

ARTICLE III

The Administrative Branch

Adding 3.13 Neighborhood Councils (Major)

CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE: Not included in the charter.

RECOMMENDED CHARTER LANGUAGE:

~~In order to foster communication and to promote citizen-based neighborhood involvement, there shall be a Neighborhood Councils Program, which shall consist of an appropriate number of Neighborhood Councils organized along naturally occurring boundaries and one (1) Community Council. The Neighborhood Councils and Community Council shall act as advisors to the City Council, Mayor and City Manager. The Community Council shall be composed of one member from each Neighborhood Council with such powers, duties and tenure as are provided by ordinance. Neighborhood Councils and the Community Council shall have the power to make bylaws and rules for the conduct of their business not inconsistent with this charter or ordinances of the City of Tacoma or the Open Records and Open Meetings Acts. Said Neighborhood Councils and Community Council members shall serve without pay.~~

"The City Council shall determine the boundaries of the Neighborhood Councils with the intention of recognizing neighborhood groups, and shall set those boundaries by resolution. A Neighborhood Council may propose boundary adjustments for consideration by the City Council so long as there is agreement by any impacted Neighborhood Councils prior to request for consideration by the City Council."

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

-Currently, there are three boards/commissions in the charter: Public Utilities Board, Civil Service Board and Planning Commission. Each of these makes recommendations to the Council but is also autonomous, acting on its own authority in a limited area. The Neighborhood Councils are the only other commission/board/council/committee that fit this description.

-A non-profit organization, receiving funds from the city and other sources.

-A strong platform for civic engagement and communications from the Council to the community. They represent a neighborhood voice in government especially for minorities and those living in poverty.

-No increase in cost to the city. There are no dedicated FTE's and the General Fund support of operational funding is \$90,000 per biennium, a non-competitive line item in the budget.

-Mumblings have been heard in the Council of doing away with these organizations. It's harder to eliminate them if they are in the charter. Their value to the city warrants inclusion.

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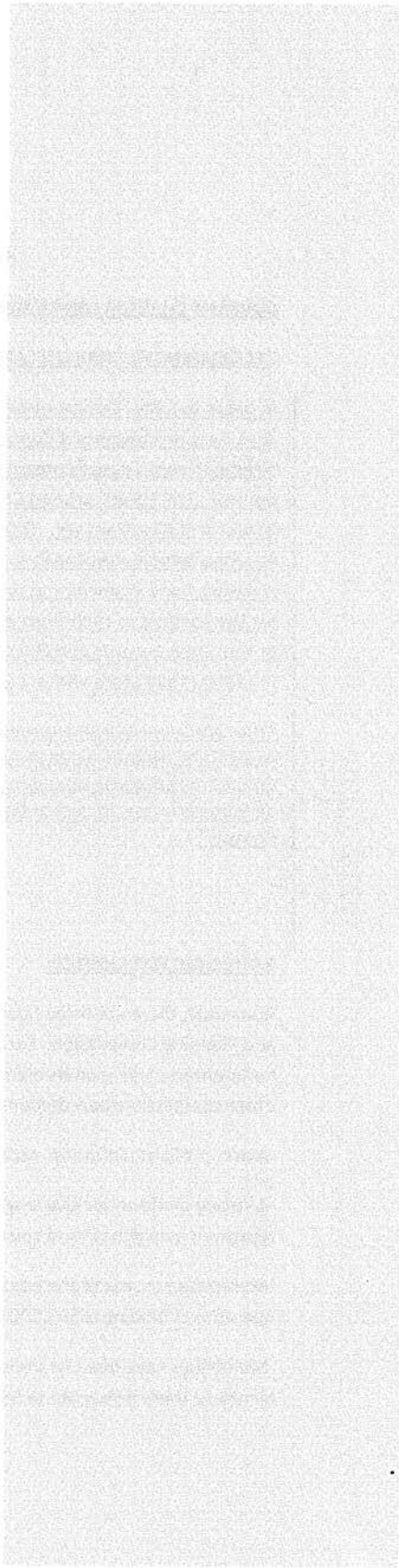
-Included in the Spokane charter.

RATIONALE AGAINST CHANGE:

-Don't add more rules or bureaucracy in the charter to this well organized system.

-Budget could be cut at the discretion of the City Manager or Council and weaken their impact.

The Human Relations Sub-Committee recommends:



ARTICLE II

The Legislative Branch

Amendment to 2.25 Charter Review

CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE:

The City Council shall commence a review of this charter no less frequently than once every ten years, by appointing a charter review committee, or by the election of a board of freeholders in the manner provided in state law.

RECOMMENDED CHARTER LANGUAGE:

The City Council shall review the charter as a body every five years to determine if an additional full charter review is necessary, commencing a review of this charter as described herein no less frequently than once every ten years, by appointing a charter review committee, or by the election of a board of freeholders in the manner provided in state law.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

- Allows for a more frequent review of the charter.
- Allows for course changes if strategic direction changes.

RATIONALE AGAINST CHANGE:

- Changes to the charter should be allowed time to mature so the full impact can be determined before another change.

Article	Title	Subject	Action
	Neighborhood Councils	Add councils to the Charter	
1.3	Intergovernmental Relations	Add support for fostering such relations	No change recommended
2.4	The Mayor	Delete vacancy with less than 5 days until filing deadline per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
2.7	Council Vacancies	Delete vacancy with less than 5 days until filing deadline per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
2.19	Initiatives	County Auditor to verify signatures per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
2.20	Referendum	County Auditor to verify signatures per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
2.25	Charter Review Committee	Increase frequency of review	
2.25	Charter Review Committee	Change method of choosing committee members	No change recommended
3.7	City Clerk	Remove registrar of voters language per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
3.14	Landmarks Preservation Commission	Add commission to the Charter	Amendment-Minor
5.1	Application of Election Laws	Delete all references to poll voting per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
5.2	Types of Elections-When Held	Delete para saying elections held in even years per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
5.3	Filing and Cert of Candidates	File with County Auditor not City Clerk per PCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
5.5	Election Contests	Contested election decided by Superior Court not Council per RCW	Amendment-Housekeeping
6.3	Eligibility for Employment	Delete requirement for city residency per state law see 6.14	Amendment-Housekeeping
6.6	Pecuniary Interest	TPU employees to be able to use energy saving benefits for personal homes	Recommended for Ordinance
6.7	Discriminatory Actions	Add new categories to match state and ordinances	Amendment-Minor
6.8	Political Activity	May not hold elected office	
6.11	Civil Service Board	Change wording for 45 day limit for decision by Civil Service Board from Council	No change recommended
6.11	Civil Service Board	Members to all be appointed	No change recommended

6.11	Civil Service Board	Number of members on board	No change recommended
6.11	Civil Service Board	Delete vacancy with less than 5 days until filing deadline per RCW	Amendment- Housekeeping
6.13	Personnel Officer	Change to Human Relations Officer and Human Relations Dept	
6.14	Personnel Rules	5% bonus for resident of Tacoma	Recommended for Ordinance
6.14	Personnel Rules	Change wording for 45 day limit for decision by council then automatic approval	No change recommended
6.14	Personnel Rules	\$15 minimum wage for entire City of Tacoma	Recommended for Ordinance
6.14	Personnel Rules	Living wage for entire City of Tacoma	No change recommended
6.14	Personnel Rules	Professional license pay bonus	Recommended for Ordinance
9.1	Disposition of City Property	Allow sale of waterfront property	No change recommended
9.4	Cemeteries	Delete since zoning and GMA limit it already, plus columbariums	Amendment-Minor
9.7	Gender-Neutral Language	Actually change the words throughout the charter to gender neutral	Amendment-Minor