

# **Huntington Beach City Council** **Filling Our Current City Council Vacancy**

*Special City Council Meeting*  
*July 10, 2021*



# City Council Options Moving Ahead

- **Pursuant to Charter Section 312, the City Council is required to attempt to fill the current vacancy by appointment**
  - The City Council has until July 31 to appoint an individual to fill the vacant seat
- **If the City Council is unsuccessful in filling the vacancy by appointment by July 31, a Special Election will have to be called**
  - Based on current election cycles, the Special Election would be held on November 2, 2021

# City Council Appointment Process – Next Steps

- **Continued City Council assessment of candidates**
  - Until the City Council meets next, members can continue their assessment of current candidates
- **Joint City Council deliberation either at a Special Meeting or at our July 20 meeting**
  - The City Council should decide if we meet next via a Special Meeting, or if we take this issue up at our next regularly scheduled meeting on July 20
- **Identification of a candidate selection framework**
  - The City Council should also determine a framework through which the formal selection process will be coordinated for when we meet next

## Possible Candidate Selection Framework – Use of Selection Rounds

- **Staff has been assessing various city council vacancy appointment processes, and there are numerous options that can be considered**
  - In many instances, the process used to make a final selection involves individual council members nominating their preferred candidate, and then attempting to garner support for that selection from council colleagues
  - This is the process that we have used previously in HB when filling a vacancy on the City Council
- **However, given the unprecedented number of candidates who have applied to fill the vacancy that currently exists, an alternate selection process exists which staff believes warrants considerations**
  - This alternate process for consideration involves the use of selection rounds to focus and advance the decision making process

# Round 1

- **In the first round, each member of the City Council would identify their top candidate for filling the existing vacancy**
  - In this way, we would narrow the existing pool of candidates from our current listing of 131 final applicants down to no more than 6 finalists

## Round 2

- **In the second round, the City Council would only consider the finalists identified in Round 1, and each City Council member would then select their top candidate from that narrowed listing**
  - After that selection process, the finalist candidate that receives the least amount of support in Round 2 would be dropped from further consideration

## Round 3

- **In the third round, only the finalist candidates who are moved forward in Round 2 would be considered by the City Council**
  - Out of this grouping, each City Council member would identify their preferred candidate, and again, the individual who receives the least amount of support would be dropped from further consideration
- **Additional (or fewer) rounds would be coordinated using this same process, until one candidate receives support from at least 4 members of the City Council**
  - Ultimately, if no candidate receives support from a majority of the City Council by our July 31 deadline, we would then have to coordinate a special election

# Special Election Details

- **If the City Council is unable to reach consensus on a candidate to fill our current vacancy by July 31, the City Charter directs that a special election must be coordinated**
- **Under such a scenario, the Special Election would be held on November 2, 2021**
  - Resolutions calling for the Special Election would have to be adopted no later than August 6, 2021
  - The Orange County Registrar of Voters has informed the City that the Special Election would cost Huntington Beach \$885K - \$1M



# Next Steps

- **Determine when we would meet next to coordinate the candidate selection process**
  - Our next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 20, 2021
  - City Council can also call for a Special Meeting
- **Identify a selection process format for use at that next meeting**
  - Does the City Council want to pursue use of the selection rounds format option, or maintain use of the individual City Council nomination process

# Questions?

