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**MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

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DATE: February 20, 2026

TO: Sarah Gorman, City Clerk Services Manager

FROM: John S. Doimas, City Attorney 

SUBJECT: Impartial Analysis for Measure to Amend Charter Section 521

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Attached please find my impartial analysis for the above-referenced measure.

Please let me know should you have any questions.

cc: Kelly McAdoo, City Administrator

## IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE \_\_

Measure \_\_ is a City Council proposal to amend City Charter Section 521 to allow flexibility relating to certain contracts and to leases of City property. Measure \_\_ will amend the City Charter to allow the City Council to lease or sell City property as a municipal affair in any manner available to other charter cities in California within the full scope of its "Home Rule" authority under the California Constitution.

The City Charter currently limits leases of City property to a maximum term of 50 years. The amendment would remove that limit. The City Charter also currently requires contracts that bind the City for longer than 5 years be approved by ordinance. The amendment would also authorize approval of such contracts by resolution of the City Council.

Measure \_\_ will amend Charter Section 521 to read: No contract or lease by which the City is bound for a longer period than five years shall be valid unless the contract is approved by ordinance or resolution of the City Council. The City has the authority and flexibility to approve contracts for the sale, lease, or use of city property as allowed by the City Charter or the California Constitution. The City may lease property owned, held, or controlled by it with terms established by the City Council. This section shall not apply to any franchise granted pursuant to the provisions of this Charter or to any contract for the furnishing or acquisition of the products, commodities, or services of any public utility.

A "yes" vote is a vote to approve the proposed Charter amendment.

A "no" vote is a vote not to approve the proposed Charter amendment.

John S. Doimas  
City Attorney  
City of Santa Barbara