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**Agenda
Charter Review Commission**

**City Hall
Media Briefing Room
December 18, 2014**

1:30 PM

A MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WILL BE HELD ON **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014, AT 1:30 P.M.** IN THE MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL, 100 MILITARY PLAZA, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 78205 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Charge to Commission, by Mayor Ivy Taylor
2. May 2015 Charter amendment election calendar
3. Review of Suggested Charter Amendments
4. Topic/Area Committees
5. Adjournment

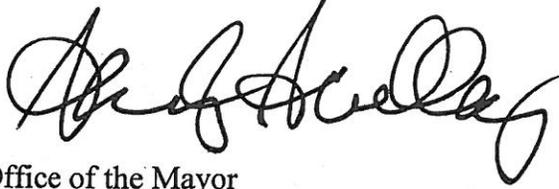
At any time during the Charter Review Commission Meeting, the commission may meet in executive session regarding any of the matters posted above in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT

CITY HALL, 100 Military Plaza, is wheelchair accessible. Accessible entry ramp on west side of building. Accessible visitor parking on north side of building. Auxiliary aids and services, including Deaf interpreters, must be requested forty-eight [48] hours prior to the meeting. For assistance, call (210) 207-7268 or 711 Texas Relay Service for the Deaf.

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Interdepartmental Correspondence

TO: Mayor Ivy R. Taylor

FROM: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager 

COPY: Jill De Young, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Leilah Powell, Chief of Policy, Office of the Mayor
Charter Review Commission

SUBJECT: Charter Review Commission - Department Input

DATE: December 17, 2014

As part of the Charter Review process, I requested that departments provide input on outdated Charter language and contradictory clauses specific to their department operations. Additionally, a matrix is attached which illustrates City Council Terms and Compensation for Council-Manager Cities within Texas and comparative cities in the United States.

Below is a summary listing of items for consideration in revising the City Charter.

Governance

1. Increase Council compensation. Consider amending Section 6 and Section 9 of the Charter to provide for compensation for the Mayor and City Council more in line with Council pay of comparable cities as shown on the attached chart. Today, the San Antonio City Council receives \$1,040 and the Mayor receives \$4,040, per year.
2. Provide for a special election to fill the mid-term vacancy in the office of mayor. Currently, if a mayoral vacancy occurs mid-term, the remaining Council members select from among themselves a new mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term. Consider amending Section 8 to provide a different process to fill a mid-term vacancy in the office of the Mayor.
3. Consider two-four year terms vs. four-two year terms.
4. Stagger terms of office. Staggering terms of office between even and odd districts, with alternating elections every two years.

Finance

The Budget and Finance Departments have identified several provisions that are outdated, or terminology or practice has changed since their adoption. These provisions would include: preparation and adoption of the budget, appropriation of excess revenue, funds drawn from treasury in accordance with appropriations, tax rate, penalty for collections costs, borrowing in anticipation of property taxes and borrowing in anticipation of other revenues.

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Administrative Service

Public health department - Director of public health; qualifications.

Current provision requires the director to be a licensed physician. State law provides that the director of public health be trained in public health administration, and that a director who is not a physician may appoint a physician to serve as the health authority. This amendment provides greater latitude in the hiring of the director of public health.

Civil Service

Prohibitions. Section 78 of the Charter prohibits certain political activities of employees. State law changed in 2013, prohibiting cities from terminating the employment of city employees when they file for local office, as long as the employee can faithfully perform their official duties.

Our current provisions now conflicting with state law will need to be revised.

Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI)

Edit to reflect the current department name, but also recognize that the department name may change again in the future. So, instead of changing the name to TCI, include "or successor department" after each reference to the department of public works. Also, some of the responsibilities listed no longer fall under the purview of the department and consideration of deleting those items.

General Provisions

City Charter predates the Texas Public Information Act. Amend City Charter to align with State law.

Charter Amendments. This provision contains typographical errors or is missing a phrase. Recommend amending to either add the missing phrase or revise to correct errors.

Municipal Judges (recommended by Presiding Judge John Bull)

Change to the residency/years of experience requirement for Municipal Judges. Currently, the Charter provides for 3 years City residency and no specific number of years legal experience. Recommend changing language to 1 year residency (it is 6 months for Justice of the Peace and 2 years for County Court at Law) and 4-years of experience as a practicing attorney (County Court at Law).

City Council Term and Compensation Comparison

| CITY | ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARY | TERM LIMIT | COUNCIL SIZE | SINGLE MEMBER OR AT LARGE DISTRICTS | MAYORAL VACANCY APPROACH | FULL TIME OR PART TIME COUNCIL |
|-----------------|---|--|---------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Fort Worth, TX | Mayor - \$29,000 Council - \$25,000 | No Term limits (2 Year Terms) Uniform Terms* | 9 | Single Member council with mayor at large | Special Election, unless less than 90 days prior to general election (council appointment) | Full Time |
| Austin, TX | Mayor - \$81,344 Council - \$69,885 | 2 Terms (4 Year Terms) Staggered Terms** | 11 | Single Member council with mayor at large | Special Election, unless less than 90 days prior general election | Full Time |
| San Jose, CA | Mayor - \$114,000 Council - \$89,000 | 2 Terms (4 Year Terms) Staggered Terms | 11 | Single Member council with mayor at large | City Council Choice of appointment or election | Full Time |
| Phoenix, AZ | Mayor - \$88,000 Council - \$61,610 | 2 Terms as Mayor 3 Council Terms (4 Year Terms) Staggered Terms | 9 | Single Member council with mayor at large | Special Election, unless less than 365 but not less than 90 days prior to mayoral election | Full Time |
| El Paso, TX | Mayor - \$42,000 Council - \$30,450 | 10 Years Total (4 Year Terms) Uniform Terms | 9 | Single Member council with mayor at large | Special Election | Part Time |
| Dallas, TX | Mayor - \$60,000 Council - \$37,500 | 4 Terms (2 Year Terms) Uniform Terms | 15 | Single Member council with mayor at large | Special Election, unless less than 120 days prior to general election | Full Time |
| Tacoma, WA | \$42,410 with 2.75% annual increase | 10 consecutive years (4 Year Terms) Staggered Terms | 9 | 5 Single Member; 3 at large; Mayor at large | Special Election, if vacancy is during year 1 or 2 of term, Appointment if vacancy in year 3 or 4 of term | Part Time |
| San Antonio, TX | Mayor - \$4,040 Council - \$1,040 | 4 Terms (2 Year Terms) Uniform Terms | 11 | Single Member council with mayor at large | City Council Appointment | Part Time |

*Uniform Terms: defined as Mayor and all City Council members elected every two years

** Staggered Terms: defined as even and odd numbered districts, with alternating elections every two years

Each City listed operates under a council-manager form of government

Source: www.pewtrusts.org; various city charters

Prepared by Office of the City Manager, December 12, 2014