



Date: December 2, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council

From: Suzie Price, Councilwoman, Third District ^{SP}
Dee Andrews, Councilmember, Sixth District ^{DA}
Rex Richardson, Councilmember, Ninth District ^{RR}

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Looping System in Public Facilities**

INTRODUCTION:

There are 48 million Americans that are hearing impaired including seniors, veterans, adults, and children. Hearing loss is a barrier to effective communication in daily life. Additionally, it is an invisible and silent disability that has serious impacts on overall health, well-being, and safety of those in our society that are unable to hear. There is a state of the art technology, known as a looping system, which is a wire that circles a room and is connected to a sound system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically directly into the hearing aid via the telecoils. The loop signal eliminates the background noise in the environment and allows the hearing impaired person to clearly hear. One of the major advantages of a looping system is that it is a universal technology and does not matter what brand hearing aid a person is wearing because the looping system works with all hearing aids with telecoils.

RECOMMENDATION

I am requesting the City Manager provide a report to the City Council within 60 days identifying the fiscal impact associated with installing a looping system in our public facilities such as the City Council Chambers, police stations, senior centers, and public libraries.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no significant fiscal impact for the delivery of the report. The report from the City Manager is required to determine the fiscal impact associated with installing a looping system in our public facilities.