

**DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY**

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GOS 171

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Operations & Structure

**SOURCE:** Richard Mack

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** §4-305 ([Ombudsperson] Staff)

Letter, December 26, 2010

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:**

**RELEVANT LAW(S):**

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**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:** Employees of the Office of the Ombudsperson are subject to discharge only for cause. Allow Ombudsperson to use volunteers to conduct investigations and other functions and powers of ombudsperson.

[Sec. 4-305](#). - Staff.

To carry out the responsibilities of the office, the ombudsperson may, within appropriations, appoint not more than six (6) employees who are subject to discharge only for cause. The number of exempt positions on the ombudsperson's staff may be increased by a majority of city council members serving. The ombudsman may appoint volunteers to carry out his/her investigations and other functions and powers, as spelled out in this Chapter, and all actions taken by said volunteers shall receive prior approval of the ombudsman.

**Deleted:** exempt from article 6, chapter 5 of this Charter

**RATIONALE:** "Given the recent scandals endured by our City, it is apparent that the office of Ombudsman is not powerful enough. Thus, the Mayor's proposal to eliminate the office altogether is indefensible. The fact that the use of the Ombudsman is not what the Mayor feels is important does not detract from the importance from those persons who have filed complaints. Indeed, many of the recent scandals may have been avoided or mitigated if more authority had been vested in the ombudsman. The power of the Ombudsman's office can be strengthened by permitting the use of volunteers, thus alleviating the financial concern of the Mayor." -Richard Mack, Esq., Letter, December 26, 2010.

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:** See "Charter History of Ombudsperson", dated May 8, 2010.