



Date: August 11, 2008
To: State Legislation Committee *Stan*
From: *fr* Patrick H. West, City Manager
Subject: **Publishing Legal Notices- Newspapers of General Circulation**

Recently there have been questions regarding state law and which entities are eligible for city advertising monies. This memorandum describes the City's requirements for publication of legal notices, along with the state law definition of "newspaper of general circulation."

The great majority of our notices are found in two categories: notices of bids for services, supplies, etc., and notices of public hearings with regard to zoning matters.

Charter Section 1801 requires that notices of bids for services and supplies be published in a "daily newspaper of general circulation in the City." Long Beach Municipal Code Section 21.21.302 requires that notices of hearings on zoning matters be published in "at least one newspaper of general circulation in the City."

State law provides two methods of determining whether a newspaper is one of general circulation. The first category applies to newspapers which are printed within the City. Government Code Section 6000 provides:

"A 'newspaper of general circulation' is a newspaper published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character, which has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and has been established, printed and published at regular intervals in the State, county, or city where publication, notice by publication, or official advertising is to be given or made for at least one year preceding the date of the publication, notice or advertisement."

The second category applies to newspapers that are not printed within the City. Section 6008 provides that "newspapers of general circulation" must meet the following criteria:

"(a) It is a newspaper published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character, which has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers and has been established and published at regular intervals of not less than weekly in the city, district, or judicial district for which it is seeking adjudication for at least three years preceding the date of adjudication.

(b) It has a substantial distribution to paid subscribers in the city, district, or judicial district in which it is seeking adjudication.

(c) It has maintained a minimum coverage of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character of not less than 25 percent of its total inches during each year of the three-year period.

(d) It has only one principal office of publication and that office is in the city, district, or judicial district for which it is seeking adjudication.”

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs, at 570-5091.

CC: Mayor and Members of the City Council
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