



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 10, 2013
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Mahdi Aluzri, Assistant City Manager
Subject: Request for Extension of Term of the Director of Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Representing the City of Beverly Hills
Attachments: Letter from Dr. Wunderlich Dated August 21, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Wunderlich, the City's current Director of MWD, is asking the City Council to consider extending his term to provide him the opportunity to seek election as the Chair of the Board of Directors and allow him to serve a full term should he get elected. The Code currently limits the term to a maximum of 8 years. Should he be selected as Chair of MWD, his initial term would be from January 2015 to December 2016.

DISCUSSION

Section 2-2-1502 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code states that the term of office of the City's representative to the MWD Board shall be for four (4) years, and at the discretion of the city council, the representative may be reappointed to a second term. Appointments to a second term shall be for four (4) years and no person shall serve more than eight (8) years.

Dr. Wunderlich's was first appointed to the Board on September 1, 2007 and his second term is set to expire on August 31, 2015. In order to allow Dr. Wunderlich to remain as the City's WMD Board representative the above code section needs to be amended to allow the extension beyond the 8 years limit.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction on Dr. Wunderlich's request for extending his term. If the City Council agrees with the request a code amendment and a resolution extending the term will be brought back for consideration at a future meeting.



Jeff Kolin

Approved By

Attachment 1

Robert Wunderlich
442 S. Camden Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

August 21, 2013

Mayor John Mirisch
Vice Mayor Lili Bosse
Councilmember William Brien M.D.
Councilmember Julian Gold M.D.
Councilmember Nancy Krasne
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: Extension of Term as Director of Metropolitan Water District

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers:

This is to request that you extend my term as Director of Metropolitan Water District representing the City of Beverly Hills. I believe this would provide significant benefits for the City of Beverly Hills and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve.

I ask that you consider this in the coming months because I would like to seek to be elected as Chair of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan. With my current scheduled term as Director from Beverly Hills, I would not be able to serve a full term as Chair. I would not want to seek support for my election unless I could provide the assurance that I would be in a position to serve out the term as Chair.

My term as Director started in July 2007. Without an extension, my term would end in June 2015. Informal discussions regarding the next Chair will likely being this fall. The election will take place in the fall of 2014 for an initial term as Chair from January 2015 through December 2016.

Should I be elected Chair, the City of Beverly Hills would gain a powerful voice with which to advance its perspectives. Separate from the position of Chair, the strength of my ability to advocate on behalf of Beverly Hills is largely derived from the respect and trust from fellow Board members. Beverly Hills has approximately 1% of the voting power of the Board. Consequently, Beverly Hills has little ability by votes alone to determine the policies of Metropolitan. Rather, the ability to influence Metropolitan stems from the ability to persuade other Directors of the value of my perspectives. I have had significant leadership roles at Metropolitan, including serving on the Executive Committee and as Chair and Vice-Chair of several committees and, I believe that my voice is well respected at Metropolitan. Many Directors have been on the Board for a considerable period of time – eleven have been on the Board for 10 years or more. Should my term on the Board be extended, I believe I would be in a strong position to continue to be an effective advocate for Beverly Hills at Metropolitan.

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On a personal note, I have found my time working with the City of Beverly Hills and Metropolitan to be extremely rewarding and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve as the Director from Beverly Hills at Metropolitan.

Please let me know if you would like additional information in support of this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich