

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 14, 2023

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

REQUEST: APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Karina Quintanilla to the position of Mayor and Jan Harnik to the position of Mayor Pro Tem for a one-year term commencing upon appointment.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On September 30, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-61 establishing procedures for the selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. In accordance with Resolution No. 2021-61, in appointing the Mayor, “priority shall be given to the immediately preceding Mayor Pro Tem,” which is Karina Quintanilla.

In appointing the Mayor Pro Tem, “priority shall be given to the Member with the longest continuous services since last serving as Mayor, if ever.” Based on this criterion, Councilmember Nestande has priority to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. However, Councilmember Nestande has deferred serving as Mayor Pro Tem. In determining who would otherwise have priority, the resolution states “when two or more Members of the Council are sworn into office on the same day after being elected in the same Municipal Election and in the same district, the order of their service in the Mayoral Rotation shall be established by the number of votes received at said election, with the Member receiving the highest number of votes being inserted into the Mayoral Rotation, and the person receiving the next-highest number of votes being inserted next, and so on.” Both Jan Harnik and Evan Trubee were re-elected/elected and took office in December 2022. Given that both members have served for two years since last serving as Mayor, if ever, the determining factor shall be based on the highest number of votes received at said election. At the November 2022 Election, Jan Harnik received 6,749 votes and Evan Trubee received 3,701 votes. Therefore, it is recommended Jan Harnik be appointed to the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this matter.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution No. 2021-61