



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 24, 2012
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager, Public Affairs
Subject: Request to Use the Council Chamber to Conduct and Re-broadcast 42nd State Assembly District Candidate Forum
Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

The City has received a request from the Municipal League of Beverly Hills to conduct a candidate forum in the Council Chambers and for the City to re-broadcast the forum on the City's Government cable channel.

The candidate forum would include candidates for the California State Assembly seat representing the 42nd District.

DISCUSSION

The City has provided the Council Chambers and cable television capabilities in the past for non-partisan city-wide candidate forums to educate the community and promote representative governance.

Candidate forums for both City Council and School Board have been sponsored by established community organizations, including the BHUSD PTA Council, Beverly Hills homeowners' associations, local leagues (e.g., League of Women Voters and Municipal League), the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, and Beverly Hills community newspapers.

The sponsoring organization is responsible for the format and content of the event. Sponsor organizations have also withheld candidate endorsements until after the conclusion of the sponsored forum. In addition, no campaign signage, campaign buttons or displayed election materials have been allowed in the Council Chambers or on City property.

The Municipal League of Beverly Hills requested the use of City facilities on Wednesday April 4, 2012. The Council Chambers are available to accommodate this option.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved by the Council, City staff would manage the facility and the re-broadcasting of the candidate forum. In the past, the City has absorbed all staff and facility costs for these forums. The cost is approximately \$700 per forum.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction to staff regarding the pending request from the Beverly Hills Municipal League to conduct a candidate forum in the City Council Chambers.

Cheryl Friedling
Approved By

