



City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

September 4, 2012
New Business Consent

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER BANNING THE USE OF CELL PHONES BY ELECTED OFFICIALS
DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Submitted by David C. Biggs
City Manager

Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Ruiz-Raber.

The Mayor Pro Tem has asked that this item be placed on the agenda requesting staff look into the possibility of ceasing the use of cell phones by elected officials during Council meetings.

II. RECOMMENDATION

DIRECT staff to survey others cities in California to see where such a policy exists, obtain sample language and if there is an enforcement policy.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The Mayor Pro Tem has asked that this item be placed on the agenda requesting staff look into the possibility of ceasing the use of cell phones by elected officials during Council meetings. It is her observation that her colleagues on the dais receive and send text messages throughout the meeting. The vibrating notification noise is distracting and bothersome.

The Mayor Pro Tem shared with staff that while attending a Brown Act training with Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, she learned that there are some cities in California that have a policy like this in place already. Mayor Pro Tem requests that staff look into the possibility of adopting such a policy.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

Prepared by: Lisa Berglund, Principal Administrative Analyst

TO: Rev04-23-12

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Development Services
Economic Development	Public Services

Action taken by City Council

Date_____ Action_____