

**DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**  
**PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY**

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GOS 27

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Operations and Structure

**SOURCE:** Mayor, January 2010 *“Report on the Impact of the Detroit City Charter on City Service Administration”*

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** §4-121 (Special Counsel)

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:** Art. II, Div. 3  
(Council Division of Research and Analysis)

**RELEVANT LAW(S):**

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**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:** Evaluate the necessity for the Research and Analysis Division or whether it acts beyond scope of its authority and intention.

**RATIONALE:** “While Section 4-121 allows the City Council to hire special counsel “where there exists a conflict of interest between the City Council and another branch of government, Council has created a permanent Research and Analysis Division by Ordinance.

Created to perform legal research, institutionalization of this agency has led to an increased costs as well as duplication and conflict with the city’s Corporation Counsel, who is charged in the Charter with representing the City’s interest. This division has 23 staff and an annual appropriation of \$3 million which is still supplemented by outside Counsel as conflicts arise.”- Mayor’s *Report on the Impact of the Detroit City Charter on City Service Administration, p. 5.*

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:**