

## AN ORDINANCE

**AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF CITY PARTICIPATION IN VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S STREETCAR PROGRAM AND THE REDIRECTION OF THE \$32 MILLION PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE STREETCAR PROGRAM TO CENTER CITY PROJECTS TO BE IDENTIFIED AT A LATER DATE; ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENT FOR VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN A STREETCAR OR LIGHT RAIL PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City Council previously considered and approved the City's participation in the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority's Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan ("streetcar program") through ordinances 2011-10-20-0848 and 2013-01-10-0012; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, an organized effort gathered thousands of signatures for a petition to require a vote on the streetcar program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has acknowledged the concerns of the community and the importance of affording San Antonio residents the opportunity to provide input on a new proposal for a streetcar or light rail program, including the requirement for an election on whether the City participates in a streetcar or light rail program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Ivy R. Taylor has requested the City Council to vote to withdraw the City's consent to participate in the VIA streetcar program as it currently exists, to provide the citizens an opportunity to vote on the streetcar issue, and to redirect the City's \$32 million contribution to the streetcar program to center city projects and programs to be identified at a later date; and

**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with the requests regarding the streetcar and transit improvement plan, the Mayor has requested that a Charter Review Commission be established to provide a review of the City Charter, to identify areas for possible revision at the May 2015 general election, including, but not limited to, the addition of a provision in the Charter for an election before City participation in a streetcar or light rail program; the procedure for filling a vacancy in the office of the mayor; City Council pay; and the revision of other provisions that have been superseded by changes in state or federal law; **NOW THEREFORE:**

### **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Council withdraws its previous consent to participate in the VIA streetcar program, and authorizes the City Manager to execute all documentation deemed necessary by the Office of the City Attorney to accomplish this matter.

**SECTION 2.** The City Manager and appropriate staff are authorized to redirect the \$32 million previously identified for the VIA streetcar program to other eligible projects and programs in the center city area, as they are identified.

**SECTION 3.** The City Council directs that the decision to proceed with any involvement in the VIA streetcar program, as it may be revised, or a light rail program will be made only upon the approval by the electors of the City of San Antonio at an election on the matter.

**SECTION 4.** A Charter Review Commission is established, for the purpose of conducting a review of the City Charter, to identify areas for possible revision at the May 2015 general election, including, but not limited to: the addition of a provision in the Charter for a vote before City participation in a streetcar or light rail program; the procedure for filling a vacancy in the office of the mayor; City Council pay; and the revision of other provisions that have been superseded by changes in state or federal law. The Charter Review Commission will be appointed by subsequent City Council action, no later than September 30, 2014.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance is effective immediately upon receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective on the tenth day after passage.

***PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of August, 2014.***

**M A Y O R**  
Ivy R. Taylor

**ATTEST:**

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Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Robert F. Greenblum, City Attorney