

Item 12C - Charter Review Subcommittee

Minutes

Charter Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee

(ad hoc, created December 13, 2023)

Members: Ryan Micik (Chair), Charlotte Hill, Karun Tilak

February 9, 2024 Minutes

Attendees – Members: Commissioners Micik, Hill, Tilak

Attendees – Staff: Director Nicolas Heidorn

Discussion

1. **Go over main goals in reviewing/revising the Charter.** Commissioners discussed what guiding principles for reviewing the Charter. While not exclusive, Commissioners identified the following three primary principles:
 - a. ***Strengthen PEC's Independence.*** The PEC plays a unique, important, and sensitive role in maintaining the integrity of Oakland's government and political process. It is vital that the PEC be perceived to be and actually be impartial and not beholden to any elected official or political faction.
 - b. ***Strengthen PEC Staffing.*** For the PEC to fulfill its functions, it must be adequately staffed. Traditionally, the PEC's staff has almost entirely grown by ballot measure. Minimum staffing/budget helps to ensure the PEC's independence when/if investigating/prosecuting incumbents.
 - c. ***Align the Charter with the PEC's New Mission of Building a More Inclusive Democracy.*** The PEC's current mission is focused primarily on the Commission being an enforcement agency. However, the PEC's role has expanded with the passage of Measure W to encompass supporting a more inclusive, representative, and accountable democracy. The Charter should reflect that mission.
2. **City Charter Review.** Commissioners and staff went through each provision of Charter Section 603 and discussed possible changes.

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(ad hoc, created December 13, 2023)

Members: Ryan Micik (Chair), Charlotte Hill, Karun Tilak

February 16, 2024 Minutes

Attendees – Members: Commissioners Micik, Hill, Tilak

Attendees – Staff: Director Nicolas Heidorn

Discussion

1. **Review of Charter Change proposals:** Commissioners discussed several potential changes to the charter relating to the PEC's structure, duties, and staffing, including: Executive Director selection process, Commissioner eligibility qualifications, Commissioner during and post-service restrictions, Commission legal capacity, and Commission staffing and budget.

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(ad hoc, created December 13, 2023)

Members: Ryan Micik (Chair), Charlotte Hill, Karun Tilak

February 21, 2024 Minutes

Attendees – Members: Commissioners Micik, Hill, Tilak

Attendees – Staff: Director Nicolas Heidorn

Discussion

1. **Review of Charter Change proposals:** Commissioners discussed several potential changes to the charter relating to the PEC's structure, duties, and staffing, including: PEC minimum staffing and budgeting, Commissioner vacancies, Commission mission, Commission regulatory process, Commission duties, Commissioner qualifications, and the standard the PEC should use in adjusting the compensation for elected officials.