

# The Charter Review

Charter Review Commission - Kick-Off Community Meeting

University of Michigan - Flint

September 26, 2015

# Meeting Purpose (Regina)

- For the Community to learn about the Charter Review
- Get initial feedback from Community to inform and guide the Charter Review Process
- To share about ways to get involved with the Charter

# Group Agreements

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

# Presentation Outline

- What is the Charter?
- Who are the CRC?
  - What is their task
- Charter Review Process & Timeline
  - What it means and why its important
- How to get involved
- Group Exercise- Creating a Shared Vision
- Survey

# What is the Charter? (John)

- 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 (Brian)

- 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 (Heidi) (September 2015)

- **Kick-off Meeting**
  - Officially beginning the Charter Review Process with Kick-Off Meeting
  - Publish initial survey for resident feedback
  - Seek for volunteers for Charter Advisory Committee

# Charter Review Process (October - December 2015)

- October/November
  - Article 1 - General Administrative Items
- November/December
  - Article 2 - Elections and Representation

# Charter Review Process (January - April 2016)

- January/February  
Article 3 - City Council and the Legislative Branch
- March/April  
Article 4 - Mayor and the Executive Branch

# Charter Review Process (May - August 2016)

- May/June

Articles 5 & 6 - Civil Service, Staff and Boards

- July/August

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

# Charter Review Process

- Goal is to complete first draft by August 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

# Get Involved!

- Volunteer for the Charter Advisory Committee
- Attend CRC Meetings
- Review the Charter with Us!
- Fill out survey
- 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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[www.cityofflint.com/flint-charter-review-commission](http://www.cityofflint.com/flint-charter-review-commission)

# Exercise #1 Questions

1. What does good government look like?
2. What does bad government look like?
3. What are some qualities that you want to see in your city government?
4. What are some things that you would like to see in the Charter?