

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Thomas F. Casey III, County Counsel

Subject: Introduction of Ordinance Proposing Amendments to the County Charter to Combine the Position of Coroner with the Position of Sheriff in an Elected Position of Sheriff-Coroner and to Eliminate the Elected Position of Coroner.

Date: June 25, 2001

RECOMMENDATION: Introduce an ordinance which submits amendments to the San Mateo County Charter to combine the position of Coroner with the position of Sheriff in the elected position of Sheriff-Coroner and to eliminate the position of an elected Coroner, and waive reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

Background:

Section 404 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter currently provides for the election of a Coroner, and Section 411 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter prohibits the combination of the offices of the Coroner and Sheriff.

Due to the recent passing of Adrian C. "Bud" Moorman, the elected County Coroner, the office of the Coroner is now open. In August 2000, the County undertook a process to review the most cost efficient and effective methods of providing Coroner services. A Coroner's Services Task Force was convened to explore alternatives, including the consolidation of the office of the Coroner with the Sheriff's office. The task force concluded that there were a number of fiscal and administrative advantages that would result from such a consolidation.

The Board of Supervisors is authorized, by ordinance, to present a proposed Charter amendment to a vote of the people. An ordinance has been prepared that would repeal Sections 404 and 411 of the Charter and amend Section 407 of the Charter to eliminate the separate position of Coroner, and to combine the positions of Coroner and Sheriff in an elected Sheriff-Coroner.

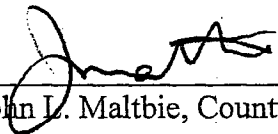
Honorable Board of Supervisors

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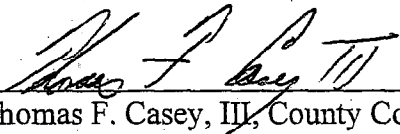
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Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. However, it is anticipated that the elimination of the separate position of Coroner and combination of that position with the position of Sheriff could result in savings of more than \$2.6 million dollars over the next ten years.



John L. Maltbie, County Manager



Thomas F. Casey, III, County Counsel

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY
CHARTER AND ORDERING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER
BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS
AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2001 ELECTION

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, ORDAINS as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits the proposed amendments to the Charter set forth in Sections 4, 5 and 6 to the qualified electors of the County of San Mateo at the election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of the Board shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to publish a copy of this ordinance, as required by general law, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of San Mateo. The County Clerk shall publish a notice of this election not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days before the Election in accordance with the Elections Code section 12115(a).

SECTION 3.

- (a) The Election shall be held and conducted, the returns canvassed, and the result declared in the same manner as provided by law for general elections.
- (b) The Election will be held on November 6, 2001, from the hour of 7:00 a.m. to the hour of 8:00 p.m., during which period of time the polls will remain continuously open. At 8:00 p.m., the polls will be closed, except as provided in Section 14401 of the Elections Code.

- (c) The County Clerk shall prepare and mail to each eligible voter in the County a sample ballot and a voter's pamphlet containing the complete text of the proposed revision.
- (d) The County Clerk shall establish election precincts, designate the polling places, and provide election officers for each precinct at the election in accordance with the election laws of the State of California.
- (e) The Election on the proposed Charter amendments shall be consolidated with any and all other elections to be held on November 6, 2001.

SECTION 4. The following Measure for the amendment of the Charter of the County of San Mateo shall be submitted to the electorate on November 6, 2001.

"Shall Section 407 of the San Mateo County Charter be amended to provide for the election of a Sheriff-Coroner, and shall Section 404 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter, providing for the election of a Coroner, and Section 411 of the San Mateo County Charter, providing that the offices of Coroner and Sheriff shall not be combined, be repealed.?"

SECTION 5. The complete text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

- (a) That section 407 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter be amended to read as follows.

"407. Sheriff-Coroner. The Sheriff-Coroner shall be elected."

- (b) That section 404 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter be repealed.
- (c) That section 411 of Article IV of the San Mateo County Charter be repealed.

SECTION 6. The manner in which the proposed Charter amendment shall appear on the ballot is as follows:

“Shall the Charter of the County of San Mateo be amended to provide that the positions of Coroner and Sheriff shall be combined and that the new position of Sheriff-Coroner shall be elected?”

SECTION 7. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 25123, this ordinance calling an election shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by this Board of Supervisors.

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