

March 27, 2012

Barry Clegg, Chair

Minneapolis Charter Commission

Our Charter Change Task Force has met to discuss your e-mail request dated February 2. Following the discussion of the Charter Commission on February 1, you and members of the Commission sought clarification as to the nature of our proposal and requested action by the Commission. We are responding by way of this letter and ask you to distribute this letter to Commissioners prior to our anticipated appearance at your next meeting.

We are asking the Charter Commission to adopt a resolution at your April 4 meeting stating as follows:

The Minneapolis Charter Commission supports an independent study of the City's management structure to be completed by March 2013. The study should consider potential charter amendments including but not limited to the Charter Change Task Force proposal and should also consider whether the stated benefits of the charter proposals can be achieved without changes to the City's charter. The Charter Commission shall direct and oversee the study and requests that the City Council authorize City staff to provide legal and technical assistance as required.

The Charter Commission is uniquely empowered and entrusted to review and consider charter changes under the City Charter. For that reason, we believe that the Commission should determine many of the details of the study including the appointment of a working group, possible selection of partners and the manner in which the study will be conducted. Of course, our Task Force stands ready to offer any possible assistance in this effort.

We know that your Commission has been extremely busy and productive. We once again wish to thank you for your ongoing consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Don Fraser

Jay Kiedrowski

Joan Niemic

Paul Ostrow

Martin Sabo

