

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 23, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING UPDATED PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-013

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING UPDATED PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-013.”

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On September 11, 2025, the City Council held a study session to consider clarifying and improving the appointment process for Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, currently governed by Resolution No. 2024-013.

The Council directed staff to prepare a Resolution incorporating the following changes:

1. **Prohibition on Consecutive Terms as Mayor:** A Councilmember shall not be eligible for appointment as Mayor for two consecutive terms.
2. **Voluntary Deferral in Tie Situations:** In the event of a tie under Section 3 (rotation priority), one or more tied Members may voluntarily defer service to allow another tied Member to serve. Such a deferral shall not be deemed a “decline” and shall not alter the deferring Member’s place in the rotation, except that the deferring Member shall be reconsidered in the following year’s appointment.
 - *Example:* If three Members are tied in December 2025 and two choose to defer, the remaining Member will serve as Mayor Pro Tem with a term ending December 2026. The two deferring Members will then be considered in December 2026 for the term ending December 2027.
3. **Declining to Serve:** A Councilmember who declines service as Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem shall be deemed to have last served as Mayor in the year for which service is waived. Their future placement in the rotation shall be adjusted accordingly.
 - *Example:* If a Member declines appointment as Mayor Pro Tem in December 2025, they will be treated as though they last served as Mayor with a term ending December 2026.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Resolution No. 2024-013