

Minneapolis Charter Commission

June 8, 2006

Minneapolis City Council
c/o City Clerk
304 City Hall
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council Members:

The members of the Charter Commission of the City of Minneapolis, at its meeting of June 7, 2006, voted to accept Brian Melendez's Report of the 9th Revision of the City Charter for transmittal to the City Council for their information and review. Enclosed is a copy of the report and executive summary; however the revision has not yet been formally approved for transmittal to the City Council and will be forwarded at a later date. Please use the following link to review the 9th draft online: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/charter-commission/docs/Ninth_Draft.pdf

Our initial charge was to revise the Minneapolis City Charter to make it more reader-friendly, to remove or change antiquated or obsolete language and provisions, to consolidate and condense, reorder and reorganize the sections into a user-friendly format, to streamline and shorten, and clarify and simplify without changing the intent or application of any provisions. The Charter Commission further resolved to not make any substantive changes in the Charter with respect to organization of the city, governance of the city, functions and duties of officeholders or independent boards. The Commission specifically rejected some proposed changes, even though minor or technical in nature, because they constituted in our opinion, substantive changes.

The draft incorporates changes recommended by various constituencies including the Park & Recreation Board, Library Board, and the business agents for city unions. These changes occurred after lengthy discussions with interested parties and after multiple public hearings over the two years.

The City Attorney retained former Council Member Barrett Lane as outside counsel to conduct a legal review of the Revised Charter to insure compliance with state law. Mr. Lane's review is expected to be completed in July, at which time the Charter Commission will forward the entire revision, along with a side-by-side comparison of the current Charter with the revision, an index, and a copy of the Minnesota League of Cities Model Charter. It is our desire that the City Council adopt the Revised Charter by 13-0 vote.

Sincerely,

Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission

Attachment