



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

City Council Meeting – Council Member Items Report

To: City Council
From: Pat Burns, Mayor
Casey McKeon, Mayor Pro Tem
Date: April 15, 2025
Subject: **Establishment of Collaborative Program with Charter Cities**

ISSUE STATEMENT

Huntington Beach has positioned itself as a prominent leader in advocating for charter city rights, standing firm against state mandates that do not align with the needs of the local community.

Article XI, Section 6 of the California Constitution gives charter cities the authority to govern their own municipal affairs independent of state laws and are not subject to all state laws deemed to be local government affairs. Charter cities are afforded a level of autonomy that allows municipalities to tailor governance to the specific needs and desires of their communities, free from certain state-imposed mandates.

As one of 126 charter cities in California, Huntington Beach has the advantage of governance that is more responsive to local priorities.

We have been approached by the City of Porterville, California to declare for the establishment of the League of Charter Cities. A collaboration with California's charter cities can pave the way for a stronger, more unified effort to secure the rights of charter cities and protect the principle of local governance.

By joining with like-minded cities, Huntington Beach can enhance its influence and create a more powerful, collective voice – a united front – that advocates for preserving local control and minimizing external interference from Sacramento.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Direct the City Manager to implement steps for the City of Huntington Beach to participate in a collaborative program with other charter cities.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Non Applicable - Administrative Item