



## AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

**TITLE:** Transportation/Vehicle Allowance

**DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**PREPARED BY:** Pam Powell

**PRESENTED FOR:** Action       Information only       Discussion

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution of the City Council authorizing a Transportation/Vehicle Allowance for the Mayor and Council.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No Fiscal Impact       Included in Budget       Additional Appropriation

### **COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION**

### **DISCUSSION**

The City of Eureka provided elected officials with a vehicle allowance until 2005 when AB 1234 was approved by State Legislators. Following the passage of Assembly Bill 1234 in 2005, which enacted Government Code sections 53202.3 and 53202.2, legal counsel advised that the payment of predetermined monthly car allowances may not be allowed. The statutes require receipts for expenses, a requirement that a car allowance is designed to make unnecessary. The Attorney General ruled in 2010 that such a practice is still permissible, because a car allowance is not, strictly speaking, a "reimbursement" for expenses since it is a fixed amount paid periodically, and likely in advance, pursuant to section 1223.

The Mayor and Council are required to attend many offsite meetings and events utilizing private transportation. The costs to attend these events can add up to a significant monthly cost. Council receives a monthly salary of \$500.00 and the Mayor receives \$600.00 set by the Charter. Staff recommends the re-implementation of a transportation/vehicle allowance equal to the amount currently paid to department directors and appointed staff. The dollar amount is currently set at \$350 per month.