



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

City of Anaheim CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

DATE: AUGUST 29, 2023

FROM: OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SETTING A PRIORITY LIST OF REFORMS STEMMING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JL GROUP INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ATTACHMENT (Y/N): NO

ITEM # 20

GOVERNMENT CODE § 84308 APPLIES: NO

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council discuss, consider, and take action regarding setting a priority list of reforms stemming from the recommendations from the JL Group investigative report, including but not limited to scheduling experts with subject matter expertise, and creating a transparent and public path forward.

DISCUSSION:

In July 2023, the JL Group concluded their independent investigation of the City and released a report with their findings and recommendations for improving policies and procedures. At the August 15, 2023 City Council meeting, City Council voted to have staff explore and return with options to strengthen the City’s policies on items proposed by Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, which included City Hall worker protection, the City’s lobbying ordinance, public sharing of calendars, and the City Manager signing authority.

In order to create a transparent and public path forward, Mayor Aitken and Mayor Pro Tem Natalie Rubalcava met to formulate the following priority list of reforms and proposed calendar/timeline to address these initial items:

Meeting Date	Topic
August 29, 2023 (Regular Meeting)	Setting Topics and Calendar
September 12, 2023 (Regular Meeting – Rescheduling of September 19 th Meeting)	<u>Lobbying Policy</u> Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Defining a Lobbyist (Government Affairs, Union, threshold for money or hours spent lobbying) ○ Department Heads, City Manager’s Office, and City Council Reporting ○ City Council and City Manager’s Office Calendars

Priority list of reforms – Proposed calendar/timeline, continued:

Meeting Date	Topic
<p>September 26, 2023 (Regular Meeting)</p>	<p><u>IT Electronics Policy</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require use of government phones (for defined employees) ○ Requirement to forward documents from personal devices to government address, or turn over access to personal device ○ Document Retention Policy (time period of current employees and elected, and post-departure) ○ Internal or 3rd party support service to independently respond to Public Records Act Requests (PRAs) <p><u>Ticket Disclosure Policy</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create better online searchable database for City Council and City Manager’s Office ○ Refund of ticket amount in violation of policy
<p>October 10, 2023 (Added Meeting)</p>	<p><u>Ethics/Public Affairs Officer</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report to City Clerk ○ Responsible for oversight and conducting PRAs/Access to City Emails ○ Oversee Lobbying Ordinance and activity for lobbyists, council and designated City employees, enforcement
<p>October 17, 2023 (Regular Meeting)</p>	<p><u>Whistleblower Protection Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of expanded hotline for staff/employees to report unwelcome behavior ○ Create reporting process to report, investigate and address conduct by elected officials/ City Manager’s Office/Superiors
<p>October 24, 2023 (Regular Meeting)</p>	<p><u>Campaign Finance Reform</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disclosure before votes when a donor is involved ○ Limit amount of candidate donation to self ○ Limit debt-recovery timeframe ○ Limit timeframe to 18 months ○ Limitations on Independent expenditures and Political Action Committees (PACS)

Priority list of reforms – Proposed calendar/timeline, continued:

Meeting Date	Topic
November 7, 2023 (Regular Meeting)	<p><u>Partnerships with Non-Profit, Advocacy, Business Groups</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similar rules for advocacy groups/501c6 as 501c3 ○ Contracts with City disallow political action work/PACS ○ Require independent audit/budget to be filed with the city ○ Ban evergreen contracts with the City <p><u>City Manager Signing Authority</u> Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of spending authority of comparable managers ○ Limit of aggregate signing amounts ○ Emergency signing authority ○ Posting on City Manager websites ○ Notice of 72 hours to council

Mayor Aitken and Mayor Pro Tem Rubalcava propose these topic discussions include subject matter experts, with knowledge and experience in these matters.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

There is no budgetary impact to the General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Vanderpool
 City Manager