ITEM NO. 14

STAFF REPORT

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: June 21, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REVISED CAR ALLOWANCE ALLOTMENT FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution establishing the revised car allowance allotment for the Mayor and City Council.

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2006, the Financial Services Department brought forward a number of decision packages regarding the FY 2006-08 Operating Budgets. One of the issues discussed was the need for and the desire of the Council to increase their monthly car allowance. At that time, staff was given direction to include an enhancement in the amount of $150 per month to the current car allowance allotment for both the Mayor and City Council. As such, the attached resolution (Attachment A) is coming back to Council for final approval in conjunction with the approval of the Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets for FY 2006-08.

ANALYSIS

The Mayor/City Council have not had an increase to their car allowance since the mid-1990s. Due to the rising cost of gasoline as well as the volume of required official duties where Council needs to be present, it became apparent that staff needed to assess the monthly car allowance. Currently, the Mayor receives $400 per month and each Councilmember receives $350 per month. Staff contacted the Automobile Club of America, which cites that the average car allowance in California ranges from $250 to $500 per month, depending on the location and sector. An analysis of what other San Diego County cities provide to their elected officials ranges from a high of $1,000 per month for the Mayor and $550 per month for each Councilmember in Chula Vista. Based on this analysis, provided in Attachment B, staff is recommending that the Mayor's and Councilmembers' monthly car allowance be increased by $150 each. This would make the Mayor's monthly allotment $550 and the Council's monthly allotment $500.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of providing this enhanced allowance is $9,000 total for the year or $18,000 for FY 2006-08.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

Does not apply.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

The referenced document has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution establishing the revised car allowance allotment for the Mayor and City Council.

PREPARED BY:

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence
Assistant to the City Manager

SUBMITTED BY:

Barry E. Martin
Interim City Manager

REVIEWED BY:

John Mullen, City Attorney

Nita McKay, Financial Services Director

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE ESTABLISHING THE REVISED CAR ALLOWANCE ALLOTMENT FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2006, the City Council requested staff to review the current salary and car allowances allowable under law for the Mayor and City Council;

WHEREAS, the City Council is currently experiencing significant expenses in the performance of their official duties as elected officials caused by both the volume of official duties and the cost of gasoline;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Councilmembers currently receive a monthly car allowance in the amount of $400 and $350 per month, respectively;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council's actual expenses regarding the execution of their official duties exceeds that amount of allowance;

WHEREAS, it is expected and anticipated that the Mayor and Councilmembers attend numerous events and meetings;

WHEREAS, the Automobile Club of America cites that the average car allowance in California ranges from $250-500 per month, depending on location and sector; and

WHEREAS, allowances for San Diego County cities range from a high of $1,000 per month for the Mayor and $550 per month for Councilmembers in the City of Chula Vista to a low of $400 per month for the Mayor and $350 per month for Councilmembers in the City of Oceanside.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Oceanside does resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. Mayor and City Council auto allowances will be increased from $400 per month to $550 per month for the Mayor, and from $350 per month to $500 per month for

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Councilmembers, effective July 1, 2006, in order to cover the actual cost in the performance of their official duties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Oceanside, California, this 21st day of June, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Attachment B

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBER CAR ALLOWANCE CURRENT COMPARISONS

CITY	MAYOR	COUNCILMEMBERS	COMMENTS
Chula Vista	$1,000	$550	
Escondido	$750	$750	
Carlsbad	$450	$350	
San Diego	$475	$800	
Irvine	$715	$715	
Mission Viejo	$0	$0	paid for mileage