

## Memorandum

To: Job Nelson  
From: James Ingram  
Re: Charter Review in Future  
Date: September 20, 2007

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My original take on this matter was part of a Report to the full Committee, but it was not placed on the agenda because there were many other items to be deliberated. Just in case, I am reproducing the relevant portion of the original report below:

### *Original Presentation of Charter Review in Future*

The Subcommittee has recognized that the San Diego Charter Review Commission does not have the time to recommend all of the changes that the Charter may need. Consequently, the Subcommittee has recommended unanimously that the full Committee assemble a list of unresolved issues that it would recommend that some future charter review committee or commission examine. The Subcommittee already has a number of recommendations as to what should be on this list, based on some of the items that its members have voted to table.

The Subcommittee is beginning the list with its particular tabled items, and items that it deems important for future consideration, but would welcome other Subcommittees to add their deferred or tabled items to it. The Subcommittee has recommended that the full Committee make no specific recommendations with regard to these items, except that a later body should take them up for further study. At this point, the Subcommittee's un-prioritized list of items for future charter study is as follows.

The City should look into the questions of whether \_\_\_\_\_:

1. An automatic and regular charter review process should be made part of the Charter.
2. The Charter needs to establish a more explicit process for handling the City's intergovernmental relations function.
3. The Charter should continue the IBA's Office even if the Strong Mayor form of government is allowed to sunset.
4. The Charter's present budgetary timelines are appropriate or realistic.
5. The Charter creates an appropriate role for the Mayor in closed session meetings of the Council.
6. The Charter needs to be altered, such that Article XV is an integral part of the Charter, rather than a universally modifying article at the tail of the document.
7. The Charter needs a complete re-write.

*Updated Model of Charter Review in Future*

I have come up with a more complex model of the Charter Review in Future item, since the meeting at which the ISM Subcommittee was initially to have presented this to the full Committee.

This model reflects the fact that the full Committee may ultimately recommend further study on a number of items, on which it has an idea of the needed changes, versus those on which it has no definite opinion as to what should be done:

- I. CHARTER AMENDMENT ISSUES NEEDING FURTHER STUDY ON WHICH THE COMMITTEE HAS IDENTIFIED A POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT
  - A. FINANCIAL MATTERS
    - 1. COMPOSITION OF SDCERS' BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
    - 2. INVESTIGATION OF ADVISABILITY OF OPTING INTO CALPERS
    - 3. CITY INVESTMENT POLICIES, AND ADOPTION OF PROVISIONS FOR A RESERVE REQUIREMENT OR "RAINY-DAY" FUND
  - B. STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS
    - 1. ADVISABILITY OF APPOINTING CITY ATTORNEY
    - 2. FILLING OF VACANCIES TO ELECTED OFFICES
    - 3. BUDGETARY AUTHORITY
    - 4. MAYOR'S ROLE IN CLOSED SESSION
    - 5. TIMING ISSUES
    - 6. AUTOMATIC AND PERIODIC CHARTER REVIEW
- II. CHARTER AMENDMENT ISSUES THE COMMITTEE HAS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE STUDY, BUT ON WHICH IT HAS TAKEN NO FIRM POSITION
  - A. COMPLETE REVISION OF THE CHARTER
    - 1. INTEGRATION OF STRONG MAYOR CONCEPT INTO CHARTER
    - 2. "HOUSEKEEPING" REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENT AS A WHOLE