2026-07-07 CC AGENDA PACKET
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO ITEM D17 - CHARTER CITY

Outlook

Charter City Proposed Ballot Measure - Please read, I cannot be there tonight

From Mona Eisman <eismanmktg@gmail.com>

Date Tue 7/7/2026 1:09 PM

To Pimentel, Chris (Mayor) <cpimentel@elsegundo.org>; Baldino, Ryan (Mayor Pro Tem) <rbaldino@elsegundo.org>; Boyles, Drew (Council Member) <dboyles@elsegundo.org>; Giroux, Lance (Council Member) <lgiroux@elsegundo.org>; Keldorf, Michelle (Council Member) <mkeldorf@elsegundo.org>

Cc Truax, Susan (City Clerk) <struax@elsegundo.org>; Gary Schmunk <gary.schmunk@gmail.com>

To the City Council

Regarding: City Charter Measure for November Ballot

From: Mona Eisman – Resident for 32 years

The Charter City Measure being discussed for the November Ballot is a very important, consequential change in direction for our City and its residents. Not a decision to be rushed, taken lightly without extensive study and community engagement. We heard that this is an Insurance Policy against future changes in Sacramento and that Changing to a Charter City would not change, impact how we govern and operate our city today. Then we heard there were too many possible changes to list.

After listening to the Attorney, Council Members, ES Residents and researching Charter Cities these are my concerns:

1. Desire for the Council and many members of our community to become able to make decisions, independent choices that are not compliant, in agreement with California state law.

This was clearly the motivation and resulting actions of Huntington Beach who has elected Council Members whose main purpose became to move away from California laws and values and move the Ideological compass of their city sharply right. They have spent time and city resources fighting Sacramento, not working for **all members** of their community.

The Board members present on June 24th did recognize the risk of a Council being elected that would use the opportunity to vote for significant changes to El Segundo, without full Community support, involvement and creating legal actions against California state law.

Seems that staying a General Law City is insurance against an activist City Council.

2. Desire for the Council to create many new regulations and laws because they can, because some individuals in our community and elected offices are frustrated with Sacramento. Example of Redondo Beach was cited that they have many city regulations that are unique to them, making it more difficult, more complex for residents, businesses who operate in the South Bay.

3. The rush to add this to the November Ballot without a complete staff review and without the Council and Legal Staff being able to provide specific answers to the Community about the impact of this constitutional change (a very big thing!!!) leads me to mistrust the motivation of the supporters of becoming a Charter City. If changing the Constitution, becoming a Charter City is good for El Segundo, then let's continue the discussion which includes answering the questions that were unanswered on June 24th.

When the City Attorney was asked for examples of what would change, he said there were **too many to list and tell us about**. Not providing one specific change to City operations and governance. This

was after the Council members told us that this was an insurance policy and nothing would change. Which is true?

I urge you to **VOTE NO** on adding this **Important and potentially very divisive Constitutional Change to the November Ballot**. If members of the Council support this measure then I suggest you use the months ahead to do the due diligence on legal, governance questions, researching the actions and experiences of other Charter Cities of similar size to ours. Also, it is important to answer the questions, continue engaging the community before our next election.

Thank you for your taking the time to read the email, very sorry that I cannot be at the meeting for something this consequential for our city,

Mona Eisman – 32 year Resident

415 Concord Street

El Segundo, CA 90245
Mona Eisman
Eisman Marketing Group
EismanMarketing.com
Eismanmktg@gmail.com
Ph: 310 629-6431

Outlook

Opposition to proposed charter city

From Jen Oloo <jenoloo@icloud.com>
Date Tue 7/7/2026 11:55 AM
To ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS <ALLELECTEDOFFICIALS@elsegundo.org>

Dear City Council,

I am writing to oppose placing the proposed Charter City measure on the ballot.

I appreciate the desire to protect El Segundo's local character and preserve local decision-making. However, I do not believe this proposed charter is the right tool, and I am concerned it creates more risk and uncertainty than benefit for residents.

The City's own materials make clear that El Segundo is currently a general law city and that the proposed charter would give the City broader authority over "municipal affairs," including land use. The charter also states that local land-use regulations may take precedence over conflicting state general laws. That is a major governance change, even if the current proposal is being presented as limited or "charter-light."

My concerns are:

First, the practical benefit is unclear. The City's materials acknowledge that charter city authority is not unlimited and that state law can still override local rules when an issue is considered a matter of statewide concern. If the main argument for the charter is greater land-use control, residents deserve a clear explanation of what specific laws El Segundo would actually be able to avoid, what it would not be able to avoid, and what litigation risk could follow.

Second, this could create future unintended consequences. Even if the current charter keeps the council-manager form of government, follows the California Elections Code, applies prevailing wage laws, and continues to follow the Public Contracts Code, a charter is still a local constitution. Once adopted, it creates a new legal framework that future councils or voter initiatives could attempt to expand or amend. I am not comfortable approving broad charter authority now based on assurances about how narrowly it may be used today.

Third, the timing and public process feel insufficient for such a significant change. Becoming a charter city is not a routine administrative update. It changes the foundation of how El Segundo governs itself. Residents need more than a town hall, agenda packets, and a single election cycle to fully understand the legal, financial, housing, labor, contracting, and transparency implications.

Fourth, I am concerned about legal and administrative costs. Even if the ballot cost is described as modest, the real costs may come later: legal interpretation, staff time, potential litigation, future charter amendments, and confusion over when state law applies versus local charter authority. Those resources could be better spent on immediate community needs.

Finally, I do not believe El Segundo needs to become a charter city in order to advocate for thoughtful local planning. We can and should push back on state mandates when appropriate, protect community-serving uses, improve transparency, and plan responsibly within the general law framework. A charter is a blunt instrument for a problem that requires careful, issue-specific governance.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Council not to move this measure forward. At minimum, I ask that the City slow the process, provide a detailed legal analysis in plain language, clearly identify the specific powers the City intends to use, explain the risks, and conduct broader public outreach before asking voters to approve a charter.

Thank you for your service to El Segundo and for considering resident concerns.

Sincerely,

Jen Oloo
48 year El Segundo Resident
947 McCarthy Ct
310-995-6673