

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GOS 26

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Operations and Structure

SOURCE: Mayor, January 2010 *“Report on the Impact of the Detroit City Charter on City Service Administration”*

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: Article 4, Chapter 4 (City Planning Commission)

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Eliminate City Planning Commission

RATIONALE: “The City Plan Commission is separate from the Planning Department of the Executive Branch (sections 6-201 through 6-208), which is intended to enhance the support provided the Mayor in the ongoing task of city development and renewal.

“Having two separate planning organizations is an unusual arrangement among cities.

“The 1974 Charter Commentary describes this provision as a response to the independence of the prior City Plan Commission, the famed Charles Blessing organization of the postwar years. They justify the creation of a legislative planning organization in this way: “Detroit can no longer afford the luxury of planning that is not responsive and responsible to the officers charged with raising, appropriating and spending the City’s tax dollars...” (Charter Commentary)

“It is important to note that the existence of a Commission to advise on local matters does not imply the independence of staffing for that body. Indeed, while these commissions became common in the wake of urban renewal across America in the 1950s and 1960s, they are typically supported by Executive Branch planning staff today.”- *Mayor’s Report on the Impact of the Detroit City Charter on City Service Administration, p. 5.*

ANALYSIS:

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: