

Barry Clegg, Chair

Minneapolis Charter Commission

Dear Chair Clegg and Charter Commission Members:

After considerable discussion and reflection, our Charter Change Task Force has decided not to request that the Commission place our proposal to strengthen the management structure of city government on the ballot in 2012.

We appreciate the hard work of the Commission on the comprehensive proposal to modernize the City's Charter. You deserve great credit for taking on this herculean task. There is merit in the position of some of your members that any significant reform of the city's government structure should be addressed after the comprehensive re-write is adopted in the 2012 election.

We also respect the judgment of the League of Women Voters Minneapolis, LWVMpls, that this issue should not be on the 2012 general election ballot. In 2013, city voters will be electing or re-electing the Mayor and the City Council. It may be best that modernizing our form of government to meet the needs of the 21st Century be an issue before the voters at a time when municipal issues are their sole focus.

We are proposing that the Charter Commission conduct an independent study of the City's management structure in 2012. The study would be consistent in principle with Council President Johnson's proposal to the Commission in April 2009. Once the study is completed, conclusions and recommendations would be submitted to the Charter Commission in 2013 for its consideration. We would ask for time on your agenda in March to present our proposal for this study.

We believe very strongly that the citizens of our city deserve a voice in how they wish to be governed. There has been no such opportunity for over a generation. The world is changing very quickly. Our City needs to be in the best possible position to succeed in an increasingly challenging environment. It is time, finally, to face up to this critical issue.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Don Fraser Jay Kiedrowski Joan Niemic Paul Ostrow Martin Sabo