

ORDINANCE NO. 502 - 15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.05 OF THE MURRIETA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE LIMITS

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2001, the Murrieta City Council adopted Ordinance 231, adding Chapter 2.05, "Campaign Contribution and Voluntary Expenditure Limits" to the Murrieta Municipal Code (MMC) to, among other things, establish: a voluntary expenditure limit of \$.50 per registered voter, a contribution limit for candidates agreeing to the voluntary expenditure limit of \$500 per contributor per election, and a contribution limit for candidates not agreeing to the voluntary expenditure limit of \$250 per contributor per election, and provided that the contribution limits be updated annually based on the Consumer Price Index following the November election; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2004, the Murrieta City Council adopted Ordinance No. 301, increasing the voluntary expenditure limit to \$1.50 per registered voter, the contribution limit for candidates accepting the expenditure limit to \$1,000 per contributor, and the contribution limit for those not agreeing to the expenditure limit to \$500 per contributor; and

WHEREAS, as a result of annual adjustments, the current contribution limits are \$1,090 for candidates agreeing to the voluntary expenditure limit, and \$550 for those not agreeing to limit their expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has advised, based upon recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings, that Cities imposing contribution limits should establish a single contribution limit applicable to all City candidates regardless of their participation in voluntary expenditure limits; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2015, the City Council, after considering the City Attorney's recommendations, a survey of the contribution limits in other California cities, and alternate incentives for agreeing to a voluntary expenditure limit, directed the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance establishing a single contribution limit of \$1,000 and repealing the City's voluntary expenditure limit,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE OF CHAPTER 2.05

The title of Chapter 2.05 of the Murrieta Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

"CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT"

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2.05.010

Section 2.05.010 "Purpose and intent" of Chapter 2.05 of the Murrieta Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

"2.05.010 Purpose and intent.

High costs and large campaign contributions associated with campaigns for local elective office can undermine the public's trust and confidence in the electoral process. It is the intent of this chapter to promote the small town atmosphere of local elections consistent with community values by implementing campaign finance reforms including mandatory contribution limits and an effective enforcement mechanism.

In furtherance of those goals, a reasonable campaign contribution limitation is hereby enacted that is similar to those enacted by other comparable communities. In those communities, such limitations have not inhibited city council candidates' ability to conduct meaningful and effective campaigns or members of the public to meaningfully participate in campaigns as expressed in the form of campaign contributions, but they have limited the appearance and incidents of corruption that have been experienced.

The council finds that the city may enact an ordinance limiting campaign contributions in municipal elections as provided by Section 10202 of the Elections Code of the state. Further, pursuant to Section 81013 of the Government Code of the state, it is determined that the additional requirements imposed by this chapter do not preclude any person from complying with the Political Reform Act of 1974, being California Government Code Sections 81000 - 81016."

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2.05.040.B

Subsection B of Section 2.05.040 "Limitations on campaign contributions" of Chapter 2.05 of the Murrieta Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

"B. Contribution Limit.

1. Candidates or controlled committees may accept contributions of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) from any single source in any single election. This contribution will be adjusted annually following the November 2006 election in accordance with Section 2.05.040B.2.

2. The contribution limit established in this subsection shall be automatically adjusted annually, following the November 2001 election, based on the Consumer Price Index for "all urban consumers" from April to April among U.S. West and/or Los Angeles, Long Beach, Anaheim metropolitan area. Such adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest ten and no/100ths dollar (\$10.00) amount."

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF SECTION 2.05.050

Section 2.05.050 "Voluntary expenditure ceiling" is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect and be enforced thirty (30) days following its adoption.

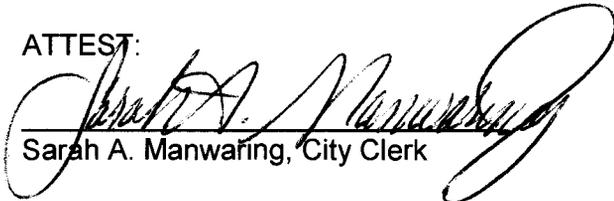
SECTION 6. NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and shall publish a summary of this ordinance and post a certified copy of the full ordinance in the office of the City Clerk at least five (5) days prior to the adoption of the proposed ordinance; and within fifteen (15) days after adoption of the ordinance, the City Clerk shall publish a summary of the ordinance with the names of the council members voting for and against the ordinance.

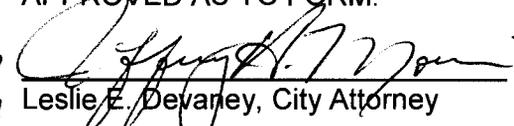
ADOPTED by the City Council, signed by the Mayor, and attested by the City Clerk this 5th day of May, 2015.


Harry Ramos, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sarah A. Manwaring, City Clerk

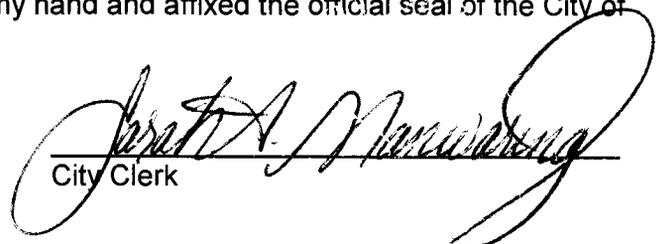
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

for 
Leslie E. Devaney, City Attorney

I, Sarah A. Manwaring, City Clerk of the City of Murrieta, California, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing ordinance was duly and regularly introduced at a meeting of the City Council on the 21st day of April, 2015, and that thereafter the said ordinance was duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 5th day of May, 2015, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: GIBBS, INGRAM, LANE, LONG, AND RAMOS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Murrieta, California, this 5th day of May, 2015.


City Clerk