ORDINANCE NO. 25-2508

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2301 (COUNCILMANIC SALARIES) OF ARTICLE II (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CARSON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' TOTAL WAGES/COMPENSATION AND TOTAL RETIREMENT AND HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Article 1, section 5 of the Constitution of the State of California grants charter cities plenary authority over the compensation of its municipal officers; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 304 of the City Charter and Carson Municipal Code Section 2301 address Councilmanic total wages/compensation by providing that all members of the City Council shall receive a salary set at the “Low Income Limits” for a family of four (4) as set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Los Angeles County area for the year 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 304 of the City Charter and Carson Municipal Code Section 2301 further provide that future adjustments to the salaries of City Council members shall be in accordance with, and limited by, Government Code Section 36516; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance 22-2206, the City Council received a five percent (5%) annual salary adjustment effective January 1, 2023 to $81,375; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code section 36516, amended by Senate Bill 329 (“SB 329”) which was signed into law on June 29, 2023, allows for the salary of council members to be increased by “the greater of either 5% for each calendar year from the operative date of the last adjustment of the salary in effect when the ordinance or amendment is enacted, or an amount equal to inflation since January 1, 2024, based upon the California Consumer Price Index, which shall not exceed 10% for each calendar year[;]” and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council now desires to amend Carson Municipal Code Section 2301 to provide a compensation increase of ten percent (10%) (5% for calendar year 2024 and 5% for calendar year 2025) from $81,375 to $89,512.51 for Council Members and from $81,375 to $98,463.85 for the Mayor, as of the effective date of this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, **t**he City of Carson, as a Charter City, is not subject to the timing requirements under Government Code Section 36516.5 delaying any compensation adjustment, insofar as the compensation of City Council members is considered a municipal affair, as confirmed by Attorney General Opinion, at 57 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 11 (1974).

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The forgoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council makes the following findings demonstrating the need for increased compensation consistent with Government Code Section 36516(g)(2): i) the base pay increase allows councilmanic salaries to keep up with the pace of inflation and rising consumer prices in recent years; and ii) the base pay increase, consistent with the stated purpose of SB 329, helps ensure city council diversity “because the increased compensation can help individuals from across different income levels receive sufficient income from their services to help ensure that they can continue to serve the public and support their families.”

**SECTION 3.** Section 2301 (Councilmanic Salaries) of Article II (Administration) of the Carson Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows (deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~, additions shown in ***bold italics***):

**“2301 Councilmanic Salaries.**

A. All members of the City Council shall receive as total wages/compensation for their services a monthly salary which shall be set at the “Low Income Limits” for a family of four (4) as set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the area including Los Angeles County for the year 2018, which amounts to $77,500 per year. ***Pursuant to*** ~~As of the effective date of~~ Ordinance No. 22-2206, said annual salary ***was*** ~~shall be~~ increased by five (5) percent.~~1~~ ***As of the effective date of Ordinance No. 25-2508, the annual salary shall be increased by an additional ten percent (10%) to $89,512.51 for Council Members and $98,463.85 for the Mayor.*** Total wages/compensation exclude total retirement and health contributions.

B. The City shall not provide any additional compensation to members of the City Council for attendance at other meetings of the City or City-affiliated commissions, committees, subcommittees, and boards of directors. Future adjustments to the salaries of City Council members shall be in accordance with, and limited by, the provisions of law as set forth in Government Code Section 36516 or any successor provision thereto.

C. The Council may, by resolution, establish in detail the total wages/compensation and any non-wage/compensation benefits including, but not limited to, retirement and health contributions.

~~1~~ ~~Code reviser’s note: Ord. 22-2206 provides: “Payment of the foregoing adjustment, as amended in Section 2301 of the Carson Municipal Code, shall commence January 1, 2023.”~~”

**SECTION 4.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect any other provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, parts or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

**SECTION 6.** The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause the same to be posted and codified in the manner required by law.

**PASSED, APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council on this 6th day of May 2025.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: CITY OF CARSON:

/s/ /s/

Sunny K. Soltani, City Attorney Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor

 ATTEST:

/s/

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) ss.

CITY OF CARSON )

I, Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk of the City of Carson, California, hereby attest to and certify that the foregoing ordinance, being Ordinance No. 25-2508 passed first reading on the15th day of April, 2025, adopted by the Carson City Council at its meeting held on the 6th day of May, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Davis-Holmes, Hicks, Hilton, Rojas

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Dear

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

RECUSED: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

/s/

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk