

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
From: Department Head
Agenda Item: Title of Resolution or Ordinance



BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

At the October 21, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, Alaska State Representative Ky Holland attended in his capacity as a private citizen and provided an informational update on statewide efforts to eliminate Alaska's biannual clock change. He shared that several bills are currently under consideration in the Legislature to end the transition between Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time (DST), and he explained the general policy landscape:

- many Alaskans support ending the twice-a-year clock change;
- there is ongoing discussion at the Legislature about whether a permanent shift should align with Alaska Standard Time or Alaska Daylight Time; and
- under federal law, states may adopt permanent Standard Time without federal approval, but adopting permanent Daylight Time would require Congressional authorization, which has stalled nationally.

Rep. Holland explained that HB 229 proposes keeping Alaska on Standard Time year-round, citing public health research supporting morning light for sleep, circadian stability, and safety outcomes. He also acknowledged that some sectors—particularly recreation and tourism—value evening daylight. His remarks were framed as an open request for input rather than advocacy for a specific municipal action.

During the Council and Administration Response to Citizen Comments portion of the meeting, City Manager Jackie C. Wilde asked whether the Council would like staff to prepare a resolution expressing support for HB 229. The Council raised no objection. This agenda item is therefore presented in response to that direction.

What the Resolution Does:

- Expresses the City of Whittier's support for HB 229, which would exempt Alaska from observing Daylight Saving Time and keep the state on Standard Time year-round.
- Communicates the City's position to the Legislature, Governor, and relevant state committees.
- Does **not** take a position on other DST-related bills or on the broader policy debate about Standard Time versus Daylight Time beyond the scope of HB 229.
- Does **not** obligate the City to any operational changes, financial commitments, or local code amendments.

The intent of this resolution is to respond to the Council's request, provide clear direction to state policymakers, and articulate Whittier's interest in predictable, stable timekeeping that supports community wellbeing, municipal operations, and regional coordination.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Comprehensive Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Whittier Code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Other: <i>10.21.2025 Whittier City Council Regular Meeting Minutes</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FISCAL NOTE: This is a policy statement and has no fiscal impact.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes No Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2025-051.