



# City of San Antonio

## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 17-5706

**Type:** Staff Briefing - Without Ordinance

**In control:** Governance Committee

**On agenda:** 10/18/2017

**Title:** A Briefing regarding the status of the work of the Charter Review Commission. [Jeffrey Webster, Chair, Charter Review Commission; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager]

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** John Peterek

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** City-wide

**SUBJECT:**

Charter Review Commission

**SUMMARY:**

Charter Review Commission Chair Jeffery Webster will brief the Governance Committee on the status of the commission’s work, including public input process and discussions that have taken place regarding four policy areas.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2014 the Mayor and City Council authorized by Ordinance a Charter Review Commission (CRC) to review the City of San Antonio’s Charter for any recommended changes in order to meet the needs of the citizens. The CRC is made up of 13 individuals: seven community members, two former elected city officials, one former City employee, and three individuals with expertise in municipal law, human resources management, and municipal finance. The last Charter election was held in May 2015. In that election, voters approved: a requirement for any future streetcar or light-rail plan to have voter approval; an annual salary for

councilmembers; a requirement of a special election for council vacancies with more than 120 days in a term; and removal of outdated or superseded language in the Charter.

The CRC was reactivated in December 2016 to discuss potential further amendments to the Charter. In order to receive input from residents, the CRC held three public hearings on May 24, June 7, and June 14, 2017. The hearings were publicized through the City's media channels, The Rivard Report, and *San Antonio Express-News*. Hearings were also live streamed, with the video archived online. In total, 66 citizens spoke during the hearings to voice their comments and concerns. Citizens were also able to submit comments and suggested amendments in writing. In July 2017, Mayor Ron Nirenberg asked the Commission to continue developing potential recommendations on a timeline to seek voter approval in 2018.

### **ISSUE:**

Upon reviewing all issues raised in the initial public comment period, the CRC members divided into four subcommittees to discuss and make recommendations to the whole committee. The subcommittees and the issues discussed are as follows:

#### **Development Subcommittee**

- Planning Commission Composition
- Recall, Initiative, and Referendum Thresholds
- Historic Preservation/Burial Site Development
- Indigenous Peoples Recognition

#### **Bond Issuance Subcommittee**

- Affordable Housing
- Financial Transparency

#### **Ethics, Sunset, and Council Size Subcommittee**

- Ethics Reviews Board Composition
- Other Ethics Revisions
- Sunset of Boards and Commissions
- Number of Council Districts

#### **Governance Subcommittee**

- Form of Government
- Term Length and Staggering
- Election Date
- Residency
- Method of Voting (ranked, e.g.)
- Public Campaign Finance
- Council Attorney
- Authority to File Suit Against Government Entities

The subcommittees met from June 29, 2017 through August 25, 2017 and discussed each of the issues put forth. The full Commission met six times between December 2016 and August 2017. The subcommittee reports have been preliminarily discussed by the full Commission but are not the final recommendation of the full commission.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Memo is briefing purposes only.