



# REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

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

Progress Report  
**August 25, 2009**

Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

**Title:** Charter Review Committee Progress Report

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** This report transmits the August Charter Review Committee Progress Report as required by Council Resolution R2009-095.

**Contact/Presenter:** William H. Edgar, Chair, Charter Review Committee, (916) 392-4909

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Edgar, Chair  
2009 Sacramento Charter Review Committee

**Table of Contents:**

Report	Pg. 1
<b>Attachments</b>	
1 Background	Pg. 2

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction**

On February 17, 2009, the Sacramento City Council unanimously adopted Resolution R2009-095 which created the 2009 Sacramento Charter Review Committee. The Committee was established as an advisory body to the City Council and directed to review the current City Charter and make recommendations for possible amendments.

Resolution R2009-095 requires the Committee to provide the City Council progress reports. The Committee's previous Progress Report was presented to the City Council on June 23, 2009.

### **Meetings to Date**

A short summary of each Committee meeting conducted 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 (Mayor-Council) 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 15, 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
- Format/Materials for Community Meetings

#### July 2, 2009

- Presentation by National Civic League (Derek Okubo, Senior Vice President)
- Presentation by International City/County Management Association (Dave Mora, West Coast Regional Director)
- Background: Current Election Process (Stephanie Mizuno, Assistant City Clerk)
- Background: Current County Election Process (Jill LaVine, Sacramento County Registrar of Voters)

#### July 20, 2009

- Presentation by New America Foundation (Blair Bobier, Deputy Director of Political Reform) on Ranked Choice Voting and Proportional Representation
- Review of July Outreach Meetings
- Decision Making Format/Process

#### August 3, 2009

- Discussion of Mayor-Council Form of Government
  - Martin J. Chavez, Mayor, City of Albuquerque
  - Jim Patterson, Former Mayor, City of Fresno
- Suggestions for Miscellaneous Charter Updates and Clean-Up
- Update on Community Outreach

#### August 17, 2009

- Committee Discussion Regarding Governance Structure and related topics
- Community Outreach Efforts
- Revised Committee Workplan/Timeline

### **Work Plan**

In response to the City Council's action on August 6, 2009, the Committee has updated its workplan and timeline (attached). The workplan now includes an additional Committee meeting on Monday, October 12, 2009.

As noted in the Committee's June Progress Report, the Committee has developed a comprehensive phased work plan to facilitate its efforts to develop recommendations within the above timetable. The work plan consists of five distinct phases:

1. Organization Phase
2. Information Gathering Phase
3. Outreach Phase
4. Tentative Decision Making Phase
5. Final Decision Making/Report Writing Phase

The Organization Phase, which is now complete, was devoted to orientation, review and planning. Several strategies were developed by the Committee during this phase to assist in receiving information including:

- Identifying 12 Benchmark Cities
- Preparing a Matrix Reference Document to provide Committee members with information about the benchmark cities and their governance structures
- Developing a comprehensive work plan calendar. The Committee intends to adjust its Work Plan Calendar to complete its tasks by the Council's revised date.
- Developing a pool of potential speakers
- Establishing a website ([www.cityofsacramento.org/charter](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/charter)) to provide information to the public about the Committee. The Committee's website traffic has doubled from May to July with the website receiving more than 3,500 page views in July.
- Developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the website
- Creating a bibliography of resources of all education materials received by the Committee.

The Information Gathering Phase was launched May 18, 2009 when the Committee convened a panel of academic experts to discuss governance structure and budget processes. Now complete, the Committee received approximately 11 hours of testimony during this Phase from 16 different academics, practitioners and organizations on governance structure, budget and elections related subject matter. The purpose of this Phase was to obtain a variety of perspectives on the issues the Committee has been studying.

#### Outreach Phase

During July 2009, the Committee provided outreach at four neighborhood area group community meetings located in different areas of the City. The focus of the Committee's July outreach was to provide background information on the Committee's charge and timeline, the City's Charter, and ways to become actively involved in the Committee's activities. Approximately 200 people representing neighborhood groups and associations attended these meetings. An informational brochure explaining the Charter Review Committee and process was distributed at these meetings and can be accessed on the Committee's website. Additional community outreach is planned for the weeks of September 21, September 28, October 5.

#### Tentative Decision Making Phase

The Committee began its Tentative Decision Making Phase on August 3, 2009 and spent a significant amount of time during its August 17, 2009 meeting discussing governance

structure related issues. This effort will continue through September as the Committee refines its recommendations.

Final Decision Making/Report Writing Phase

The Final Decision Making/Report Writing Phase timeline has been updated and will begin after the Committee's September 3, 2009 meeting. The Committee will discuss and adopt final recommendations by October 12, 2009 and will approve a Final Report by October 19, 2009. The Committee's Final Report will be presented to the City Council on November 3, 2009.