RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 10010

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Beaumont (City) are currently elected in at-large elections, in which each member is elected by the registered voters of the entire City; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 34886 authorizes the legislative body of a city of any population to adopt an ordinance to change its method of election from an "at-large" system to a "by-district" system; and

WHEREAS, many cities in California and Riverside County have transitioned to a "by-district" system either on their own accord or due to the receipt of a demand letter; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in voluntarily transitioning to a "by-district" system in order to maintain control of the transition process; and

WHEREAS, prior to the City Council's consideration of an ordinance to establish boundaries for a district-based electoral system, Elections Code Section 10010 requires all the following at a minimum:

1. The City shall host at least two public hearings over a period of no more than thirty days, at which the public will be invited to provide input regarding the composition of districts.
2. Draft district maps will be published and made available to the public at least seven days prior to the public hearings. Any changes to draft maps between public hearings, requires the publication of the map for at least another seven days prior to the public hearing.
3. The City shall host an additional two public hearings over a period of no more than 45 days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map(s) and the proposed sequence of elections, if applicable.

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-34-20 prevents the City from holding public hearings on the transition to districts until after the stay-at-home order has been lifted; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to use 2020 census data in the transition process to ensure the most current demographics of the City are used; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a district-based electoral system will not affect the terms of any sitting Councilmember, each of who will serve out his or her current term.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, AND DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The true and correct recitals above are incorporated herein, the City Council hereby resolves and states its intention to adopt an ordinance, pursuant to California Government Code section 34886, to transition election of its City Council members from an at-large electoral

system to a district-based electoral system, for use in the City's 2022 General Municipal Election, scheduled for November 2022.

SECTION 2. In the event that a district-based electoral system is adopted, it is the City Council's desire and intention that City resources will continue to be prioritized based on the greatest citywide need and benefit, and that the City Council will work cooperatively with one another for the benefit of the entire City.

SECTION 3. The City Council directs the City Manager and City Attorney to work with a professional demographer, and other appropriate consultants as needed, to provide a detailed analysis of Beaumont's current demographics and any other information or data necessary to prepare a draft map that divides Beaumont into voting districts in a manner consistent with the intent and purpose of the CVRA and the Federal Voting Rights Act.

SECTION 4. In adopting this Resolution, the City Council has determined that it will gather and study demographic data, solicit community input, and create CVRA-compliant districts that best serve the City as a whole.

SECTION 5. The City Council directs the City Manager to post all information regarding the proposed transition to a district-based electoral system on the City's website, including maps, notices, agendas and other information once the information becomes available.

SECTION 6. The City Council hereby declares that if any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, or word of this Ordinance is rendered or declared to be invalid or unconstitutional by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction, or by reason of any preemptive legislation, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Ordinance, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the Ordinance enforced.

SECTION 7. The City Council finds that the actions contemplated by this Resolution are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15060 (c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

NOW, THREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Beaumont, California, approves this Resolution.

MOVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Beaumont, California, held on the _____ day of _____, 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

_____

Rey Santos, Mayor

Attest: _____

     Nicole Wheelwright, Deputy City Clerk