

**CITY OF PALMDALE  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 1471**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALMDALE,  
CALIFORNIA AMENDING PALMDALE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.08  
"CITY COUNCIL" TO MAINTAIN ELECTION OF THE OFFICE OF MAYOR ON A  
CITYWIDE BASIS AND CHANGE THE ELECTION OF THE FOUR CITY COUNCIL  
MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED BY FOUR DESIGNATED DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City was sued in April of 2012 in the Los Angeles County Superior Court in a case alleging that the City was in violation of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) by, among other things, maintaining an "at-large" system for electing members of the City Council ("Lawsuit"); and

**WHEREAS**, the City denied all the material substantive allegations of the complaint and denied any liability thereunder or that the plaintiffs were entitled to relief under the CVRA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawsuit was tried in the Los Angeles County Superior Court where the trial court issued a Statement of Decision that found the City liable for violation of the CVRA and subsequently determined the remedies for the violation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawsuit and attorney fee award were appealed to the California Court of Appeals and California Supreme Court, which respectively, ruled in favor of plaintiffs and or denied to hear the matter; and

**WHEREAS**, to avoid the further expenditure of public funds and further protracted litigation and a desire to achieve finality and certainty on issues of public importance relating to the system of election for members of the City Council and the City's electoral process, the City entered into a Settlement Agreement with plaintiff's upon the Trial Court's Order which allows the mayor to be elected at-large and the four council members to be elected by districts as specifically delineated in the Settlement Agreement and Order.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALMDALE DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Title 2, Chapter 2.08 Section 2.08.010 of the Palmdale Municipal Code is deleted and replaced to read as follows:

**Elected Mayor.** The office of the Mayor of the City shall be an elective office which shall have a term of two years. The Mayor shall be elected by a city-wide election.

**SECTION 2.** Title 2, Chapter 2.08 Section 2.08.020 of the Palmdale Municipal Code is deleted and replaced to read as follows:

**City Council.** The Mayor shall be elected on a city-wide basis and the four councilmembers shall be elected from four geographic districts in which each resides by a vote of the electors in each respective district.

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one (1) or more subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional, or invalid, or ineffective, provided the basic purposes of this Ordinance and the benefits to the City and the public are not substantially impaired.

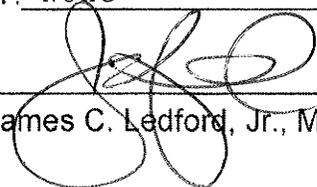
**SECTION 4.** The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and shall cause this ordinance to be published or posted as required by law.

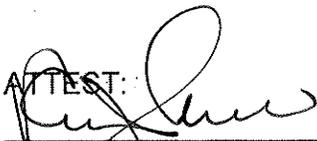
**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2015 and effective on the 31st day of July, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Ledford, Dispenza, Hofbauer, Thompson, and Martinez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

  
James C. Ledford, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:   
Rebecca J. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:   
Wm. Matthew Ditzhazy, City Attorney