

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GOS 32

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Operations & Structure

SOURCE: Commissioner Davis

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: See generally entire Charter; Art. 1 (General

Email; October 7, 2010; Jim

Provisions); Art. 3 (Elections); Art. 5 (The Executive Branch: The Mayor and

Capizzo, Letter dated 10/21/10

General Provisions); Art. 6 (The Executive Branch: Staff Departments); Art. 7 (The Executive Branch: Programs, Services & Activities)

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S): Home Rule City Act, MCL 117.3 (Mandatory Provisions)

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Adopt a City Council/City Manager form of government.

RATIONALE: “The City of Detroit needs to undergo some form of revitalization or reform. Detroit needs to go out with the old and in with a new form of government operation. Due to corruption in city government as well as the lack of transparency with budget process many major cities have gone from Strong Mayor/Council to Council/Manager form of government; the city of Detroit should do so as well. Some major cities which have successfully gone to Council/Manager form of government are: Charlotte, North Carolina (pop. 540,000), Dallas, Texas (pop. 1,188,000), Las Vegas, Nevada (pop. 535,000), Oklahoma City (pop. 506,000), San Antonio, Texas (pop. 1,144,000) and Phoenix, Arizona. (pop. 1,321,000).

“City Council should appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term. The City Manager shall act as a Chief Administrator Officer for city government operations, overseeing and managing city departments and staff and managing the city's budget operations.

“Council/Manager form of government combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed manager or administrator. All power and authority to set policy rests with an elected governing body, which includes a mayor or chairperson and members of the council, commission, or board. The governing body in turn hires a nonpartisan manager who has very broad authority to run the organization. If the manager is not responsive to the governing body, it has the authority to terminate the manager at any time.”-*Commissioner Davis*

“Neither the mayors or city council members know who the city employees are, what we do, who's [sic] good and who's [sic] not good. The mayors are politicians who seem more concerned about themselves than the City. I recommend having a city manager – if a way can be found to select one that is insulated from politics.” *Jim Capizzo, Letter dated 10/21/10*

ANALYSIS: The Home Rule City Act mandates several positions/branches in City government, including Mayor and the Legislative branch.

Sec. 3. Each city charter shall provide for all of the following:

(a) The election of a mayor, who shall be the chief executive officer of the city, and of a body vested

with legislative powers, and for the election or appointment of a clerk, a treasurer, an assessor or board of assessors, a board of review, and other officers considered necessary. *MCL 117.3.*

A City Manager is not prohibited, but the mandatory positions/branches of government must be included in a city's governance structure.

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: