an officer position during the third year of their term to seek assurance that they would be renominated to an additional term.

## **NEXT STEPS**

In order to more fully discuss this matter, staff suggests that the Westside/Central Governance Council Chair contact his counterparts on the other Governance Councils to ascertain whether this is an issue for them, and how they deal with it.

Prepared by:

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