

From: Chani Beeman [<mailto:ChaniBee@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Jack Clarke Jr.; Marsha McQuern
Cc: Nicol, Colleen; Wilson, Susan
Subject: Request for Consideration

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER.

Hi Jack and Marsha,

Please include the following amendment recommendations to a future meeting of the Charter Review Committee:

REDUCING CHARTER REVIEW PERIOD

Issue: The Charter should be amended to require a shorter period between Charter Committee reviews.

Position: A shorter period between Charter reviews would avoid the need to defer important amendments due to “ballot fatigue” and other matters not related to full consideration of necessary modification.

Recommendation: Amend the language of Section 1403 to require that in February every four years, the City Council shall appoint and appropriate adequate funds for a Charter Review Committee.

Proposed Language: “In February ~~2019~~ 2024, and in February every ~~eight~~ four years thereafter, the City Council Shall appoint and appropriate adequate funds for a Charter Review Committee.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Issue: The Charter should be amended to replace a potentially exclusionary term with inclusive language.

Position: Use of the term “citizen” implies legal residency in the city. The terms of the Charter include all community members regardless of citizenship status. For example, Section 411 states: “Each citizen shall have the right, personally or through counsel, to present comments at any regular meeting of the Council, or a Council standing or ad hoc committee, or offer suggestions with respect to municipal affairs.”

Recommendation: Amend the language of Section 1403 to require that in February every four years, the City Council shall appoint and appropriate adequate funds for a Charter Review Committee.

Proposed Language for example provided: “Each ~~citizen~~ *community member* shall have the right, personally or through counsel, to present comments at any regular meeting of the Council, or a Council standing or ad hoc committee, or offer suggestions with respect to municipal affairs.”

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you.

Chani

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