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**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM**  
**CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS**  
**August 17, 2023**

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AGENDA TOPIC:      Consideration and possible action to allow Bexar County to utilize a City building as a poll location in the November election

DATE:                      August 17, 2023

DEPARTMENT:        City Secretary

PRESENTED BY:      Christina Picioccio, TRMC, City Secretary

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**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

The Bexar County Elections Department has requested to use the public safety training room as a polling location in November for the constitutional amendments and uniform election – October 20 - November 8, 2023. Due to the lack of available facilities in the surrounding area, Bexar County has struggled to secure a polling space for Bexar County voters in the northern region of the county. The closest poll site for Fair Oaks Ranch citizens who reside in Bexar County is the City of Shavano Park. The City of Fair Oaks Ranch will not hold its own election in November. Therefore, if desired by City Council, the public safety training room can be made available with modification of our regularly scheduled meetings.

The public safety training room is regularly used for staff meetings and police department training. Municipal Court is scheduled on November 1. One City Council meeting – November 2, 2023, will also be impacted. Section 3.06 of the City Charter dictates that “The City Council shall hold at least one regular meeting per month at City Hall or other place designated by City Council. Said meeting to be held no earlier than 6:00 PM local time.” The Council could cancel the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting or hold the meeting at an alternate time or location. It is likely that staff will be unable to livestream the meeting at an alternate location. The police department also has their annual Trunk or Treat event scheduled for October 28, 2023. The public safety training room is used as a staging area for this event. The event starts at 6:00 – 8:30 PM with set-up beginning at 9:00 AM. This event utilizes a very large footprint in the City Hall Complex parking area. Early voting will be held on that Saturday until 6:00 PM. There is concern that there is a potential for a dangerous situation, with co-mingling of traffic and children.

Staff has also been apprised that the Bexar County Elections Department is also wishing to utilize City facilities in future elections as well. Even-numbered years could include four elections, inclusive of early voting through election day and possible run-off elections. Odd-numbered years could include two elections inclusive of early voting through election day and possible run-off elections.

The objective of the agenda item is for council to determine if the facilities can be made available to the Bexar County Elections Department.

**POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:**

Bexar County residents will benefit from allowing the Bexar County Elections department the use of the public safety training room.

**LONG-TERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

N/A

**LEGAL ANALYSIS:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:**

I move to allow/deny the Bexar County Elections department use of a City building for the November 2023 election and future elections.