

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 11, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Evan Trubee to the position of Mayor for a one-year term commencing upon appointment, and conduct the required three-member tiebreak (drawing straws) to determine the appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem for the 2026 term.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On October 23, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-069, updating the procedures for appointing the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. The resolution maintains the City's seniority-based rotation system while clarifying eligibility requirements, tie procedures, voluntary deferral, declining to serve, and consecutive-term limitations.

Mayor Appointment

In accordance with Section 3 of Resolution 2025-069, priority for appointment as Mayor is given to the immediately preceding Mayor Pro Tem. Evan Trubee has served as Mayor Pro Tem for the 2025 term and is therefore the eligible Member for appointment as Mayor for 2026.

Mayor Pro Tem Appointment

Section 3 assigns priority for Mayor Pro Tem to the Councilmember with the longest continuous service since last serving as Mayor, if ever. For December 2025, three Members share equal priority:

- Councilmember Nestande, deemed to have last served as Mayor in 2024 due to her declination in December 2023.
- Councilmember Quintanilla, who last served as Mayor in 2024.
- Councilmember Pradetto, who took office in December 2024.

No Member has opted to voluntarily defer service under Section 5. Because all three Members hold identical rotation priority, the appointment must be resolved by drawing straws, as required by Section 4(B) of Resolution 2025-069.

For a three-member tie:

- The City Clerk will prepare three straws of unequal length.
- The order of selection will be Councilmember Nestande, followed by Councilmember Pradetto, and then Councilmember Quintanilla, consistent with the randomized alphabet issued by the California Secretary of State for the November 4, 2025 election.
- The Member who draws the longest straw will be appointed Mayor Pro Tem for 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.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution No. 2025-069
2. SOS Randomized Alphabet, dated August 14, 2025