



Charter Review Community Meeting: Form of Government Discussion

City of Flint Charter Review Commission

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church January 21, 2016

Meeting Purpose

- ▶ To learn about the City of Flint Charter, the review process, and different types of local government structures
- ▶ To begin community dialogue on the different forms of local government and what we should have in the Flint City Charter
- ▶ To promote additional ways to get involved in the Charter

Group Agreements

- Focus on the meeting purpose
- Actively engaged
- Actively listening with your full being
- Stay committed to the process

Presentation Outline

- Introduction to the City Charter
- Overview of Different Forms of Local Government
- Group Discussions
- Report Out
- How to stay involved
- Next steps

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Introduction to the City Charter and Review Process

What is the Charter?

- Home Rule City Act governs the functions of local government in Michigan
- Primary governing document for home rule cities
- A city charter is similar to a constitution
- Defines the relationship between government and its community
- Written by locally elected commissioners, with state review, and approved by voters

Examples of items that must be included in a charter

- Selection of Mayor
- Election of Council or Commission
- Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Board of Review, Other Officers
- Nominations and Elections
- Qualifications, Duties, Compensation of Officers
- Tax rate
- Appropriations
- Public Peace, Health and Safety
- Ordinance Adoption

Examples of items that may be in a charter

- ▶ Borrowing of Money
- ▶ Installation of Sewer, Water, and Electric
- ▶ Public Utilities
- ▶ Special Assessments
- ▶ Acquisition of Property, Condemnation of Property
- ▶ Franchises
- ▶ Public Transportation, Regulation of Streets and Public Ways
- ▶ Licensing and Regulation
- ▶ Appropriation of Funds to Nonprofits
- ▶ Civil Infractions
- ▶ Public Nonprofit Medical Facilities

Charter Review Commission

- 9 member body, elected at large (city wide)
- Represent citizens of Flint
- Role of reviewing the 1974 City Charter and determining if changes need to be made
 - Amendments
 - Fully re-written
 - Modified
- Revised Charter (or amendments) would be presented to the residents of Flint for vote

CRC Committees

- Commission Chairpersons
- Finance Committee
- Rules Committee
- Public Outreach Committee
 - Charter Advisory Committee

Guiding Principles for the City of Flint Charter Review Commission

- The City of Flint Charter Review process will be open to all Flint Citizens. The Commission will ensure that public voices are recognized and that information is open and accessible to the public. The Commission will go to where the people are and will reach out to residents and businesses from all wards. The Commission will seek to engage and educate the community on the City of Flint Charter and will consider all ideas heard in the community. (Adopted June 18, 2015)

Charter Review Process (June- August 2015)

- Getting Organized
 - Created Guiding Principles
 - Developed Procedural Rules
 - Crafted Outreach Strategy & Charter Review Process
 - Training with Michigan Municipal League
 - Invited City Elected Officials and Department Heads to CRC Meetings

Charter Review Process (September - December 2015)

- September 2015
Community Kick-off Meeting



- October - December 2015
Article 1 - General Administrative Items

Charter Review Process (January - July 2016)

- January
 - Community Meeting on Form of Government
- February/March
 - Article 2 - Elections and Representation
- April/ May
 - Article 3 - City Council and the Legislative Branch
- June/ July
 - Article 4 - Mayor and the Executive Branch

Charter Review Process (August - December 2016)

- August - September

Articles 5 & 6 - Civil Service, Staff and Boards

- October - December

Articles 7, 8, & 9- Finance, Utilities, and Miscellaneous

Charter Review Process

- Goal is to complete first draft by end of 2016 (if needed)
- Timeline is subject to change
- Must send to State of Michigan for review
- Legal review (ongoing)

Why the Charter Review is Important

- This is an important way citizens can get involved and make a difference in their community
- Knowledge is power
- “Be the change that you want to see in this *city*”
- Your involvement will create positive change

Form of Government

Strong Mayor

Council - Manager

“Non-executive” Mayor - Council

Hybrid

Main types of Local Government

Strong Mayor

- ▶ Mayor is directly elected
- ▶ Mayor is full-time and salaried
- ▶ Mayor appoints top administrators (hire and fire)
- ▶ Mayor may have veto power over council
- ▶ “*Presidential*” style of government

Council - Manager

- ▶ Council has policy and legislative role
 - ▶ Goal setting/ Strategic Planning
 - ▶ Adopts budget
 - ▶ Approves Capital Improvement Plan
 - ▶ Action through resolutions and ordinances
- ▶ Manager as the administrative head of the city
 - ▶ Implementation of Council policies and goals
 - ▶ Hired and fired by City Council
 - ▶ Runs day-to-day operations
- ▶ “*Corporate*” style of government

Other Types of Local Government

“Non-executive” Mayor - Council

- ▶ Mayor is a member of the council
- ▶ Mayor chairs council meetings
- ▶ Mayor is chief policy and ceremonial official
- ▶ Department heads operate independently of Mayor
- ▶ Mayor is not the central administrator

Hybrid

- ▶ Many different variations
- ▶ Ex. Mayor elected at large
- ▶ Ex. Mayor has the authority to hire and fire an administrator
- ▶ Ex. Council confirms the mayors appointment of administrator

Strong Mayor vs. “Non-executive” Mayor/Council

Strong Mayor

- ▶ Directly elected by citizens
- ▶ Not a member of Council
- ▶ Appoints and removes key administrative officials who report directly to Mayor
- ▶ Variations on veto power by mayor over council decisions
- ▶ Salaried and full-time Mayor

“Non-executive” Mayor/Council

- ▶ Mayor is a member of Council
- ▶ Chairs Council meetings
- ▶ Chief of policy and ceremonial official
- ▶ Mayor can serve as chief administrative official, although department heads often operate more or less independently

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Group discussion on Form of Government

Discussion Questions

1. What form of government do you prefer for Flint and why?
2. Any other important elements that should be added or changed to improve local government?
3. What are the three most important you want to see in local government?

Group Discussion Report Out

Evaluation of Process

Get Involved!

- Volunteer for the Charter Advisory Committee
- Attend CRC Meetings
- Review the Charter with Us!
- Share information with people you know
- Stay informed CRC Meetings online and on Channel 17

Charter Review Commission

- Contact Us at:

City of Flint Charter Review Commission

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