



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:17-5706

Agenda Item Number: 3.

Agenda Date: 10/18/2017

In Control: Governance Committee

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a requirement of a special election for council vacancies with more than 120 days in a term; and removal of outdated or superseded language in the Charter.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