



Office of the Mayor

ACTION CALENDAR
December 8, 2008

To: Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Tom Bates
Subject: Appointment of Vice President of the Council

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 Rescind Resolution No. 62,743 N.S and adopt a Resolution establishing a one-year term for the Vice President of the Council to be elected at the first meeting in December every year.
- 2 Elect the Vice-President of the Council for a one-year term beginning December 8, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

Vice President of the Council, as defined by the Charter, presides over the Council when the Mayor is absent. When I first became Mayor in 2002, Maudelle Shirek, then the Council Member from District 3, was the Vice President of the Council (formerly termed "Vice Mayor"). Ms. Shirek occupied the position of Vice President of the Council from 1997- 2004.

In 2004, Ms. Shirek left office and three new members joined the Council. At that time the City Council approved my recommendation to rotate, based on seniority, a three-month term for Vice President of the Council.

Having worked with both systems – a long-term appointment and the three-month rotation, I am proposing a hybrid – a one-year term for the Vice President of the Council to be elected annually at the first City Council meeting in December. A one-year appointment will give the Vice President of the Council more experience in conducting meetings and acting as Mayor pro tempore if needed.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

Mayor Tom Bates, 981-7100.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO XX,XXX

RESCINDING RESOLUTION 62,743 – NS AND ESTABLISHING A NEW TERM FOR
THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, prior to 1997, pursuant to Resolution 53,583-N.S., the policy of the Council was to have each member of the Council serve as Vice Mayor for a period of three months every two-year term in office; and,

WHEREAS, the Council now serves four-year staggered terms as a result of Measure L passed by voters in November 1994; and,

WHEREAS, in 1997, Council rescinded 53,583-N.S. and adopted resolution 58,819-N.S. appointing Council Member Maudelle Shirek as Vice Mayor of the City of Berkeley; and,

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor Shirek served in that post for seven years, from 1997 – 2004; and,

WHEREAS, in 2004 Council adopted resolution 62,743-N.S to reestablish a rotation schedule where each member of the Council serve as “Vice Mayor” for three months every two years; and,

WHEREAS, in 2006 it was clarified that the Charter includes a “Vice President of the Council”, not a “Vice Mayor”; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council utilized the 3 month rotation cycle for one four-year term, from 2004 – 2008: and,

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to have a one year term for Vice-President of the Council and for that person to be elected by a majority of the Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that Resolution No. 62,743-N.S. is hereby rescinded.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the Vice President of the Council shall be elected by the Council for a term of one year, with the selection to be made at the first Council meeting in December beginning December 8, 2008.