SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLING A MOSAIC SIGN ABOVE THE CITY SEAL INDICATING “IN GOD WE TRUST”

SOURCE: CITY MANAGER

A Member of the City Council has requested that the City install a sign approximately 1 foot by 4 feet above the current City Seal in the Council Chambers indicating “In God We Trust”.

The proposal would be to prepare the sign in mosaic similar to the material in the City Seal.

The City Attorney has indicated that there should not be an issue of separation of church and state, since the statement is the National motto. The Attorney is researching whether there may be a proprietary issue with the Federal Government and none has been found at the time of this report’s preparation.

If direction is given for the installation, the cost would be limited to the Manager’s purchasing authority of less than $500, though there would be an opportunity for private donations to cover any cost of $500 or more.

The City staff has attempted to find a provider for the sign and none has been located. If one cannot be found to prepare the sign within a month, the Manager requests the option of having it prepared in gold leaf on oak or walnut.

REQUEST

The request is to direct the City Manager to have prepared a “In God We Trust” in mosaic (alternately in gold leaf on oak or walnut) in a size of approximately 1 foot by 4 feet and to install it above the City Seal for a cost to the City of Porterville of less than $500 and with installation to be within 60 days.