



**COUNCILMEMBER MYRTLE COLE
FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 2, 2015

TO: Council President Sherri Lightner

FROM: Councilmember Myrtle Cole, Fourth Council District

Myrtle Cole

SUBJECT: Charter Review Committee Priorities for 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my priorities for the Charter Review Committee for 2015.

Citizens' Review Board (CRB) on Police Practices

I ask that the Committee consider Charter changes to:

- Allow the Board to have investigative powers,
- Allow the Board to have subpoena powers, and
- Provide the City Council the authority to confirm appointments to the board. Currently, pursuant to City Charter Article 5 Section 43(d), the Mayor has sole authority over the Board (appoints members of the Board, sets rules and regulations, etc.).

Critics of the CRB have advocated for investigative power and subpoena power, which may require a change in the City Charter. Without this authority, the CRB can only *request* participation and information from the police department with regard to the complaints received.

The City Charter governs the CRB and it is under the purview of the Mayor's office. I am advocating for the necessary Charter changes to provide more authority and oversight to the CRB.

Budgetary Authority

The City Charter should be amended to provide the City Council with the sole authority to initiate Mid-Year Revisions to the budget based on a set of established criteria. Currently, the City Council's authority is contingent upon recommendations made by the Mayor as outlined in Ordinance 20084: The Mid-Year Ordinance.