



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 1.

Agenda Date: June 5, 2024

In Control: City Council B Session

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Andy Segovia, City Attorney

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Report of the Charter Review Commission regarding recommended amendments to the City Charter.

SUMMARY:

The Charter Review Commission will make its report on recommendations for amendments to the City Charter.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 14, 2023, Mayor Ron Nirenberg issued a memo establishing appointments to the Charter Review Commission. The Commission was charged to review the City Charter to identify areas for amendment at the November 2024 general election in the following areas:

- Whether the City should be able to appoint an independent ethics auditor with a legal background,
- Whether the Ethics Review Board should be autonomous with independent oversight and power to compel testimony, and whether any additional recommendations would strengthen the effectiveness, authority, and/or jurisdiction of the board,
- Whether City Council members should be compensated on indexed terms that more accurately reflect the city's cost of living and lower barriers to participation in City government City Council member compensation and term length,
- Whether Mayor or Mayor and Council terms should be extended to four years with a limit of two terms, and whether such terms should be staggered,
- Whether the City Council should have the authority and discretion to hire, manage, and determine the length of service of the City Manager,
- Whether the City Council should determine the compensation of the City Manager so that market and competitive indicators are taken into account,
- Whether an increase in single-member Council districts would appropriately enhance representation for San Antonio residents,

- Whether the decennial Council redistricting process should be conducted by an independent, autonomous citizens committee and how such a committee’s membership shall be appointed,
- Whether Article II, Section 11 that provides for special meetings of the City Council should be modernized, clarified and updated, including how those meetings should differ in purpose, use, and timing from the current policymaking process, Council Consideration Requests, which is governed by ordinance, and
- Whether the Charter shall be generally amended to update its language to more accurately reflect current processes, acknowledgments, and roles.

The Charter Commission was chaired by Bonnie Prosser Elder and David Zammiello. Members of the Commission were Elva Pai Adams, Josh Baugh, Luisa Casso, Frank Garza, Mike Frisbie, Pat Frost, Martha Martinez-Flores, Naomi Miller, Bobby Perez, Shelley Potter, Dwayne Robinson, Dr. Rogelio Sáenz and María Salazar.

ISSUE:

The City Council will be asked to consider recommendations for amendments to the Charter to be placed on a ballot at the November 5, 2024 election.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council may decide not to make additional recommendations for Charter amendments for the November 5, 2024 election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for briefing purposes only.