



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

DRAFT Staff Report
June 23, 2009

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Charter Review Committee Progress Report

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Mark Prestwich, Special Projects Manager, (916) 808-5380

Presenters: William H. Edgar, Chair, Charter Review Committee

Department: N/A

Division: N/A

Organization No: N/A

Description/Analysis

Issue: Resolution 2009-095 governing the Charter Review Committee's scope and timetable requires the Committee to provide a progress report to the City Council in June 2009.

Policy Considerations: N/A

Environmental Considerations: N/A

Commission/Committee Action: The Charter Review Committee has conducted six meetings since April 2, 2009.

Sustainability Considerations: N/A

Rationale for Recommendation: The recommendation is to receive and file the June Charter Review Committee progress report to the City Council.

Financial Considerations: N/A

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): N/A

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Mark Prestwich, Special Projects Manager

Recommendation Approved:

Ray Kerridge, City Manager

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Background

The Sacramento Charter Review Committee held its first meeting on April 2, 2009 and has adopted a twice per month meeting schedule. The Committee is required to provide the City Council progress reports in the months of June, August and October. A preliminary set of recommendations is required to be presented to the City Council by December 15, 2009 and a final report is required to be presented to the City Council by January 26, 2010.

The Committee has developed a comprehensive work plan to facilitate efforts to develop recommendations within the above timetable. Several strategies have been implemented to assist the Committee in receiving information.

1. Benchmark Cities. The Committee has selected 12 benchmark cities to study and contrast with the Sacramento governance structure (see Attachment 2).
2. Matrix Reference Document. A matrix reference document (see Attachment 3) has been created to provide Committee members with information about the benchmark cities and their governance structures.
3. Testimony. The Committee intends to receive testimony from academics, practitioners and organizations on subject matter consistent with the Council's charge. To date, the Committee has held three panel discussions with nine different individuals. A pool of potential speakers has been developed to assist with coordination of testimony (see Attachment 5).
4. Outreach Plan. An Outreach Plan (see Attachment 6) has been developed to inform and engage the community in the Charter Review process. The Outreach Plan was designed to create awareness and opportunity for residents to be involved in the Charter Review process through a variety of outreach strategies.

Additionally, a website (www.cityofsacramento.org/charter) has been created to provide information to the public about the Committee. Along with numerous materials posted on the website, the website includes a "Contact Us" link that allows the community to provide comments to the Committee. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are also posted on the website (see Attachment 7) along with reference materials used by the Committee (see Attachment 8). Committee meetings are video streamed and can be viewed live on the City's website. Archived video of meetings can be accessed on the website as well.

The Committee is currently in the education and information gathering stage of its process, including learning about other cities that have made changes to their Charter. Recent meetings have specifically focused on the nuances of governance structures and budget processes used by various cities. In addition to the numerous outreach strategies identified in the Outreach Plan, the Committee will be using Neighborhood Service Area meetings in July to provide information to the public about the Charter Review Committee process. Additional outreach and engagement has been planned for September and November.

A short summary of each Committee meeting to date is provided below.

April 2, 2009

- Introduction of Committee Members and Staff
- Brown Act Orientation
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Meeting Calendar

April 20, 2009

- Selection of Chair/Vice Chair
- Review of the City Charter
- Review of City's Governance Structure
- Review of Strong Mayor Proposal
- Work Plan Discussion

May 7, 2009

- Committee Meeting Topics/Speakers
- Strategies For Receiving Information
- Decision Making Process

May 18, 2009

- Panel Discussion – Governance/Budget Process (Academic Focus)
 - Raphael Sonenshein, Ph.D., CSU Fullerton
 - James Svara, Ph.D., Arizona State University
 - Robert Waste, Ph.D., CSU Sacramento
- Updated Work Plan
- Public Outreach Plan

June 4, 2009

- Panel Discussion – Governance/Budget Process (Practitioner Focus)
 - Henry Gardner, Executive Director, Association of Bay Area Governments
 - Gerald Newfarmer, CEO and President, Management Partners, Inc.
 - Daniel Whitehurst, Former Mayor, City of Fresno
- Public Outreach Plan
- Resource/Reference Materials

June 18, 2009

- Panel Discussion – Governance/Budget Process (Budget Practitioner Focus)
 - Russell Fehr, City Treasurer, City of Sacramento
 - Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer, City of San Diego
 - Matthew Hymel, County Administrator, County of Marin