



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

Item No. _____

FROM: City Attorney

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING CHAPTER 2.10 (LIMITATIONS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS IN CITY ELECTIONS) OF THE COMMERCE MUNICIPAL CODE – FIRST READING

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 6, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council amend Chapter 2.10.040(a) and increase the campaign contribution limit for a candidate and a candidate's controlled committee for the office specified in the candidate's declaration of intent from \$1,000 per calendar year to \$2,500 per calendar year. Read the ordinance by title only and approve for first reading.

DISCUSSION:

Section 2.10.040 of the Commerce Municipal Code (CMC) imposes campaign contributions limitations in the City of Commerce of \$1,000 per calendar year with respect to a candidate for elective office and a candidate's controlled committee for the office specified in the candidate's declaration of intent. The ordinance approving the \$1,000 campaign contribution limit was adopted by the City Council in 2012. (Ordinance No. 645.) Due to inflation and the increased costs associated with running a campaign for public office, staff recommends that the City Council consider increasing the City's campaign contribution limits.

The following options could be considered:

1. The City Council could repeal the campaign contribution limits entirely and repeal Section 2.10 Limitations on campaign contributions in City Elections from Municipal Code.

There is no requirement to have a contribution limits. Based on City staff's research, it appears that 50% of cities surveyed have adopted contribution limits while 50% of cities surveyed have not adopted limits on campaign contributions.

2. The City Council could increase the campaign contribution limits by Ordinance.

3. The City Council could establish a formula regarding campaign contribution limits by Ordinance by establishing the amount of campaign contribution and adjusting contribution limits annually to reflect any changes in the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area. Adjustments will be rounded to the nearest \$10.00.

Proposed language for the ordinance inclusion, should the Council decide to add this option. "The contribution limits established in this subsection shall adjust annually in January of every year to reflect any increase or decrease in the California Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area since the last such adjustment of the contribution limit. Such adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest Ten and no/100ths (\$10.00) Dollar amount.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended action can be carried out without additional impact on the current operating budget.

Approved as to form:	Noel Tapia, City Attorney
Respectfully submitted:	Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator
Prepared by:	Lena Shumway, Director of Administrative Services & City Clerk