

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GDS 96

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Department & Services

SOURCE: Mayor Bing Administration
Letter, Rec'd December 21, 2010

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: Art. 7 (Executive Branch: Programs, Services
and Activities), Ch. 6 (Consumer Affairs)

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Recognize the elimination of the Consumer Affairs Department and merger of its functions with other departments including Human Services Department, Police Department and Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environment Department.

ARTICLE 7. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 6. CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Sec. 7-601. ~~Department.~~

~~The Consumer Affairs Department shall:~~

- ~~1- Conduct research and, in consultation with other public and private agencies, develop programs for consumer education and protection;~~
- ~~2- Enforce laws and ordinances prohibiting fraudulent or dishonest practices in the advertising, offering for sale, and sale of goods and services;~~
- ~~3- Except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, grant, revoke, or approve transfers of all licenses and permits required by any law or ordinance for any business and collect fees for licenses and permits; and~~
- ~~4- Receive, evaluate, and investigate complaints, refer cases to appropriate federal, state, regional or county agencies, or take such other action as may be authorized by ordinance.~~

Sec. 7-602. ~~Powers.~~

~~The department director may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, require the production of evidence, and promulgate rules for the department's procedures. To enforce a subpoena or order for production of evidence or to impose any penalty prescribed for failure to obey a subpoena or order, the department director shall apply to the appropriate court.~~

~~The department director may delegate the powers to administer oaths and take testimony.~~

Sec. 7-603. ~~Consumers Council.~~

~~A consumers council is created.~~

~~The council consists of the department director and seven (7) members to be appointed for three (3) year terms by the mayor. The Mayor shall annually designate one (1) of these seven (7) as chairperson. Not more than three (3) terms expire each year. A member serves at the pleasure of the mayor. The members must represent a cross section of consumer interests.~~

~~The consumers council shall advise the department on general program goals, undertake studies, make reports, and foster cooperation among federal, state, regional, county and city agencies and private groups.~~

RATIONALE: *“Sections 7-610 through 7-603 of the 1997 Detroit City Charter provide for a Consumer Affairs Department. Through amendment of the Executive Organization Plan, the three (3) main functions of the department have been reassigned to the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (business licenses), the Police Department (weights and measures), and the Human Services Department (consumer complaints).*

“Currently, there is no functioning Consumer Affairs Department. As such, the Consumer Affairs Department should be omitted from the revised Detroit City Charter.”-Mayor Bing Administration, Letter, Rec’d December 21, 2010.

ANALYSIS:

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: