

08.12.2019

19-0837 - Charter Review Committee

August 12 Meeting Minutes

To: Charter Review Committee

From: Emily Lapel,
Legislative Analyst

CC

Re: August 12
Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 3:00p

Attendance: CW Ortega, CM Flynn, CM Kashmann, CW Kniech, CW Sandoval, CW Gilmore, CW Black

Briefing from Kirsten Crawford: Peer Cities

- Reached out to contacts in various cities and organizations
- Colorado Springs, CO
 - Analogous to Denver because it was formed under the same constitutional measure as Denver
 - Talked to City Attorney – Wynetta Massey
 - Meeting with them on Thursday, August 15th to go over the history of organizational change
 - Changes happened in 2008/09 that made the city structure go from council/manager to council/mayor form of government
 - Additional changes occurred in 2012 to give council more authority
- International Municipal Lawyers Association
 - Talked to Executive Director, Chuck Thompson
 - Chuck Thompson is happy to be a resource and would like to schedule a phone call/conference call with committee to answer questions
 - Mentioned Jacksonville, FL and Tulsa, OK as other cities to look into
- Baltimore, MD
 - Made an organizational change to have legislative counsel move from City Attorney's Office into City Council Office
 - Solicitor of Baltimore feels that this was to the detriment of City Council as it siloed their Legislative Counsel
 - Kirsten will talk to more people in Baltimore to get a better understanding of the new dynamics
- Montgomery County, MD
 - Will do further research

Discussion on Peer City Briefing

- Request for research on structure of Philadelphia, PA and San Francisco, CA city structures
- Request for law review of other cities with strong-mayor form of government

Discussion of Charter Change Request Form

- Deadline for external agencies to submit ideas via Charter Change Request Form is September 23rd

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- External/Independent agencies include: Clerk and Recorder, Auditor, the Courts, INC, Fire and Police unions, and AFSCME
- Deadline for council offices to submit ideas is flexible
 - Have research requests to Emily by September 23rd
- Add to form the following questions:
 - “What is the problem you are trying to solve?”
 - “Is this the best way to solve this problem?”
- Be sure central staff tracks all requests
 - Central staff will work with Legislative Counsel on applicability of request to the Charter – is this best as a Charter change or DRMC change?
- Councilmembers should only submit 1 idea each to ensure central staff has the capacity to do quality research and evaluation
- External partners need to do their own research and complete the Charter Change Request Form

Discussion of Operations of Committee

- Charter Review Committee will be first round of vetting ideas and asking for revision and addressing concerns that councilmembers may have with proposed charter changes.
- These ideas will then go to FINGOV and then onto the dais
- Should committee be televised?
 - Will be discussed in Operations on Wednesday August 21
- Should central staff send out calendar invites to each councilmember for this committee?
 - Legislative staff stopped sending out calendar invitations for standing meetings since they notify council of meetings every Thursday
 - Will discuss further with central staff and Council President Clark.

Public Engagement

- Once ideas are ready to be discussed each meeting will have 15 minutes of public comment
- Need to figure out how to engage public further:
 - Once ideas are solid, take them on the road?
 - Host community meetings?
 - By district? By quadrant?
 - Who is responsible for organizing these events, paying for these events, and coordinating with the community?
 - Leg staff? Individual council offices?
 - What does this engagement timeline look like?