CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

July 21, 2020

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Summary of Committee Recommendations

1. Mayoral Vote
2. Election for Council office vacancy with more than one year remaining on the term.
3. Consolidate Mayor and City Council election dates with statewide elections
4. City Council submit all proposed City Charter amendments to a Charter Review Committee.
5. City Council to publish an annual report of investigations of material written complaints or whistle-blower complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or criminal conduct.
6. "Clean-up" items

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Mayoral Vote

Amend **to give the Mayor a vote on all matters requiring action before the City Council**, change the definition of "City Council" to be seven Councilmembers and the Mayor, **eliminate the Mayor's veto and tie-breaking vote**, and **to increase by one vote the required number of votes** to set City Council compensation by ordinance, to adopt an ordinance or resolution, to adopt an emergency ordinance or resolution, to remove members of Boards and Commissions from their office, and to waive competitive bidding requirements for certain public works contracts?

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Elections for Elected Office Vacancies

Amend to require the City Council **to appoint to fill a vacancy in elected office with up to one year** remaining on the term, **to call a special election to fill a vacancy with over one year remaining on the term**, to call a special run-off election when no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the vacant office, and **to prohibit appointed officials from referencing "incumbent, "member of the City Council", or other designation indicating incumbency** in a future election for the same seat?

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Consolidate local election dates with statewide elections

Amend to **consolidate Mayor elections with the statewide primary and general election, consolidate City Council elections beginning in 2022 with the statewide primary and general election**, consolidate Mayor and City Council runoff elections with the statewide general election, provide an exception to allow Wards 2, 4, and 6 runoff elections on November 2, 2021 before transitioning to the statewide general election, and delete Charter subsections 400(f), 400(g), and 400(h) as obsolete; and **specify that City Council members are nominated by their ward voters**?

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All proposed City Charter amendments submitted to Charter Review Committee

Amend to require the City Council to **submit any proposed City Charter amendment, except those proposed by voter initiative, to the Charter Review Committee for recommendation** before the City Council places the Charter amendment proposal on a ballot

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Annual Report Of Whistleblower Complaints

Amend to require the City Council to publish an annual report specifying the nature of any material written complaints or **whistle-blower complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or criminal conduct**, the **outcome of the City's investigation** of substantiated claims or complaints, and the **annual budget** (including internal costs) for such investigations

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"Clean-Up Items"

1. Eliminate the requirement that the **adopted budget be placed in all public librarie**s in the City and **be** reproduced and copies made available for the use of departments, offices, and agencies of the City **other than on the City website**
2. Clarify that "City Council approved" **capital projects** "and **funding**" shall **be exempt from lapsing at the end of each fiscal year**
3. Add the word "**transparent**" to the Charter preamble
4. Change **"citizen" with "person"** with respect to commenting at public meetings

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Recommendations

1. Adopt resolution proposing Charter amendments;

2. Adopt resolution calling a special election and placing the Charter amendments on the November 3, 2020, ballot; and

3. Determine if the Mayor and City Council wish to author ballot arguments.

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