

Charter Review Ideas Log – Members of the Public

1	2/11/19	Kevin Dawson	Standing of private citizen to bring lawsuit to enforce Charter violation.	§ 1401
2	3/11/19	Joan Donahue	Vacancies on City Council—will submit ideas by Friday.	§ 404
3		Nanette Pratini	Change elections to Instant Run-off Voting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save money by not having to do run-off elections. • Voters have more choices. • Used by several cities in California, and the Academy Award. 	Art. V
4		Jennifer Blakely	Definitions of terms and phrases in Charter should be consistent and understood by everyone.	
5		Kevin Dawson	Public should be able to pull items from the consent calendar at Council meetings and place them on the discussion calendar.	§ 408
6			City contracts should be limited in duration.	§ 418
7			The Charter should clarify who enforces violations of the Charter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, if the City Attorney violates the Charter, the Charter should state who would enforce against such violation. 	§ 1401
8			There should be an elected City Auditor position.	Art. VII
9			If City Manager or department heads are found to have exceeded their spending authority, there should be punishment or requirement of automatic referral to law enforcement.	Arts. VI, XI; § 1401
10			The Charter should require elected officials who witness a City employee commit a crime to have mandatory reporting responsibilities.	Art. IV
11			Any elected official or management who is reported to have a relationship with City employee should be prohibited from participating in any HR matter with that person.	Art. XIV

12		Rico Aldarez	Tie Council pay to median income.	§ 403
13		Name unknown (via Kristina Zaragoza)	Cap on length of term of City contracts.	§ 418
14		Name unknown (via Kristina Zaragoza)	There should be an elected City Auditor.	Art. VII
15		Name unknown (via Kristina Zaragoza)	Please do not add “Sanctuary City” to the City Charter.	
16		Harry Sonke	Make City Council member positions part-time.	Art. IV
17	4/8/19	Joan Donahue, on behalf of the League of Women Voters Riverside	<p>Sec. 404. Vacancies.</p> <p>A vacancy in an elective office, from whatever cause arising, except in the event of a successful recall, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council, such appointee to hold office until the first Tuesday following the next general municipal election and until his successor qualifies. At the next general municipal election following any vacancy, a successor shall be elected to serve for the remainder of any unexpired term. shall be filled by a special election in the ward from which such member was elected.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The City Council shall declare the existence of any vacancy in the event it shall fail to fill a vacancy by appointment within sixty days after such office shall have been so declared vacant, it shall cause an election to be held forthwith to fill such vacancy. and the following procedures shall apply:</p> <p>(1) If the vacancy occurs with one year or less remaining in the term, the Council may appoint a person to fill the vacant office within 30 days of the office being vacated. Any person appointed by the Council to fill a vacant office shall not be designated on any ballot or voter pamphlet as an incumbent, a</p>	

			<p>member of the City Council, or other designation indicating incumbency for purposes of the next election for members of the City Council.</p> <p>a. In the event it shall fail to fill a vacancy by appointment within sixty days after such office shall have been so declared vacant, it shall cause an election to be held forthwith to fill such vacancy.</p> <p>(2) If the vacancy occurs with more than one year remaining in the term, the Council shall call a special election to be held within 120 days of the vacancy, unless there is a general election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy. If there is a general election scheduled to be held within 180 days of the vacancy, the Council may consolidate the special election with that election. The candidate receiving the greatest votes in said election shall be elected to fill said office.</p>	
18		Michael Yonezawa	There should be a Commission on Homelessness similar to the Commission on Aging and Disability.	Art. VIII
19	4/15/19	Jason Hunter	<p>Imperative to think about City's incurred debt and unfunded pension liability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put some controls on City Council, particularly with respect to revenue bonds in § 1108(c). 	§ 1108
20			<p>Please examine RPU general fund transfer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please examine the definition of "gross operating revenues" within the general fund transfer. 	§ 1204
21			Members of the Board of Public Utilities should be elected.	§ 1200
22			Elected City Auditor.	Art. VII
23	5/13/19		The Charter clearly already indicates that the Mayor can veto any formal action of the City Council; the Charter need not be amended to express this point.	§§ 405, 413

24		Esther Pulair	The Charter should include a Commission/Board which addresses Sustainability issues, including environmental and human rights sustainability.	Art. VIII
25		Kevin Dawson	The Charter should include a mechanism by which a private citizen can bring an action against a City employee for violating the Charter.	§ 1401
26		Kyle Sweeney	The Charter should require “Rank Choice” Voting.	Art. V
27		Jeremy Greeney	Should the Charter be amended to require City to comply with enforcement ordinances (e.g. R.M.C. Title 9 - Peace, Safety, and Morals)?	§ 702
28	7/8/19	Jason Hunter	The Charter Officers (City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk) must be subject to the City’s Code of Ethics and Conduct.	§ 202
29		Kevin Dawson	The Charter Officers (City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk) must be subject to the City’s Code of Ethics and Conduct.	§ 202
30		Kevin Dawson	There should be an addition to the “City Attorney” section of the Charter that “All contracts shall be explicitly written”, and that invoices submitted by a contractor on an oral contract cannot be paid (i.e., oral contracts are non-enforceable).	§ 702
31		Jason Hunter	The definition of the phrase “gross operating revenues” should be specified to mean “retail revenues from RPU service customers”, and should not include “wholesale revenues”.	§§ 1204(f), 1204.1
32			We need to look at inserting Charter language regarding long-term City contracts (e.g., Water contracts, revenue bonds, 55 year leases at the Food Lab, etc.)	§ 418
33	8/12/19	Scott Andrews	<p>The procedure for filling a Council vacancy should be clarified; the Charter should also include a clause which evinces legislative intent behind the amendment, which would further elucidate the correct procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Councilmember Adams was appointed, there was confusion regarding the language of § 404. 	§ 404

34			The Mayor's veto power should be clarified.	§§ 405, 413
35			<p>The Charter should be amended so that there are 3 elections in every four-year cycle, instead of 2 elections (i.e., instead of there being two elections for 3 and 4 councilmembers, respectively, every four years, there should be 3 elections for 2, and 2, and 3 councilmembers, respectively).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would prevent the 4-councilmember election which could result in change to a majority of the City Council (4 of 7). 	Art. V; §§ 500, 502
36			The Charter should include a provision which states that only the City Clerk may receive a complaint for the Community Police Review Commission.	§ 810
37	11/18/19	Mr. Teneja	Mayor should maintain veto power.	§ 413
38			The City Council position should be a full-time position.	§ 400
39			If the City Council position is full-time, then the City Manager position is not required and should be eliminated.	Art. VI;
40		Rich Gardner	<p>Mayor should not have a vote (i.e., Charter should not be amended in this regard).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Mayor has a vote, then the ward in which Mayor resides effectively has two votes. 	§ 405
41		Jason Hunter	There needs to be an elected (not appointed) City Auditor.	Art. VII
42		Jason Hunter	<p>Amend § 1204(f) to read:</p> <p>For the annual payment by each utility into the general fund in twelve equal monthly installments during each fiscal year, an amount not to exceed 11.5 percent of the gross <u>retail</u> operating revenues <u>of customers of Riverside</u>, exclusive of surcharges, of each specific utility for the last fiscal year ended and reported upon by independent public auditors. <u>This provision is retroactive for the last 7 years.</u></p>	§ 1204(f)

43	12/9/19	Aurora Chavez	The Charter should grant the Mayor the ability to pull an item from a City Council meeting agenda with cause for clarification and discussion on the effects on Riverside.	§ 405
44			The Charter should allow for “rebuttal time” at City Council meetings for individuals who wish to rebut “new” information brought forth by City staff at the request of the Mayor or City Council.	§ 408
45		Kevin Dawson	The Charter should require the City Manager, the City Attorney, and City Clerk to take an oath of office, renew that oath annually, and the oath should be administered by a local judge.	Arts. VI, VII; §§ 600, 702, 703
46		Jason Hunter	<p>Section 1206 should be added to the Charter as follows:</p> <p><u>“Section 1206 – Definitions</u></p> <p><u>“Gross operating revenue”, as to Article XII, is limited to retail receipts of Riverside electric and water customers.</u></p> <p><u>“Services”, as to Article XII, are in the nature of advertising, cleaning, gardening, insurance, janitorial, leasing of goods, membership, postal, printing, security, subscriptions, travel, utilities (electric, gas, telegraph, telephone, transportation and water), weeding and discing, and the repairing, maintaining or servicing of goods, but does not include professional services, real property transactions, construction, design-build, nor employment and collective bargaining contracts.”</u></p>	Art. XII
47			<p>Section 202 of the Charter should be amended as follows:</p> <p>“Sec. 202. Adoption of ethics code.</p> <p>The City of Riverside shall adopt a Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions, and committees to assure public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective and fair operation. The City Council shall adopt the Code of Ethics and Conduct by ordinance or resolution within six</p>	§ 202

			months of the effective date of this charter. <u>All employees of the City are required to report known violation of the City Charter, ordinances, resolutions, or policy.</u>	
48			<p>Section 1108, subsection (c), of the Charter should be amended as follows:</p> <p>“(c) The City Council by procedural ordinance or pursuant to State law, after a public hearing, notice of which has been given by publication at least fifteen days prior to such hearing, may issue revenue bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness without an election for any City purpose or purposes, and, any other provisions of this Charter notwithstanding, may make such covenants and exercise such powers as are deemed necessary in connection with the issuance and sale of such revenue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness. All obligations of the City within the term of 5 to 10 years shall require a 2/3s vote of the City Council; all obligations of the City beyond ten years shall require affirmative votes of two-thirds of the electors voting on such proposition at any election at which the question is submitted to the electors.”</p>	§ 1108(c)
49	1/13/20	Jason Hunter	<p>Section 202 of the Charter should be amended as follows:</p> <p>“Sec. 202. Adoption of ethics code. The City of Riverside shall adopt a Code of Ethics and Conduct for elected officials and members of appointed boards, commissions, and committees to assure public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective and fair operation. The City Council shall adopt the Code of Ethics and Conduct by ordinance or resolution within six months of the effective date of this charter. <i>The City shall adopt whistleblower protections and reporting procedures. All employees of the City are required to report known violations of the City Charter, ordinances, resolutions, or policies within 30 days.</i></p>	§ 202
50			Section 1108, subsection (c), of the Charter should be amended as follows:	§ 1108(c)

			<p>“(c) The City Council by procedural ordinance or pursuant to State law, after a public hearing, notice of which has been given by publication at least fifteen days prior to such hearing, may issue revenue bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness without an election for any City purpose or purposes, and, any other provisions of this Charter notwithstanding, may make such covenants and exercise such powers as are deemed necessary in connection with the issuance and sale of such revenue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness. <u>All obligations and contracts of the City between the term of 5 to 10 years shall require a 2/3s vote of the City Council; all obligations and contracts of the City beyond ten years shall require affirmative votes of two-thirds of the electors voting on such proposition at any election at which the question is submitted to the electors.</u>”</p>	
51		Kevin Dawson	The Charter should be amended to require that all City contracts be in writing.	§ 418
52	02/10/20	Kevin Dawson	The Charter should be amended to preclude items over a certain dollar threshold from being placed on the City Council meeting consent calendar.	§ 408