



CITY OF FRESNO

# MEDIA RELEASE

ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, MAYOR

July 25, 2011

Contact: Lindsay Barsamian, District 2 Chief of Staff, 559-621-7822

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

**Fresno, CA** – The City of Fresno is proud to announce the Charter Review Committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow. The Committee, formed by Councilmen Andreas Borgeas and Lee Brand, with the support of Mayor Ashley Swearengin and City Manager Mark Scott, is tasked with evaluating and refining the structure and process of the Fresno City Charter.

The Charter serves as the City's constitution and provides the foundation for how the City operates. It has been nearly twenty years since the City, through a committee, modified the Charter. The Committee will not examine the structure of the strong mayor form of government, but rather is oriented toward refining its form by more clearly defining the responsibilities and accountability of the legislative and executive branches.

With the experience of three strong mayor administrations, and the lessons learned from the financial downturn, Councilmen Borgeas and Brand believe now is the right time to examine the Charter for efficiencies and structural soundness. "Government is best examined not when times are stable, but rather after government has been challenged, when the strengths and shortcomings of the system have been tested and made apparent," said Councilman Borgeas. "Just as any business would review how it operates and functions, so should our City," stated Councilman Brand. Mayor Swearengin added, "it's very important to the process that the public participate in this worthwhile project."

Nine members, appointed by the Council and the Mayor, will hold public meetings before presenting their written recommendations to the Council. The Council will review and vote upon the recommendations as an action item for submission to the County Clerk to be filed as a ballot measure for the 2012 election. All Committee meetings are subject to the Brown Act and the public is invited to attend.

**WHO:** Charter Review Committee Members - Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Councilmen Andreas Borgeas and Lee Brand

**WHAT:** First meeting of the Charter Review Committee

**WHEN:** Tuesday July 26, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fresno City Hall, Room 2165-A

**ADD'TL INFO:** Ginger Barrett, Chief of Staff, District 6, 559-621-7861  
Mike Lukens, City Press Secretary, 559-621-7795

**Members of the Charter Review Committee**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>
Jeff Reid	Mayor Swearingin
Riley Water	Mayor Swearingin
Daniel Fitzpatrick	Councilmember Xiong
Nicholas O. Webber	Council member Borgeas
Les Kimber	Councilmember Baines
Jared Gordon	Councilmember Westerlund
Robert (Bob) A. Cook	Council Member Quintero
Bill Stewart	Council Member Brand
Jerry Duncan	Council Member Olivier

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