



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Charter Update: DEH

SAFEHOUSE Committee

August 9, 2017

FOR CITY SERVICES VISIT | CALL
DenverGov.org | **311**

- Department of Environmental Health was established via 1996 Charter amendment; effective Jan 1., 1997
 - Followed Colorado General Assembly’s creation of Denver Health and Hospital Authority (former Denver General Hospital and associated clinics) as an independent statutory entity/political subdivision of the state
 - Replaced former Department of Health & Hospitals and took similar duties

- DEH and DHHA split public health duties
 - DEH = regulatory like food safety inspections, animal control, coroner (medical examiner)
 - DHHA = services and medical advice like medical investigations of disease, immunization clinics, vital records
- DEH is designated as the official public health agency for the county
- Department also has a Board set in Charter to make rules and regulations, review decisions

Two Proposed Changes

- Change name of the department to Department of Public Health and Environment
- Increase size of the Board for the agency from 5 seats to 9
- NOTE: These changes will not add, remove or change any current powers or duties and are essentially clean-up or reflection of best practice

- Update name to Department of Public Health and Environment
 - Better aligns with other county public health entities and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 - Clearly identifies for the public and other partners which city agency addresses public health regulations
 - Better reflects the duties of the department
 - Ensures opportunities to pursue funding streams related to public health functions under our purview

- Changes the size of the department Board from 5 members to 9
 - Allows for diversity and a broader base of expertise and experience to address the broader range of issues the department now manages (e.g. marijuana, food producing animals, energy efficiency)
 - Aligns with other peer communities of our size
 - Addresses challenges with meeting quorum

“Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to change the name of the Department of Environmental Health to the Department of Public Health and Environment, and to increase the size of the Board of Public Health and Environment from five to nine members?”

- SAFEHOUSE: August 9
- Mayor-Council: August 15
- 1st Reading: August 21
- Final Reading/Referral: August 28th
- Election: November 7th