



Community Academy
City Council & Elections 101

Speakers: Christine Dietrick, Teresa Purrington,





Michelle Shoresman

Council Member



Agenda

- Clerk's Office & City Elections 101
- Attorney's Office & Public Records
- Break
- Mock Council Exercise
- Wrap-up



Teresa Purrington City Clerk



Department Overview – Services Provided



- **Council Meeting Agenda Management**

- 31 City Council meetings a year
- Process 259 Council Agenda Reports a year



- **Administrative Support**

- Mayor, Council Members and City Manager

- **Advisory Body Recruitment and Training**

- 19 Advisory Bodies
- Agenda Management for 6 Advisory Bodies



Department Overview – Services Provided

- **Records Management**
- **Public Records Requests**
 - 334 (avg) Individual Requests a year
- **Conflict of Interest Filings**
 - 125 Annual filers
- **Elections Administration**



Official City Seal



City Elections 101



Key Election Topics

- Every 2 years - 3 seats up for election
 - 1 Mayor (2-year term)
 - 2 City Council Members (4-year term)
- 2024 Election
 - Mayor Erica A. Stewart
 - Council Member Pease (termed out)
 - Council Member Marx
- Term limits – 8 years



Key Election Topics

- **Candidate Eligibility**
 - Registered voter and resident of City of San Luis Obispo
 - Must continue to reside in the City during their term of office
- **2024 Election Nomination Period**
 - July 15, 2024– August 9, 2024
 - Must collect not less than 20 or more than 30 signatures
- **Candidate Handbook available online**



How to Contact Us

- **Contact**
 - Teresa Purrington, tpurrington@slocity.org
 - City Clerk office, cityclerk@slocity.org
 - 805-781-7100

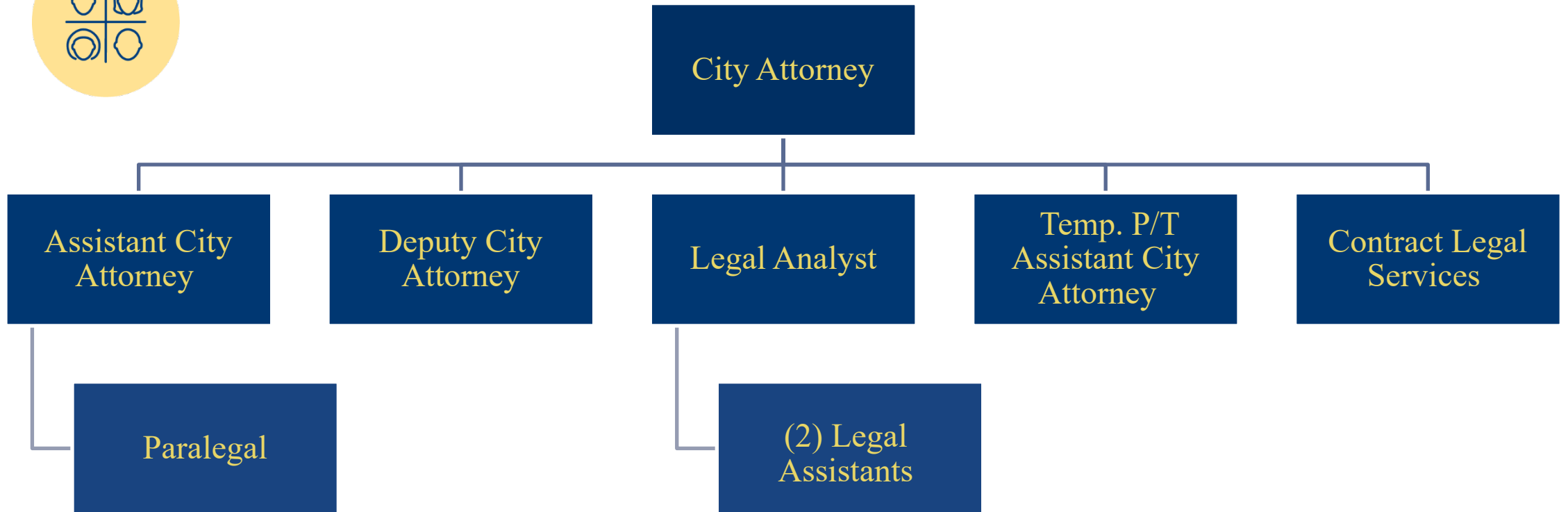
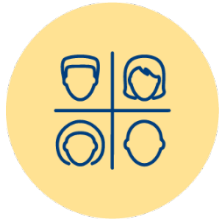


An aerial photograph of San Luis Obispo, California, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings with red-tiled roofs, surrounded by lush green trees. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky. Two flagpoles with the American flag and the City of San Luis Obispo flag are prominent in the foreground.

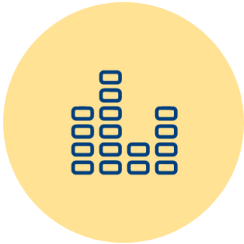
Christine Dietrick City Attorney



Attorney Office Overview



City Attorney Office - Key Functions



- Primary legal advisors to the City Council and Planning Commission; provide legal support to all advisory bodies.
- Participate as part of the City's executive team and provide legal advice and support to all City Departments and staff, as needed.
- Draft/review ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and review all staff reports.
- Coordinate the administrative citation appeals process and retain and oversee volunteer hearing officers
- Represent and provide legal advice to the City as an institution, not individual residents, City officials, or employees.



Top Issues in Department



Claims and Litigation

Representing the City in current litigation matters:

- *Wichman v. City* (Federal complaint filed by family of shooter; murder of Officer Benedetti; injury of Officer Orozco)
- *Kyle v. City* (personnel dispute)
- *Zwarg v. City* (alleged excessive use of force)
- *Andrews v. City* (property damage following failure of retaining wall)
- *Schryver v. Downtown Assoc.* (trip and fall at an event in Mission Plaza)
- *Kepler v. City* (trip and fall while crossing Osos St.)
- *Littlejohn v. City* (dispute of code enforcement action and its effect on sale price of property)
- *Rushing v. City* (trip and fall on Monterey St.)
- *Rotondo v. City* (vehicle collision with City driver)
- *Fernandez v. City* (trip and fall on turf at Sinsheimer Park)
- *Kooi v. City* (heirs of bicyclist struck and killed on Foothill)
- *Lloyd v. City* (trip and fall near Devaul Ranch Park)
- *Young v. City* (pedestrian injury on private property near City sidewalk)
- *Arseneau v. City* (3-vehicle collision including a City driver)
- *Hitchen v. City* (bicyclist fall while riding over bumpy street)
- *Ferris v. City* (writ and trial de novo re creek regulations)
- *Johnson v. City* (vehicle damaged while driving through construction zone)
- *Fromme v. City* (vehicle damaged by driving into closed gate, Laguna Lake)



Filing for and monitoring Receiverships for properties with health & safety concerns

- *City of SLO v. Sievers* (48 Prado)

Prosecution of criminal violation of City Municipal Code (community impact issues)

- In 2023, 29 misdemeanor complaints, containing 247 citations, were scheduled for hearing.

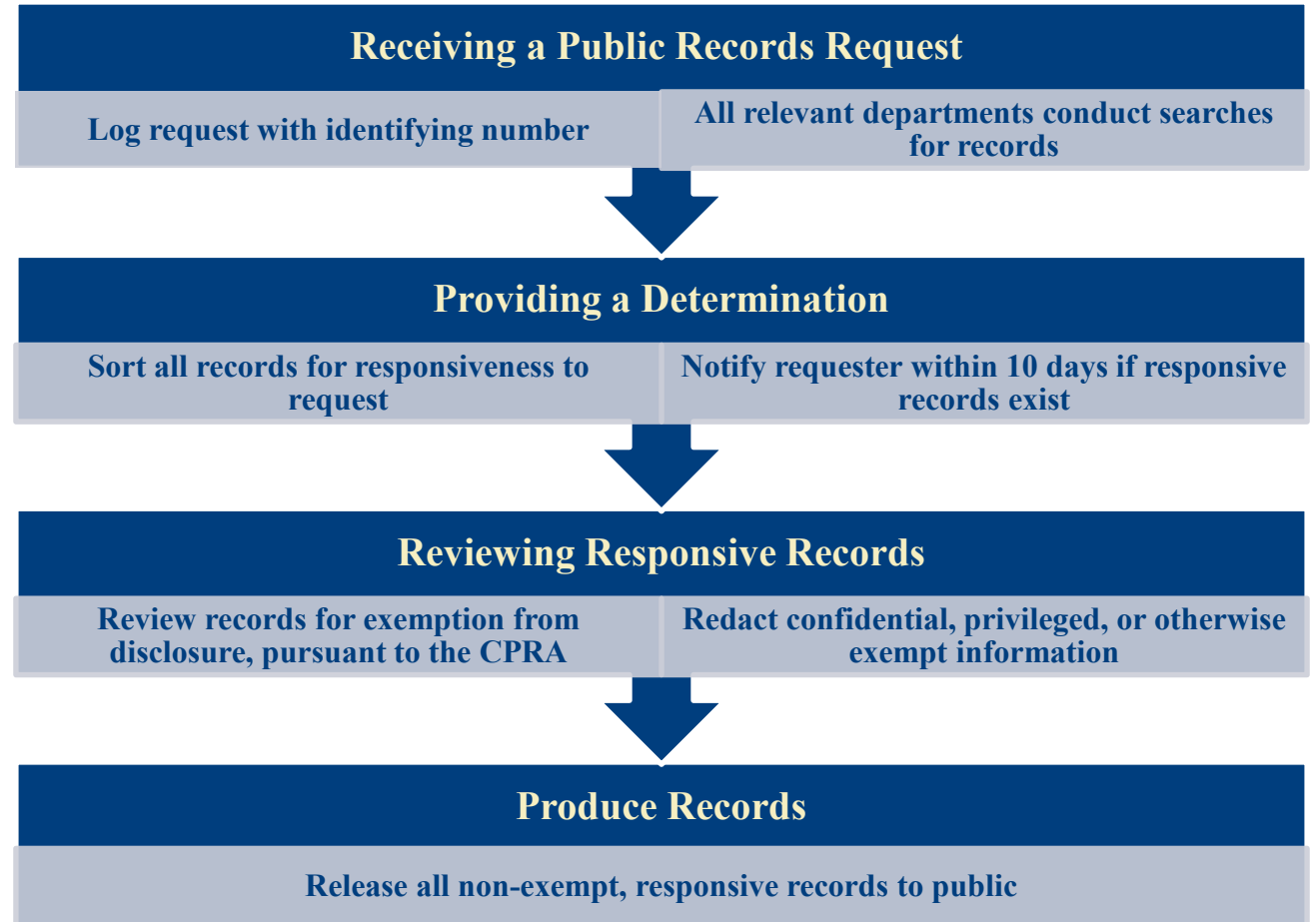


Public Records



Public Records Process

The California Public Records Act, passed in 1968, requires government agencies to disclose government records to the public, upon request, unless there is a privacy or public safety exemption preventing its release. **This Act safeguards the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business, while balancing the public interest in an efficient and effective government.**



Public Records Overview

Every person has the right to request public records.

- There is no required method to request records from a government agency
- Requests can be made in writing or orally, in person, or via email, phone, or via the City website request portal.

2023

City received over **360 requests**

Produced more than **58,000 pages** of records

Conservative estimate:
For every page produced, *at least 20* were reviewed for responsiveness and exemptions

2024
as of 2/27/24

City received over **55 requests**

Produced more than **14,000 pages** of records

Initial Search Results:
Not every request includes email but when they do, the volume can be massive – thousands of emails plus attachments
Current high count for 2024: 10,752 emails



How to Contact Us



(805) 781-7140



attorney@slocity.org



<https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/city-attorney>



Questions and Answers



Mock Council Roles



Community Academy Reminders

- Final Session: Monday, April 15
- Please fill out evaluation (to be sent after meeting)
- Ranger Hike re-scheduled for this Saturday

