CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



MEETING DATE: JULY 17, 2012

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: APPROVE CERTIFICATION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT CIVIL

FINES FOR MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATIONS

DATE:

JULY 3, 2012

FROM:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION BY:

BOBBY YOUNG, FINANCE & I.T. DIRECTOR

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BOBBY YOUNG, FINANCE & I.T. DIRECTOR, (714)

754-5243

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1) Hold Public Hearing

2) Adopt Resolution No. 12-___ entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa certifying Special Assessments for Collection of Delinquent Civil Citations for Municipal Code Violations."

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to State law, certain delinquent fines, interest, and penalties may be collected as part of nuisance abatement procedures authorized by Government Code section 38773.5. These procedures authorize municipalities to levy and collect delinquent Civil Citation fines plus interest and penalties as a Special Assessment lien against the real property of those so assessed.

Staff has made repeated attempts without success to collect the Civil Citation fines due from the property owners listed in Attachment 1 entitled "2012 Civil Citation Special Assessment List". There are a total of 71 delinquent civil citations that are recommended to be assessed against 24 properties. The total amount now delinquent equals \$45.875.00.

Each property owner was notified in writing of their rights to a hearing pursuant to Municipal Code Section 1-45 through Section 1-47 when the citations were initially issued. Also, each property owner has been advised in writing by certified mail of this hearing and further, that their right to an administrative hearing and judicial review of the citation issued against them has now expired.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a resolution to certify the Special Assessments and authorize recording such assessments against the respective properties as liens. This action will also authorize the Tax Collector for the County of Orange to place the assessments on the tax roll and proceed to collect the assessments as property tax

liens against their properties. Should the assessments be added to the tax roll as liens, penalties and interest will continue to accrue until paid at the maximum rate allowed by state law.

Those property owners who so choose may appear before City Council at this public hearing and contest the amount and/or validity of any lien or assessment for a civil fine.

However, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 1-48(4), <u>such contests shall be limited to the issue of the amount and/or validity of the lien or assessment</u> (whether the civil citation can legally be added to the tax roll as a special assessment) <u>and may not consider whether the underlying Code violation occurred</u>. All administrative hearings and rights of appeal have been exhausted for those parties listed in Attachment 1.

ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to State law, the City may choose to coll ect delinquent fines, interest, and penalties as special assessments against the real property involved. The assessments are limited to property related violations, wherein the fines exceed \$250.00 cumulatively and are at least sixty days past due. In addition, for those proposed Special Assessments, all administrative hearing or appeal rights of the cited persons must have been exhausted.

For each of the Civil Citations listed in Attachment 1, the fines plus interest and penalties have not been paid. The total amount now delinquent equals \$45,875.00. Staff has made repeated attempts to collect the fines without success.

If the resolution is approved, these fine amounts will be levied as Special Assessments against the properties as listed. Once certified, the fines will be reported to the Orange County Tax Assessor for inclusion on the property tax bills as Special Assessments.

A Public Hearing is required prior to adoption of the resolution certifying the Special Assessments to the Orange County Assessor for inclusion on the Tax Roll. Each of the property owners listed in Attachment 1 have received certified letters notifying them of the proposed Special Assessment against their property for delinquent Civil Citations and the date and time of the public hearing.

Those property owners who so choose may appear before City Council at this public hearing and contest the amount and/or validity of any lien or assessment for a civil fine.

However, pursuant to Municipal Code Section 1-48(4), such contests shall be limited to the issue of the amount and/or validity of the lien or assessment (whether the civil citation can legally be added to the tax roll as a special assessment) and may not consider whether the underlying Code violation occurred.

Also, the legal notice advertising the public hearing which is required pursuant to the State Code has been published in the Daily Pilot.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Council may choose to reject the resolution and direct staff to proceed to collect delinquent civil citations through the collection agency currently used by the City. However, this would severely reduce the maximum amount that could be collected by the City. No further alternatives were considered.

FISCAL REVIEW

By certifying the Special Assessments to the Orange County Assessor for inclusion on the Property Tax Roll, the City will collect approximately \$34,406.00, 75% of the total amount due of \$45.875.00.

LEGAL REVIEW

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the attached resolution as to form.

CONCLUSION:

By adopting the attached resolution, the City will be able to collect approximately 75% of the delinquent receivables for Civil Citations less the County's Property Tax Administrative Fee. Therefore, adoption of the attached resolution certifying the Special Assessments to the Orange County Assessor for inclusion on the Property Tax Roll is recommended.

THOMAS DUARTE City Attorney

Attachment 1: 2012 Civil Citation Special Assessment List

Attachment 2: Resolution Certifying Special Assessments for Collecting Delinquent Fines

Violation Address	Parcel Number	Mailing Address	SS		Customer Name	e Invoice Invoice Amount Number	ce Invoice er Type
2264 Pomona Ave 2264 Pomona Ave 2264 Pomona Ave 2264 Pomona Ave	422-374-02	P O Box 4236 P O Box 4236 P O Box 4236 P O Box 4236	Costa Mesa Costa Mesa Costa Mesa Costa Mesa	CA 92628 CA 92628 CA 92628 CA 92628	28 Jeffrey Chapman 28 Jeffrey Chapman 28 Jeffrey Chapman 28 Jeffrey Chapman	475.00 CITY58221 625.00 CITY58540 1,025.00 CITY58775 1,025.00 CITY59069	221 CVC 540 CVC 775 CVC 069 CVC
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3036 Killybrooke Ln	141-163-05	141~163-05 800 State Highway #121	Lewisville	TX 75067-4180	Bank Lasalle National Association Trust	325.00	CITY58541	S
3036 Killybrooke Ln		800 State Highway #121	Lewisville	75067-4180	Bank Lasalle National Association Trust	625.00	CITY58787	SS
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RESOLUTION NO. 12-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, CERTIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR COLLECTING DELINQUENT CIVIL FINES FOR MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted Chapter II of Title 1 of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code, which authorizes the issuance of civil citations that impose fines upon persons who violate the Municipal Code of the City of Costa Mesa; and

WHEREAS, certain civil citations have been issued and the civil fines imposed thereby have not been paid by the responsible persons who committed the Municipal Code violations; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 38773.5 authorizes the City of Costa Mesa to collect delinquent fines, interest, and penalties as part of nuisance abatement procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to certify certain fines, interest, and penalties as delinquent and have them collected as special assessments against the real property involved,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa as follows:

- 1. The City Council held a public hearing on July 17, 2012, which was properly noticed as required by Government Code section 38773.5, for the purpose of certifying special assessments against properties where public nuisances have occurred.
- 2. The special assessments designated on Attachment 1, incorporated herein by this reference, are hereby certified as being delinquent civil fines, interest and penalties owing to the City of Costa Mesa and qualified for collection as special assessments under the Government Code.

- 3. The City Council orders that these delinquent fines, interest and penalties are to be collected as special assessments against the respective properties shown on Attachment 1 pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 38773.5.
- 4. Pursuant to such authority, the City Treasurer is directed to take the requisite steps for recording notice of such assessments against the respective properties in the property records of the County of Orange and for obtaining the collection of such assessments by the Tax Collector of the County of Orange.
- 5. The City Treasurer is also authorized to take the necessary steps to have releases filed with the County Recorder when any such special assessments have been paid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of July, 2012.

	Eric Bever, Mayor
ATTEST:	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Brenda Green, Interim City Clerk	Thomas Duarte, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)	
COUNTY OF ORANGE)	SS
CITY OF COSTA MESA	ĺ	

I, BRENDA GREEN, Interim City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is the original of Resolution No. 12- and was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of July, 2012, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this 18th day of July, 2012.

BRENDA GREEN, INTERIM CITY CLERK

(SEAL)