

Background and Purpose of the 2016-2017 Charter Review Commission

The City's Charter is the constitution of the City of San Antonio. In 1951, the City of San Antonio adopted its current Charter and became a Council-Manager form of government. The current Charter was written by an elected Charter Commission chaired by Walter W. McAllister. Our Charter has been amended nine times since then, most recently in May of 2015.

A Charter Review Commission was authorized by an ordinance passed by the City Council in 2014 to study and make recommendations regarding provisions that were in conflict with current state law, did not reflect current practices, or were outdated and obsolete. The Commission was authorized to consider other matters, time permitting. The Mayor was authorized to make appointments to the Commission, without further action by the Council.

The current 2016-2017 Charter Review Commission was convened on December 13, 2016, for a briefing on roles and responsibilities and possible Charter amendments as requested by members of the Council through City Council Consideration Requests.

On May 15, 2017, the Commission met to develop a calendar for three public hearings in May and June of 2017 to obtain citizen input, as well as to schedule regular Commission meetings. Upon conclusion of the hearings, the Commission shall establish committees to vet the citizen input, CCR requests, and develop their proposals for Council consideration. The Commission will bring its final recommendations to the full Council in August, to be placed on a ballot for a November 7, 2017 election if so ordered by the Council.

A copy of the current charter is attached, below, and may be accessed through this link: https://www.municode.com/library/tx/san_antonio/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH