



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 16, 2011
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services
Subject: Consideration of Reducing the Fine Arts Commission from Seven to Five Members
Attachments:

INTRODUCTION

At its study session on August 2, 2011, during the discussion of reducing the number of Architectural and Human Relations Commission members, the City Council raised the possibility of reducing other seven member Commissions to five members. The approach focused on accomplishing these possible reductions through attrition. As the Fine Arts Commission is another commission that has 7 members, staff was asked to schedule a meeting with the Fine Arts liaison to gather their feedback, and then return to Council on August 16th with the recommendations on whether that Commission should remain at 7 members or also be reduced to 5. The Fine Arts liaison met on August 9th to discuss this issue, and the Council liaison recommendation was split. Councilmember Mirisch felt that the Fine Arts Commission should remain at 7 members; whereas Councilmember Bosse felt that the Commission could be reduced to 5 members over time, through attrition.

DISCUSSION

As indicated above, the recommendation of the Council liaison for the Fine Arts Commission was split with Councilmember Bosse feeling that the Commission could be reduced to 5 members and Councilmember Mirisch feeling it should remain at 7. It should also be noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission were in attendance at the liaison meeting and felt that the Fine Arts Commission should remain at 7 members.

The Fine Arts Commission currently has six seated commissioners due to a vacancy. The application process to fill this vacancy closed on June 20th. Eleven applications were received; however, interviews have not yet been scheduled.

If the City Council were to decide that the Commission should remain at 7, staff would recommend that the Council liaison move forward with interviewing and filling this seventh seat.

Meeting Date: August 17, 2010

If the City Council were to decide that the Commission should become a five member board, it is recommended that the current vacancy remain unfilled, maintaining 6 commissioners for the time being. Then the Commission could be reduced to 5 members through attrition when Commissioner Curt Shepard completes his final term in late 2012 and is ineligible for reappointment. This approach would have no adverse impact to any currently seated Commissioner. This is the same approach that will be employed to reduce the Human Relations Commission to 5 members.

Terms of the remaining commissioners will expire in 2013-2015, thus allowing for continuity, experience and stability on the Commission during the proposed transition period.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

As there was a split recommendation made by the Council liaison on whether to maintain the Fine Arts Commission at 7 members or to reduce it to 5, staff seeks direction from City Council on this matter.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By