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ORDINANCE NO. 2017-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE CULVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD A
NEW CHAPTER 3.11, *ELECTIONS*, TO AUTHORIZE THE CONDUCT OF ANY
MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE CONDUCTED WHOLLY BY MAIL.**

WHEREAS, vote-by-mail (VBM), which was previously known as absentee ballots, has been used by an increasing percentage of voters for some time. On a statewide basis, VBM ballots comprised 27% of total ballots cast in 2002 to just over 50% in 2016. In Culver City, at the General Municipal Election held on April 8, 2014, 63% of all ballots cast were VBM and at the April 12, 2016 election, 60% were VBM; and

WHEREAS, according to findings from the *UC Davis CCEP California Voter Experience* statewide survey in 2016, the most common reasons voters chose to cast their vote through a VBM ballot over a polling location are: (1) VBM is more convenient than going to a neighborhood polling place on Election Day; (2) voters preferred to fill out their ballots in a place where they can look up information on the Internet; (3) voters did not want to wait in line at the neighborhood polling place; and (4) voters preferred to fill out their ballots where they could discuss their choices with family or friends; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures Review, turnout may increase because of convenience and this has proven to be true for small elections; and

WHEREAS, according to the City's elections consultant, Martin and Chapman, cities save 10%-15% by holding an all-mailed ballot election rather than a traditional polling

1 location election because there is no longer a need to find and train poll worker staff, or find
2 polling locations; and

3 WHEREAS, pursuant to Culver City Charter Section 1505, the City Council
4 may, by ordinance, authorize the conduct of elections wholly by mail, under which all votes
5 shall be cast in the manner of absentee ballots; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Culver City Municipal Code
8 to authorize the City, by resolution of the City Council, to conduct City Elections wholly by
9 mail on any established election date, whether under the California Elections Code or the
10 City Charter, for any purpose, including but not limited to the election of City Council
11 Members or for any measure to be submitted to the voters.
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE,** the City Council of the City of Culver City, California,
14 **DOES HEREBY ORDAIN** as follows:

15 **SECTION 1.** The City Council hereby amends the Culver City Municipal Code
16 to add a new Chapter 3.11, *Elections*, as follows:
17

18 **CHAPTER 3.11: ELECTIONS**

19 3.11.005 Authority to Conduct All Mail Ballot City Elections

20 3.11.010 Rules and Regulations for Conduct of City Elections

21 **§3.11.005 AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ALL MAIL BALLOT CITY**
22 **ELECTIONS**

23
24 The City Council may, by resolution, authorize any City election
25 including, without limitation, general municipal elections, to be conducted by all
26 mail ballot, whether for the election of municipal officials or officers, or for such
27 other purposes or measures as prescribed by the City Council to be submitted
28 to the voters.
29

