



City Council

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: John Jansons, City Manager *[Signature]*
DATE: November 28, 2016
SUBJECT: City Council Travel and Training

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is respectfully recommended that the City Council consider the question of appropriate Council member travel at the City's expense and provide direction to staff in developing and administering a Council Travel Policy.

BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

It has been customary and common place over the years for the Mayor and members of the City Council to represent the City at a variety of city-related seminars, conferences, meetings and trainings.

While many events attended are considered local (within Tulare County, Hanford, Fresno or Bakersfield) some requiring travel and lodging outside of the area IE: Sacramento, San Francisco, Monterey Los Angeles or San Diego. For example, each year Councilmembers are encouraged to attend the CA League of Cities Annual Conference and Training as voting delegates or in pursuit of education, best practices and networking.

This year, the Council enjoyed a unique opportunity to attend the National American Public Works Association to accept the Project of the Year Award for Cameron Creek Water Restoration. Due to it being hosted in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Council attendance was a deviation from normal annual activities, but regarded as important and valuable to receive National recognition and publicize Farmersville to the economic development community.

Nonetheless, more routine travel in State to represent the City or advocate on its behalf, is certainly warranted given an agreement on reasonableness, return on investment and necessity. One such additional opportunity afforded the City is when a Councilmember is honored to be selected to serve as a regional or statewide representative.

So in addition to common practice of having two Councilmembers attend the CA League of Cities Conference and Annual Meeting and the post-election new Mayors and Councilmember

training every two years, the Council now has the opportunity to support Greg Gomez's (who was earlier this year appointed to the CA League of Cities Latino Caucus, representing Latino elected officials) by supporting his attendance at the Latino Caucus Annual Board meeting in San Francisco representing the interests of Farmersville and adjacent Central Valley communities with similar challenges and opportunities. The approximate cost of attending this Board meeting is estimated, not to exceed \$600-800 for travel and lodging.

COORDINATION & REVIEW:

This recommendation has been coordinated with the City Manager's Office and the Finance Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

As may be proposed by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City Council travel and training budget should be periodically amended to reflect the level of participation and advocacy anticipated each year and the availability of funds.

CONCLUSION:

It is respectfully recommended that the City Council consider the question of appropriate Councilmember travel at the City's expense and provide direction to staff in developing and administering a City Council Travel Policy.

Prepared By:



John Jansons
City Manager