

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GOS 70

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Operations & Structure

SOURCE: City Council,

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: §5-103 (Mayoral Appointments)

Letter dated December 2, 2010

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Council approves Mayor’s hire and removal of department directors.

Sec. 5-103. Mayoral appointments.

The mayor may appoint a secretary and other necessary assistants.

Except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, the mayor shall appoint, and the city council shall approve, for each department of the executive branch a director who serves as head of the department. As used in this chapter, "director" means the administrative head of each department regardless of the title or interim status of a particular director. However, if the city council does not disapprove of the appointment within thirty (30) days, the appointment is confirmed. Each Director can be removed by the mayor with the approval of city council.

Deleted: at the pleasure of the mayor

RATIONALE: “Language has been added empowering Council to confirm appointment and termination of department heads. Again, this is an effort to balance the expectations of the citizens for increased access to services through the institution of a council-by-districts system. Council members will be able to more effectively account to the citizens if the departments delivering services are responsive to city council.

The administration’s proposals with respect to section 5-103 would allow for a greatly expanded administrative staff. Further, the administration’s suggested additional language with respect to requiring that appointments to boards, commissions, and other multi-member bodies be made by the mayor, unless required by state law, would severely undercut the authority of city council and lead to further imbalance in the structure of governance. Such a suggestion would undermine the effectiveness of many boards and commissions that are currently in place, such as the Cable Commission, where the relevant subject matter requires balance and independence between and among both branches of government.-City Council Rationale, Letter, dated December 13, 2010.

ANALYSIS:

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: