

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Unresolved Issues from the 2007 Charter Review Commission

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

Date Issued: April 22, 2011

IBA Report Number: 11-24

Rules Committee Meeting Date: April 27, 2011

Item Number: 3

On March 9, 2011 the Rules, Open Government, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (Rules) held preliminary discussions on the possibility of making changes to the City's Charter. At that meeting the City Attorney was directed to review the issue of the referendum process and the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) was directed to work with the City Attorney to determine which unresolved issues from the 2007 Charter Review Report should be discussed further and to return to the Committee with an overview in April.

In January of 2007, the Mayor requested that the City Council assist in forming a Charter Review Committee (Committee). Each member of the City Council was asked to recommend an individual to represent each district. For six months the Committee and three Subcommittees held 51 meetings and developed a list of eleven recommendations for changes proposed for the 2008 Ballot. Many of the eleven recommendations with changes by the City Council were included on the June 2008 Ballot.

In addition to the eleven recommendations, the Committee also identified three changes for future ballots and eleven items for a future charter committee or commission. As directed by the Rules Committee on March 9, 2011 this report provides an overview of the "unresolved issues" (the three items for future ballots and the eleven items for a future charter committee). Based on our analysis we recommend the following items be researched further for possible inclusion on a future ballot:

- Update Council Policy 000-13 regarding the processes for Appointment to Boards, Commissions, Committees, and other governmental agencies to reflect the current form of government;
- A charter amendment that would enable the City Council to make mid-year budget adjustments based on established criteria;
- Elimination of existing restrictions related to the Environmental Growth Fund.

However, we would reiterate that the cost/benefit associated with such charter amendments be carefully considered. We would also recommend that the Mayor and the past members of the 2007 Charter Committee be provided an opportunity at a later Rules Committee meeting, if desired, to express their ideas on future charter amendments.