

MOTION

The City's budget system is a crucial process for allocating funds for resources, public services, and programs across the City. Currently, the City's budget runs annually from July 1st to June 30th, with the Mayor, Council, and Departments deliberating its composition during the year. The City Charter requires that the Mayor publish their budget priorities for the next fiscal year by February 1st and deliver the proposed budget to the Council by April 20th of each year. The members of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee will then review the proposed budget in a series of public hearings that include the department managers, the Mayor's Office, the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and other relevant staff. The Council, by majority vote, must adopt or modify the proposed budget by June 1st. The approved budget is then sent to the Mayor for signature or veto. Once approved by both bodies, the fiscal year begins on July 1st, and the budget process starts all over again. This short time frame does not allow for adequate time for the Council to thoroughly review the proposed budget or the public sufficient opportunities to engage in the budget process.

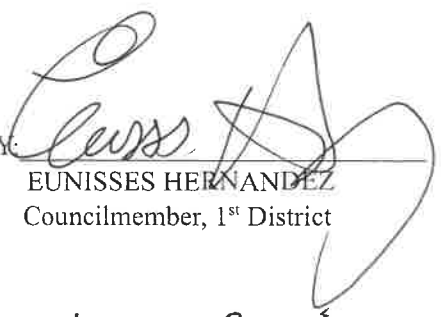
On June 4, 2024, the City Council adopted an amended report from the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform (CF 23-1027), dated May 20, 2024, regarding City Charter reform proposals. Council referred a number of these proposals to the Charter Reform Commission (Commission), pending its creation under CF 23-1027-S2. The CAO report, dated May 7, 2024, proposed a City Charter reform proposal to allow the Mayor to submit a 2-year (biennial) budget instead of an annual budget to the City Council for consideration and adoption. The CAO report provided the preliminary rationale and concerns for this proposal and recommended undergoing further assessment by the Charter Reform Commission, Council and Mayor.


This further assessment is an opportunity to develop and implement concrete solutions to delivering a budget process that allows the Council and Mayor to comprehensively develop and deliberate the City's budget while also enhancing the Charter mandated public engagement opportunities for all Angelenos, especially historically underrepresented communities. We must proactively address existing barriers and develop concrete solutions that include integrating language justice, addressing the digital and technological divide, providing accessible hours and locations for engagement of working families, and incorporating a cycle of ongoing feedback to build accountability. Together, these adjustments will ensure a more inclusive and harmonious budget system.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with assistance from the Department of Public Works, Controller, City Clerk, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and other relevant departments, to report within 90 days with an analysis of potential impacts from switching to a 2-year (biennial) budget cycle, as well as provide recommendations for a biennial budget schedule and a proposed timeline with due dates and milestones that would strengthen public participation.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the CAO, with assistance from Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), Controller, CLA, and any relevant Departments, to report within 90 days with an analysis of current and past strategies for encouraging public participation in the annual budget process, their effectiveness including constituent reach, how these strategies compare with best practices of public participation in comparable local jurisdictions and municipalities, and provide recommendation to strengthen existing or integrate new strategies to enhance public participation through changes in City policy, ordinance and/or Charter.

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


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SECOND BY: 

PK
JUN 25 2024

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