



# City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 30, 2018

**TO:** Christine Daniel, City Manager

**FROM:** Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Council Discussion On The City's Membership In The League Of California Cities

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council Members discuss this matter as requested by Mayor Bauters, and consider whether to direct staff to perform further analysis and come back at a future meeting for possible Council action.

### BACKGROUND

At the City Council's September 4, 2018 meeting, Mayor Bauters requested and received majority support for an item to be brought forward to discuss the City of Emeryville's continued membership in the League of California Cities (the "League").

### DISCUSSION

The following information is provided simply as background for the Council's discussion.

The City of Emeryville has been a member of the League since approximately the time of its founding in 1898, having been one of the original member cities to sign on. The League describes itself as a local control advocate for California's cities and represents that cities can, through collective involvement with the League, defend local control at the legislative level, during elections, and in the courts. The most recently published annual membership dues (2017) for a City of Emeryville's size were \$5,729.

Some of the services the League provides are:

**Legislative and Ballot Measure Advocacy:** Work with city officials to advocate for local control and secure fiscal resources for cities, helped lead ballot measure campaigns to protect local tax funds and land-use authority.

**Member-Driven Policies and Services:** League policies and priorities established by mayors and council members from member cities who serve on the League board of directors, policy committees, divisions, departments, caucuses and task forces.

**Legal Advocacy:** Active legal advocacy, amicus support in cases to which they are a party, lawsuits filed to challenge the constitutionality of various propositions.

**Discounted Conference/Seminar Registration:** See Attachment A.

**Leadership Opportunities:** Elected city officials and staff from member cities serve on League policy committees, the board of directors and as officers of the diversity caucuses.

**Information:** Conducts comprehensive research on city fiscal matters through surveys and analysis of policies. Publishes extensive data, statistics and analyses of California city finance in the California Local Government Finance Almanac.

**Publications:** Publications on topics such as Open and Public, The Municipal Law Handbook, and The Proposition 218 Implementation Guide, are useful sources of information on critical aspects of city government operations.

**Research and Best Practices:** The Institute for Local Government's nonprofit research and education promotes good government at the local level.

**Recognition for Innovation:** Member cities may seek recognition for innovation through both the League's Helen Putnam Award program and the Institute for Local Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Beacon Award.

**Relevant Communications:** The League's website serves as a source of news and information related to city issues and policy. League listservs provide an avenue for city officials to exchange best practices. Members also have access to CA Cities Advocate; Western City magazine; announcements of educational and networking opportunities; and updates on legislative developments.

An informal survey of City staff indicated that, in general, the resources available as a part of League membership are utilized by staff. The City Attorney's Conference is attended by City Attorney staff each year, and provides an efficient opportunity to keep the office current on all aspects of municipal law. Likewise, the City Clerk annually attends the New Law and Elections conference to receive presentations on laws going into effect in the coming year, and their potential impacts on city government. Staff also participates in the legislative alerts and advocacy services provided, as resources do not allow the City to dedicate a staff person to legislative update analysis. Staff also utilizes the various listservs, webinars, publications, and professional growth opportunities through committee service.

Should the Council decide to schedule the item for action at an upcoming Council meeting, staff will further analyze the potential impacts of discontinuing the City's membership in the League if requested.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time, however, should the Council decide to discontinue membership, there would be the fiscal impact of paying non-member rates for conference attendance.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC**

None

**PREPARED BY:** Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



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Christine Daniel, City Manager

**ATTACHMENT**

- List of League Conferences showing Member and Non-Member Pricing