RESOLUTION NO. 2020R-065

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CHINO HILLS PLACING A PROPOSITION ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 BALLOT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XIIIIC, § 2(B) OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION; ELECTIONS CODE § 9222; AND GOVERNMENT CODE §§ 53723 AND 53724 REGARDING TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES ("HOTEL TAXES")

WHEREAS, by keeping our city safe, clean, and well-maintained, updating the hotel tax—which is paid only by hotel/lodging guests—protects the quality of life and property values for local residents while keeping Chino Hills a special place to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Chino Hills City government has prided itself on being fiscally conservative and prudent, and updating its hotel tax will help maintain our City’s financial stability without raising property taxes, preserving vital city services that residents rely upon every day; and

WHEREAS, as the hotel tax is only paid by hotel/lodging guests and is not a tax on Chino Hills residents, it ensures out-of-town visitors to Chino Hills continue to pay their fair share for the use of City roads, public safety, and other City services; and

WHEREAS, additional revenue generated by this measure can fund general city services such as 911 emergency response, maintaining streets, repairing potholes, keeping public areas safe and clean, and helping the city’s long-term financial stability and ability to maintain a balanced city budget; and

WHEREAS, Chino Hills' excellent public safety services continue to contribute to the quality of life residents have come to expect and deserve, and public safety has consistently been a top priority for the City and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City will continue transparency provisions including annual audits, quarterly budget reviews, and public expenditure reports ensuring public funds are used efficiently, effectively and as promised to the community; and

WHEREAS, all revenues from this measure cannot be taken away by the County or the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHINO HILLS DOES RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to Article XIIIIC, § 2(b), of the California Constitution; Elections Code § 9222; and Government Code §§ 53723 and 53724, the City Council places a proposition ("Ordinance") on the ballot for a previously-called general municipal election to be held in the City of Chino Hills on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
SECTION 2: A copy of the Ordinance to be considered by the voters is attached as Exhibit "A," and is incorporated by reference. The Ordinance is approved by the City Council through adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 3: Pursuant to Elections Code §§ 9222 and 13119 the exact form of the question to be voted on at the election as it should appear on the ballot is as follows:

To fund essential Chino Hills City services including, without limitation, police, 911 emergency response, street maintenance, safe and clean parks and open spaces, retaining local businesses and jobs, and maintaining the City’s financial stability, shall an ordinance amending the City’s Municipal Code to revise the definition of “hotel” and to increase the rate of the transient occupancy tax (“hotel tax”) paid by hotel guests, from 10% to 12% (raising approximately $260,000.00 annually) be adopted?  

| Yes | No |

SECTION 4: In accordance with Government Code § 53724 this Resolution must be adopted upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote and will become effective immediately upon adoption.

SECTION 5: The City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Registrar of Voters of the County of San Bernardino.

SECTION 6: The City Clerk must certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution; enter the same in the book of original Resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2020.

[Signature]
Art Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Cheryl Balz, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Mark D. Hengley, City Attorney
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
CITY OF CHINO HILLS

I, CHERYL BALZ, City Clerk of the City of Chino Hills, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020R-065 was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City council of the City of Chino Hills held on the 14th day of July, 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: BENNETT, JOHSZ, MARQUEZ, MORAN, ROGERS

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Chino Hills, California, this 15th day of July, 2020.

CHERYL BALZ, CITY CLERK
EXHIBIT A

BALLOT PROPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

ORDINANCE NO. _______

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHINO HILLS AMENDING CHAPTER 3.32 OF
THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF “HOTEL” FOR
PURPOSES OF THE TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX AND TO INCREASE THE
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX RATE TO 12% EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021
SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING ON
THE TAX MEASURE AT THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The People of the City of Chino Hills do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The voters of the City of Chino Hills hereby find and declare as
follows:

A. Pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code section 7280 et seq.,
the City of Chino Hills (“City”) has the authority to levy a transient occupancy tax (“TOT”)
upon the privilege of occupying a hotel, as defined in Section 3.32.020 of the Chino Hills
Municipal Code, for a period of 30 days or less.

B. The TOT is a general tax, which is deposited into the City’s general fund.
The general fund pays for essential City services such as police protection, emergency
preparedness, street maintenance, recreation services, maintenance of parks and open
space, maintenance of City buildings and facilities, improvements to and maintenance
of City infrastructure and property, and general municipal services.

C. The City of Chino Hills’ TOT rate is currently 10%. The City’s TOT rate is
relatively low compared to several nearby jurisdictions. For example, the cities of Los
Angeles and Diamond Bar impose TOT at the rate of 14%, Los Angeles County at 12%,
Riverside at 13%, and Ontario at 11.75%.

D. The City wishes to increase its TOT from the existing 10 percent to
12 percent effective January 1, 2021.

E. The City further wishes to amend the definition of “hotel” for purposes of
the transient occupancy tax ordinance to clarify that the transient occupancy tax applies
to the use of any residential dwelling, or portion thereof, for transient lodging purposes.

SECTION 2. The definition of “hotel” in Section 3.32.020 of the Chino Hills
Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:
“Hotel’ means any structure or facility, or any portion of any structure or facility, which is occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging or sleeping purposes, and includes any hotel, motel, inn, tourist home or house, studio hotel, bachelor hotel, lodging house, rooming house, apartment house, dormitory, public or private club, mobile home or house trailer at a fixed location, campground or other similar structure or facility, or portion thereof, wherein overnight accommodations are offered for hire. ‘Hotel’ also includes any residential dwelling, or portion thereof, that is offered or otherwise made available for transient lodging.”

SECTION 3. Section 3.32.030 of the Chino Hills Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

“3.32.030 – Tax imposed.

For the privilege of occupancy in any hotel, each transient is subject to and shall pay a tax in the amount of twelve (12) percent of the rent charged by the operator. The tax constitutes a debt owed by the transient to the city, which is extinguished only by payment to the operator or to the city. The transient shall pay the tax to the operator of the hotel at the time the rent is paid. If the rent is paid in installments, a proportionate share of the tax shall be paid with each installment. The unpaid tax shall be due upon the transient’s ceasing to occupy space in the hotel. If for any reason the tax due is not paid to the operator of the hotel, the tax administrator may require that such tax shall be paid directly to the tax administrator.”

SECTION 4. CEQA. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(4), this Proposition does not constitute a “project” for purposes of CEQA because it involves the creation of a government funding mechanism which does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 5. Interpretation. This Proposition must be interpreted to be consistent with all Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part, or portion of this Proposition is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Proposition. The People declare that this Proposition, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part, or portion thereof, would have been adopted or passed irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, part, or portion is found to be invalid. If any provision of this Proposition is held invalid as applied to any person or circumstance, such invalidity does not affect any application of this Proposition that can be given effect without the invalid application.
SECTION 6. Construction. This Proposition must be broadly construed to achieve the purposes stated in this Proposition. It is the People's intent that the provisions of this Proposition be interpreted or implemented by the City and others in a manner that facilitates the purposes set forth in this Proposition.

SECTION 7. Validity of Previous Code Sections. If this entire Proposition or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, any repeal or amendment of the Chino Hills Municipal Code or other City ordinance implemented by this Proposition will be rendered void and cause such previous Municipal Code provision or other City ordinance to remain in full force and effect for all purposes.

SECTION 8. Severability. If any portion of this Proposition is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of the Proposition and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances will not be affected thereby. We the People indicate our strong desire that: (i) the City Council use its best efforts to sustain and reenact that portion, and (ii) the City Council implement this Proposition by taking all steps possible to cure any inadequacies or deficiencies identified by the court in a manner consistent with the express and implied intent of this Proposition, and then adopting or reenacting such portion as necessary or desirable to allow its implementation.

SECTION 9. Effective Date. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall enter the same in the book of original Ordinances of the City. This Ordinance shall be considered adopted and shall go into effect ten (10) days after the date that the City Council certifies the election results in accordance with Elections Code § 9217. The Mayor will sign this Ordinance and the City Clerk will attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance.

ADOPTED by the People of the City of Chino Hills this _____ of __________, 2020.

______________________________
Art Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

______________________________
Cheryl Balz, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

______________________________
Mark D. Hensley, City Attorney

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I, CHERYL BALZ, City Clerk of the City of Chino Hills, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that Ordinance No. xxx was adopted on ______, 2020, as a result of the approval by a sufficient number of affirmative votes of the Transient Occupancy Tax at a General Municipal Election held November 3, 2020, by the People of the City of Chino Hills.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Chino Hills, California, this ____ day of ________, 2020.

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CHERYL BALZ, CITY CLERK