



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** April 17, 2012  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Pamela Mottice Muller, Director Office of Emergency Management  
**Subject:** Composition of the Health and Safety Commission  
**Attachments:** None

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The City's Health and Safety Commission is currently a seven member Commission. City Council liaisons Councilmembers Brucker and Gold met with the Health and Safety Commission Chair Dr. Debra Judelson and Vice Chair Karen Setian on February 29, 2012 to discuss whether the Commission should remain as seven members or be reduced to five. In the past year, the City Council has voted to reduce all other seven-member commissions to five members. The City-wide Commission size reduction has been raised in order to achieve cost-saving, efficiency goals and to assist staff in supporting the commissions. The City Council is requested to make a decision on the status of maintaining the Health and Safety Commission as seven members or reducing it to five members.

### **DISCUSSION**

In an effort to promote overall health, safety and disaster preparedness for the entire community, the Health and Safety Commission was established in 2007 as an advisory Commission. The Commission was established to provide an avenue for communication within the community on issues of health, safety and disaster preparedness. When established, a seven-member commission was favored over a five-member commission to ensure background diversity on this multi-faceted topic.

When originally selecting the Commission, the City Council liaisons' goal was to select a balanced and broad based mix of applicants to carry out the mission. The membership was to be diverse and one that represented all aspects of health, safety and disaster preparedness. The idea was to appoint a Commission with different backgrounds and whose interests, skills and history were in the area of health, safety and disaster preparedness. Commissioners must be a resident of the City.

Two Commissioners' terms will expire in November 2012 (Dr. Sandra Aronberg and David Seidel). Of the remaining five Commissioners, three expire in November 2013, and the other two in November 2014. Interviews for the replacement of these two members would be needed if the Commission were to stay as a seven-member commission. If the City Council decides to reduce the Commission to a five member board, staff would recommend that the objective be achieved through attrition. The Commissioners whose terms come to an end in November would not be replaced. In 2014 three Commission seats would be available.

The Health and Safety Commission Chair and Vice Chair strongly feel that the Commission remain as seven members. They feel the strength of the current Commission is found in the members very diverse backgrounds. Backgrounds in the medical field, physicians and nursing, public health educators, members with strong school and business community ties, representatives from the City's disaster volunteer groups, leaders in their workplace health and safety, skills with public relations and event planning, community members with vast community contacts and personal interests in health and safety issues are all skills the current Commissioners bring to the Commission. No two Commissioners have the same background, yet all Commissioners have a track record of promoting health, safety and disaster preparedness in the Community. The Health and Safety Commissioners feel that their strength is in the diversity of its membership. They also feel the Commission is a "hands-on" Commission and the additional commissioners allow for greater community awareness, participation, and assistance in completing health, safety and disaster related projects. If the Commission were to remain as seven members, the Commission's chair and vice chair recommend the new members come from diverse and similar backgrounds as those whose terms are ending.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If the Health and Safety Commission were to be reduced there would only be minimal cost savings to the City.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Health and Safety Commission recommend that the Commission be kept at seven members.

Staff and the Council liaisons Brucker and Gold also recommend that the Health and Safety Commission remain as seven members. Although Dr. Gold would like to see consistency between the Commissions, he noted that he does recognize the strength in having seven diverse members who can assist in multiple projects to ensure achievement of the vision of the Commission: To Enhance the Health and Safety of the Community.

Staff seeks final direction from the Council on this matter.

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Pamela Mottice Muller *PAM*