

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |                                                                                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: 12/14/09                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | Item Number: <u>A-1</u>                                                                           |  |
| <b>CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of the Investigation Conducted by the City Manager Related to Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board Member Dee Seehusen and Consideration of Imposition of Disciplinary Action (up to and Including Removal from the Board).</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Contact Person/Dept.: Mark Scott                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Phone Number: 310-253-6000                                                                        |  |
| Fiscal Impact: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | General Fund: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                            |  |
| Public Hearing: <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Action Item: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Commission Action Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | Date: _____                                                                                       |  |
| Public Notification: (E-Mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (12/10/09); Mr. Marvin Brown (12/10/09); Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board Member Dee Seehusen (12/10/09)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Department Approval:<br>Martin R. Cole (12/10/09)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | City Attorney Approval:<br>Carol A. Schwab (by H. Baker) (12/10/09)                               |  |
| Chief Financial Officer Approval:<br>Mark Scott (by M. Noller) (12/10/09)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | City Manager Approval:<br>Mark Scott (12/10/09)                                                   |  |
| <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b></p> <p>Staff recommends that the City Council consider the conclusions of the investigation conducted by the City Manager related to Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board Member Dee Seehusen and consider imposition of disciplinary action (up to and including removal from the Board).</p> <p><b><u>BACKGROUND:</u></b></p> <p>On May 29, 2007, the City Council adopted City Council Policy 2007-01 on the subject matter of City Commissions. A copy of that policy is attached.</p> <p>On May 11, 2009 the City Council appointed Dee Seehusen to the Landlord Representative seat on the Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board for a term beginning on July 1, 2009 and continuing to June 30, 2012.</p> <p><b><u>DISCUSSION:</u></b></p> <p>At the November 23, 2009 City Council Meeting, the City Council received comment from members of the public who referenced a letter attributed to Ms. Seehusen that appeared in the November 19, 2009 edition of the Culver City News. The speaker alleged the views expressed in that letter were homophobic and discriminatory. A copy of that letter is attached.</p> |  |                                                                                                   |  |

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

Based upon these comments, the City Council requested the City Manager to investigate these allegations and to report back to the City Council.

The City Manager has conducted his investigation and has attached the results thereof for the City Council's consideration.

City Council Policy 2007-01 contains, in pertinent parts:

“...“As representatives of the City Council and the City, it is important that Commissioners set an example of conduct appropriate for their key roles...

...Fair and Unbiased Consideration of Issues

“Pursuant to the letter and spirit of the Brown Act and appropriate ethical standards, Commissioners shall approach items before the Commission in a fair and unbiased manner. Consistent with this requirement, Commissioners shall conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times, including prior to and during meetings and while in contact with the press and members of the public...”

Commissioner Misconduct

As appointees of the City Council, Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the City Council...”

Additionally, Section A(11) of the Organization and Implementation Guidelines – Culver City Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board provides in pertinent part:

“...All members and alternates shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council...”

***City Manager's Recommendation***

Based upon the investigation, the City Manager recommends the City Council determine to terminate the appointment of Dee Seehusen to the Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board. Further, Mrs. Seehusen has been provided with a copy of this report and been given notice of this evening's agenda item. This is an opportunity for her to present testimony to the City Council on this subject, including but not limited to, any reasoning why the City Council should not terminate her appointment to the Board.

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

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. City Council Policy 2007-01 (City Commissions)
2. Organization and Implementation Guidelines – Culver City Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board (Page 3 – Section A(11))
3. Letter to the Editor printed in the November 19, 2009 Culver City News
4. City Manager's Investigation Conclusions

**MOTIONS:**

That the City Council:

Consider the conclusions of the City Manager's Investigation and consider the imposition of disciplinary action against Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board Member Dee Seehusen (up to and including the removal from the Board).