



Meeting Date: 07 / 12 / 11

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: City Council Business

Prepared By: Christina Aerenlund, Public Information Officer Agenda Item No. N-1

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] City Attorney [Signature] Finance [Signature] Other (Specify) _____

DATE: June 15, 2011

TO: City Council

FROM: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager

SUBJECT: Simultaneous Broadcast in Spanish of City Council Meetings

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council consider and provide direction to the City Manager regarding the possibility of providing simultaneous broadcast of City Council meetings in Spanish.

DISCUSSION

The issue of providing access to City Council meetings for the Oxnard Spanish-speaking Community has been raised at City Council meetings by some residents.

On May 10, 2011, City Council requested that Staff return with information regarding the possible costs associated with providing broadcast of City Council meetings with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish.

Currently, the City provides Spanish interpretation through two methods in an "as needed basis"

- a. A bilingual member of City staff member has been available as an interpreter during City Council meetings for Spanish speakers who wish to address the Council. The average cost for retaining an outside interpreter for this service would be approximately \$800 per meeting
- b. Typically, professional Interpretation Services are contracted when it is expected that there will be a number of Spanish monolingual members of the public who are likely to address the City Council on a particular item on the agenda or upon request, (not for the entire meeting). In fiscal year 2009-2010 interpretation services were contracted for a particular item three times at an average of \$770/service.

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In addition, an option that might be considered is the use of Second Audio Program (SAP) capabilities for broadcasting whole City Council meetings with interpretation into Spanish.

This option will require the services of two professional interpreters who would interpret (translate) simultaneously all the English dialogue into Spanish.

The interpreters' translation would be picked up by a sound system and broadcast through SAP.

Most TVs provide a second audio program (SAP) channel for increased stereo reception. This second audio program can be used for Spanish translation, descriptive information about the program, and other stereo features.

A viewer would be able to use the SAP function on the TV to hear the Spanish version of the proceedings while viewing the live video broadcast on Time Warner Channel 10 or FiOS Channel 35.

Very few Southern California cities and/or counties provide simultaneous interpretation into another language. Three jurisdictions which have offered this service into Spanish are:

- The City of Santa Paula - Discontinued their services in February 2011, due to budget constraints
- The City of Santa Barbara - Provides Spanish interpretation through SAP only once during live broadcast
- The City of Long Beach - Provides Spanish interpretation through SAP, only upon request

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, it is estimated that the ongoing costs for interpretation services are \$28,800 to \$36,000 per year, with an initial set-up cost of approximately \$3,000.

No funding is available at this time.