ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL FORM

ELECTION DATE: November 8, 2016
JURISDICTION: City of Culver City

(Please mark (x) in the appropriate box)

☐ Argument in Favor
☐ Rebuttal to Argument Against
☒ Argument Against
☐ Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Use block paragraphs and single space format. Text submitted indented or centered will be typeset in block paragraph form. Entire statements in all capital letters are not acceptable. Indentations, circles, stars, dots, italics and/or bullets cannot be accommodated. However, you may use dashes/hyphens. Words to be printed in boldface type, underscored and/or CAPITALIZED are to be clearly indicated. Any combinations of enhanced words are counted as one word. The number of words/acronyms that are in boldface type, underscored and/or CAPITALIZED shall not exceed 30 words for Arguments and 25 for Rebuttals per documents. All statements should be checked by the authors for spelling and punctuation as the elections official is not permitted to edit any material contained therein. NOTE: Rebuttal arguments are not direct arguments. For example, a rebuttal to a direct argument in favor of a measure is NOT a direct argument against a measure. Please also note that rebuttal arguments are allowed only when both a direct argument for AND against a measure are filed.

ALL AUTHORS MUST SIGN ON THE REVERSE SIDE

Please type statements below in upper and lower case letters. Statement will be typeset in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet using DUTC801 Rm BT font in 10 point size. However, statement can be submitted using any standard font.

Charter Amendment 1 adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy between the people of Culver City and our first responders.

Under the current charter, the democratically elected City Council has ultimate authority over the Police and Fire Chiefs. So, if the community has a problem with the police or fire department, we can go directly to our elected leaders and ask them to fix it. If City Council ignores our concerns, we can vote them out.

Charter Amendment 1 would destroy that accountability by giving absolute power over the hiring, firing, and compensation of the Police and Fire Chiefs to a single unelected executive—the City Manager.

History proves that our current charter works. In 1998, a local newspaper reported serious problems with our police department. According to the article, our police were routinely targeting people of color in traffic stops and the department's practice of hogtying suspects had caused two deaths. The community demanded change, and our elected leaders prodded the department to improve. That process led directly to today's proactive and professional force. According to a recent survey, 84% of Culver City residents believe that our police department is "good" or "excellent." Similarly, under the stewardship of our City Council, our fire department has avoided the nepotism scandals that have plagued other local fire departments.

Communities should directly control the institutions that are meant to serve us.

Recent events have shown that the partnership between the people and our police and fire departments is more important than ever. This is not the time for less democracy. Our citizens deserve to have a say in the oversight of our most trusted public servants.

Vote NO on Charter Amendment 1.
Meghan Sahli-Wells
Alex Fisch
Kelly Kent
Thomas Small
Deborah Wallace

Council Member, City of Culver City

Member, Committee on Homelessness

School Board Member, Culver City Unified

Council Member, City of Culver City

Director at Large, Fox Hills Neighborhood

Board Member, Fox Hills Alliance

2016 Aug 18 PH 4:12
DECLARATION BY AUTHOR(S) OF ARGUMENTS OR REBUTTALS  
(Elections Code Section 9600)

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9 of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following declaration to be signed by each author of the argument/rebuttal. Names and titles listed will be printed in the Voter Information portion of the Official Sample Ballot Booklet in the order provided below.

The undersigned author(s) of the:

☐ Argument in Favor  
☐ Rebuttal to Argument Against  
☒ Argument Against  
☐ Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

of ballot measure Charter Amendment 1 / Police & Fire Chief Authority at the Special Municipal election for the City of Culver City November 8, 2016 hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of his/her/their knowledge and belief.

1. Meghan Sahli-Wells  
   Council Member, City of Culver City  
   Printed Name  
   Signature  
   Title to Appear on Argument  
   August 17, 2016  
   Date

2. Thomas Small  
   Council Member, City of Culver City  
   Printed Name  
   Signature  
   Title to Appear on Argument  
   17 August, 2016  
   Date

3. Kelly Kent PhD  
   School Board Member, Culver City Unified  
   Printed Name  
   Signature  
   Title to Appear on Argument  
   8/17/16  
   Date

4. Deborah Wallace  
   Director, At-Large, Fox Hills Neighborhood Council  
   Printed Name  
   Signature  
   Title to Appear on Argument  
   8/17/0016  
   Date

5. Alex Fisch  
   Member, Committee on Homelessness  
   Printed Name  
   Signature  
   Title to Appear on Argument  
   8/17/16  
   Date

IMPORTANT FILING INFORMATION: I, Alex Fisch am the designated filer of the above titled argument/rebuttal. Please notify me of any questions pertaining to this filing. Below is my contact information.

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OFFICE USE ONLY

Word Counts

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