

PROCESS FOR MOVING AMENDMENT PROPOSAL THROUGH CHARTER COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

- The amendment proposals should be written in ballot-ready. The City Attorneys are adept at writing ballot language, and very willing to do so, but even then it can take time.
- The proposal in ballot-ready language, along with a brief explanation, also written by those in-the-know City Attorneys, is then reviewed and discussed by the full Charter Commission, and may/may not have to return to the City Attorney for a rewrite based on the critique from the full Commission.
- Meanwhile the Commission must plan for a minimum of 2 public hearings, at least one on a w/e day and at least one in the evening, held in various places in the city that are ADA accessible and where there is capability of a video-recording of the session.
- A public notice of the public hearing(s) must be sent out a minimum of 14 days before the hearing.
- A copy of the amendment proposal must be sent out a minimum of 7 days before the hearing.
- The public may comment at the hearings or in writing, and has a week after the public hearing to return written comment.
- More than one proposal may be presented at a public hearing. There will be time set aside for public comment on any subject not necessarily related to the published hearing subject(s).
- Sometime after that week after the 2nd hearing is held, the amendment proposal again goes before the full Commission who will hear a report on any comments, and have the opportunity to vote whether to send the proposal to the ballot.
- A vote a 15 affirmative votes will send the amendment proposal directly to the voters, but it still goes by City Council , is read (the over-view), City Council members have the opportunity to ask questions, the vote re accepting the report.
- A vote of 11-14 affirmative votes will send the proposal to City Council who then decide whether or not to send it on to the ballot.
- Please anticipate having at least one member of your committee(s) present at the public hearings and the City Council Session, prepared to answer any questions. Your fellow committee members will doubtless appreciate not having to solo that process, to I suggest you plan on having all committee members present. Schedule-allowing I will join you at City Council (can't speak for Mark, but he may also be willing/able to go along for moral support) but proposal committee member(s) are still needed to present the proposal(s) and be prepared to answer questions.
- Any amendment proposal that does not complete the process before we disband will be included in a list of recommended consideration by the next Charter Commission. Any report that the committee(s) wish to forward to the next Charter Commission, to avoid re-inventing the wheel, will be attached. Your work will not be in vain.