

# City of Los Alamitos

## Agenda Report Study Session

March 16, 2009  
Item No: 3A

To: Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council

From: Nita McKay, Interim City Manager

Subject: City Priorities and Council Meeting Effectiveness

**Summary:** Mayor Edgar requested that staff agendize a Study Session item for City Council discussion regarding improving the efficiency and effectiveness of City Council meetings, prioritizing City Council requests for agenda items, as well as other ideas that City Council may have regarding City Council meetings.

**Recommendation:** Action as City Council deems appropriate.

### ***Background & Discussion***

Mayor Edgar has requested that staff prepare a Study Session discussion item that would allow City Council the opportunity to discuss ways in which City Council meetings might be improved in the areas of efficiency and effectiveness, prioritization of agenda items, and remaining focused on City priorities, including the adoption of the fiscal year 2009-10 budget by June 30, 2009. This item is intended to provide a "brainstorming" session for City Council in which to discuss not only ways to improve City Council meetings, but to maintain focus on critical City business.

Staff proposes the following items for possible discussion topics:

- Regularly scheduled non-televised Study Sessions (workshops) where complex issues may be vetted. These Study Sessions would allow for more lengthy discussion, question/answer periods, and public input in a more informal setting.
- Arrangement of the City Council agenda to provide for the accomplishment of City business and related public input.
- Agenda planning document for City Council consideration. Staff is currently developing this and will provide more details and a sample report at the time of this workshop.
- Process for City Council-initiated agenda items and the prioritization of these items. This could involve a rating system. An example of a rating system might be: high importance – within the next month, important – within the next two

months, low importance – sometime during the next six months as City staff deems appropriate.

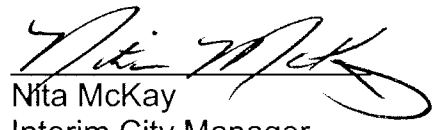
- Other items that City Council feels would be helpful in this discussion.

Staff is prepared to assist with further discussion and research in relation to the above listed items or other related items as City Council directs.

***Fiscal Impact***

None

Submitted and Approved By:



Nita McKay  
Interim City Manager