

ACTION CALENDAR

Date:

12/7/04

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Dona Spring, Betty Olds, Kriss Worthington and
Max Anderson

Subject: Selection of Vice Mayor

RECOMMENDATION: that the City Council vote to return to the practice and pass a policy of rotating the position of Vice Mayor starting with Councilmember Linda Maio as Vice Mayor for the first term.

BACKGROUND: Previous to 1996, the Council rotated the position of Vice Mayor. This practice was successfully used by former Mayor Loni Hancock and was changed in 1996 when Maudelle Shirek was elected to the Vice Mayor position. She at the time had eight years seniority over all other Councilmembers. Now the situation is different in that three Councilmembers have seniority, Councilmember Olds, Councilmember Spring, and Councilmember Maio have 12 years seniority. Councilmember Worthington has 8 years seniority.

Rotating the position at this time is a fair practice treating all Councilmembers more equitably. Rotation contributes towards bipartisan fairness and equal treatment among district representatives who are not elected at-large. It also counter balances the practice that the Agenda Committee does not rotate.

Councilmembers who have been fortunate enough, in the past, to have served in the Vice Mayor position have found that it is a good learning and training experience.

These are two options for the rotation of the Vice Mayor position:

1. Pass a policy that the City Council will rotate the position of Vice Mayor amongst all Councilmembers on a two-year cycle with each Council member serving a three-month term.
2. Pass a policy that the City Council will rotate the position of Vice Mayor amongst all Councilmembers on a four-year cycle with each Councilmember serving a half-year term. Council representatives (with terms ending in two years) from District 1, District 4, District 7, and District 8 would serve six month terms each in the next two years. Starting in 2006, Council representatives from District 2, District 3, District 5, and District 6 would serve consecutive half-year terms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

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