

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 07/23/2012		Item Number: A-1	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of 1) a Request to Designate an Upcoming Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking") Symposium as a City-Sponsored Event; 2) a Fee Waiver and Use of the Mike Balkman Council Chambers and 3) the Recording, Broadcast, and Rebroadcast of the Event and Placement of the Recording on the City's Website.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Martin R. Cole, Assistant City Manager		Phone Number: 310/253-6011	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Date: _____			
Public Notification: (E-Mail) Meetings and Agendas – City Council (07/20/12); Mr. Tom Camarella (07/20/12)			
Department Approval: Martin R. Cole (07/20/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (07/20/12)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (07/20/12)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (07/20/12)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council consider 1) a request by Transition Culver City, Sierra Club Los Angeles Westside, and the League of Women Voters to designate their upcoming Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking") Symposium as a City-sponsored event; 2) the use of Mike Balkman Council Chambers ("Chambers") as the event's location and waiver of fees for such use; and 3) the recording, broadcast, and rebroadcast of the event and placement of the recording on the City's website. <u>BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:</u> Mr. Tom Camarella has proposed to produce a symposium regarding "Fracking" on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from approximately 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, with Transition Culver City and the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Westside, who have agreed to co-sponsor the event ("Symposium"). As described by Mr. Camarella, the Symposium will include up to eight (8) panelists, including individuals from Plains Exploration & Production Company (PXP), as well as others to discuss issues surrounding "fracking," including questions that arose at the July 2, 2012 City Council meeting. After the discussion, the public will be invited to participate in a question and answer session. According to Mr. Camarella, the League of Women Voters has agreed to act as timekeeper of the panel discussion.			

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On July 16, 2012, Mr. Camarella submitted a letter requesting 1) use of the Chambers for the Symposium, 2) that the Symposium be televised and recorded and 3) that it be broadcast live and be either placed on the website or rebroadcast in the future to enable the public the broadest opportunity to view the Symposium.

City Council Policy 4008 (the "Policy") provides that "the Chambers are intended to serve as a forum for the conduct of specific public business and are not intended to serve as a public forum area for other matters." Use of the Chambers is not available for rental by the general public or private organizations. It is limited to "meetings, hearings or other activities of the City Council open to the public"; other City meetings, such as Commission, Board and Committee meetings; meetings of other public agencies; and use by "governmental or private non-partisan, neutral non-profit organizations for the specific purpose of hosting a candidate forum for candidates in any City election" where the forum is "open to participation on an equal basis by all duly registered candidates" for City offices. Therefore, consistent with the Policy, in order for the requested Symposium to qualify for use of the Chambers, it must be designated a City-sponsored event..

As per Culver City Municipal Code Section 17.330.040.B.7.b.ii, in order for the Symposium to be designated a City-sponsored event, the City would need to be (a) participating in an official capacity in the planning, preparation or promotion of the civic event or activity; and (b) contributing 25% of the total estimated costs of the civic event or activity, or at least \$1,000, whichever is less. This contribution may take the form of funds, labor, staff time, materials, a waiver of fees, or any combination of the foregoing.

The cost to record the meeting is \$240.00, payable to an outside contractor. Staff time costs for a City employee on a Saturday (\$112.81 per overtime hour for 4 hours) is \$451.24. Coordination staff time prior to the event would have a value of approximately \$400.00. Total estimated City costs associated with the proposed event total \$1,091.24.

Consistent with the Policy requiring participation on an equal basis in a candidate forum, in addition to meeting the above-described criteria for a City-sponsored event, it is recommended that the panelists for the Symposium represent all sides of the fracking issue and should be moderated by a neutral party.

Should the City Council determine to designate the Symposium as a City-sponsored event, then, consistent with existing City Council policies, the Event would be eligible to be held in the Council Chambers, broadcast on CCTV 35, and the recording could be placed on the City's website.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Hard costs include \$240.00 for the recording engineer, and \$451.24 payable as overtime for staff to be paid from the general fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

E-Mail Proposal from Mr. Camarella.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Consider the proposal and direct the City Manager as deemed appropriate.