



City of Arts & Innovation

Charter Review Committee Memorandum

TO: CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: CHARTER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

DATE: JUNE 10, 2019

WARDS: ALL

ISSUE:

Individual Charter Review Committee ("Committee") members and members of the public have proposed additions of boards or commissions to the City Charter. Information is provided regarding the boards and commissions that have been proposed. Staff is requesting that the Committee review the information provided and determine if the Committee desires to add any boards or commissions to the Charter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Charter Review Committee:

1. Review the information provided regarding boards and commissions proposed by Committee members and members of the public; and
2. Determine whether to propose the addition of any board or commission to the Charter.

BACKGROUND:

At multiple Charter Review Committee meetings, both individual Committee members and members of the public have proposed the addition of a board or commission to the City Charter. At the direction of the Committee chair and vice-chair, staff has prepared a list of proposed boards and commissions and a short summary of applicable law governing the creation of such boards and commissions.

The following boards and/or commissions (both "new" boards/commissions that currently do not exist, and "already-existing" boards/commissions that are non-Charter bodies) have been proposed as Charter additions:

1. Housing Commission (new).
2. Civil Rights Commission (new).
3. Homelessness Commission (new).
4. Sustainability Commission (new).
5. Neighborhood Councils (new).
6. Budget Engagement Commission (already-existing).

The following is a summary of State and local laws regarding boards and commissions.

State Law does not restrict the City Council from creating boards or commissions. The City

Council has broad authority to appoint boards and commissions as part of its governance, subject to any restrictions of the City Charter. State law does not require the City to create any board or commission. State law requires every City to have a “planning agency,” but the City Council is not required to create a planning commission to act as the planning agency (Cal. Govt. C. § 65100).

The Riverside City Charter explicitly grants the City Council, by ordinance, to “abolish, consolidate, modify or separate any . . . board, commission or committee . . .” (City Charter § 701).

If the Committee wishes to add a new board or commission to the Charter, staff requests that the Committee provide further direction as to the subject matter and duties of such body.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

Prepared by: Susan Wilson, Assistant City Attorney
Elliot Min, Deputy City Attorney

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney