

**DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY**

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GOS 84

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Operations & Structure

**SOURCE:** Staff

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** 2-106(3) (Standards of Conduct) (Campaign Finance Reports); New Provision

Letter, November 2010

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:**

**RELEVANT LAW(S):** SEE STATE LAW ON THIS MATTER

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**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:**

(A) Public financing of political campaigns. The State of Michigan has public financing of the Office of Governor campaigns. Generally, any campaign can access public funds if they agree to stay within specific spending limits. The campaign is also required to meet various qualifying or threshold limits to access public funds. We might want to impose a higher number of signatures than normal as a threshold. We also can set a limit on the costs of campaigns and potentially a timeframe for conducting the campaign which again will help control the costs of the campaign.

(B) Public financing of the Mayor’s and City Council’s campaigns combined with a prohibition against any contractor or vendor with contracts with city government to make contributions to the above campaigns will arrest the level of corruption in local elections. In addition to the prohibition, any contractor found to have contributed after the award of a contract should have their contract rescinded.

(C) Lobbying, middleman or consultant registration and reporting represents another strong weapon in the fight against local corruption. Any individual who is involved in influencing or directing any decision related to contracting, purchasing of services or the procurement of city assets must disclose their activities and file a report on their lobbying activities consistent with the same practice currently in existence with the state of Michigan. The Clerk of the City of Detroit shall keep electronic records of the filings and make these records accessible to the general public. Any lobbyist, individual or corporate, shall be required to report within 24 hours any contribution (direct or in-kind) above \$2,500.00. No individual or corporation shall be allowed to “bundle” their contributions and deliver contributions in large sums in an effort to influence or lobby government.

(C) Employees of the City should be prohibited from working for an outside contractor for a period of two or three years if they were involved in the conceptualization, development of the specification for the work subject of the contract, evaluation or award of the contract. All city employees of a decision making level in any of the city’s procurement process should be required to file with the City Clerk any potential Conflict of Interest statement that suggests individual or family enrichments.

(D) Corporate leaders and managers shall not become employees of the city within a product line that the city may procure or award for a period of two years.

(E) Appointee qualifications - Dismantling the friends and family employment policy. Where appropriate an appointed official shall have the requisite qualifications to perform the jobs. Qualifications shall be set in concurrence with normal market qualifications in our area.

(F) Contracts let by the city shall be included under the Freedom of Information Act or mandatory language shall be inserted into the boilerplate contracts of the city that will give the city access to financial information including audits of work performed by outside contractors of city work.

**RATIONALE: Eliminating Public Corruption / Campaign Finance Reform.** Much of the reason for the 2009 Charter Revision Commission was the “pay to play” atmosphere in Detroit that was centered on the corruption in local government. Thematically and substantively, we need to address this issue in a revised Charter. The seven pronged approach detailed above is recommended.

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:**