

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

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GOS 214

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Operations & Structure

**SOURCE:** Mayor Bing Administration  
 Letter, Rec'd December 21, 2010

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** §4-301 – §4-317 (Ombudsperson)

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:**

**RELEVANT LAW(S):**

**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:** Eliminate the Office of the Ombudsperson.

**RATIONALE:** *“The Office is an agency of the City Council. According to the Budget Department, a 2005 benchmark study on the funding of the Ombudsperson function revealed the uniqueness of this function in local government, whose primary service provided by an ombudsperson’s office is the intake and tracking of complaints. Based upon research conducted by the Budget Department, the International Ombudsman Institute indicates that only two municipal members in the United States, and few other non-members, have an ombudsperson’s office in their city-organizational chart:*

City	Description
City of Anchorage Ombudsman	Similar to Detroit office
City of Boise Ombudsman	Investigates Police misconduct
City of Charleston Ombudsman	Mayor appoints, assesses current systems
Public Advocate for New York	Elected next in line to the Mayor: reports City Charter non-compliance; monitors public information efforts; presides at City Council meetings; is retirement system member
Portland Oregon Auditor’s Office	Reports on complaints, attempts service improvements
City of Provo Utah Ombudsman	Similar to Detroit office

*“As indicated by the research conducted by the Budget Department, the City of Detroit is only one of three (3) cities in the United States, which has an Office of Ombudsperson. Due to the budgetary constraints facing the City of Detroit and the lack of utility for the function, the Office of Ombudsperson should be omitted from the revised Detroit City Charter as the Ombudsperson is only authorized to make referrals and recommendations.” -Mayor Bing Administration, Letter, Rec'd December 21, 2010.*

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:**