

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Bonnie J. Conner, Councilwoman, District 8

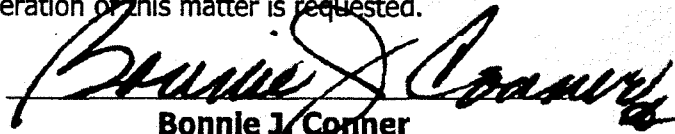
COPIES TO: City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; Director of Finance; Management & Budget Director; Assistant to the Mayor; Assistant to City Council; File

SUBJECT: Contingency Request

DATE: January 27, 2003

I respectfully request Council concurrence to place on the City Council agenda of January 30, 2003, an ordinance allocating \$25,000 from the District 8 Contingency Fund for support of the Governance Subcommittee on Charter Revision. These funds will serve resources for the committee to obtain consultant services, the development of a position paper and other actions related to preparation of a ballot initiative. *Staff has reviewed and approved this request*

Your favorable consideration of this matter is requested.

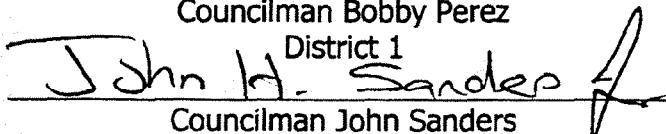



Bonnie J. Conner
Councilwoman, District 8

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK
JAN 27 AM 11:45

Mayor Ed Garza

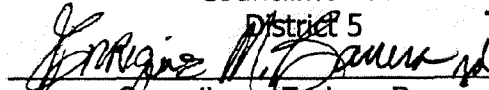
Councilman Bobby Perez
District 1


Councilman John Sanders

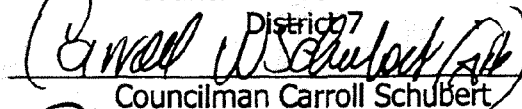

Councilwoman Antoniette "Toni" Moorhouse
District 3

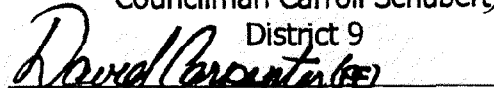
Councilman Enrique "Kike" Martin
District 4

Councilmember


Councilman Enrique Barrera
District 6

Councilman Julian Castro


Councilman Carroll Schubert


Councilman David Carpenter
District 10

Charter Reform: Leadership and Model Governance

Attachment II

Background

San Antonio is a Council-Manager government, a form adopted in 1951 through amendment of the City Charter. Council-Manager cities are governed by an elected council that appoints a city manager, who is responsible for municipal administration and management of staff. When this form of government was adopted in 1951, the population was just over 400,000. Today, San Antonio has more than 1.2 million people. Council-Manager government has endured for more than 50 years, but not without challenges and changes, such as the institution of districts in 1977 and term limits in 1991.

Active, engaged citizens who work with the City as partners are critical to the success of public initiatives. Local government must be responsive and accountable to generate high levels of positive citizen involvement. Accountability was a central issue in the most recent Mayoral campaign and upon Mayor Garza's taking office in June 2001 he moved quickly to evaluate amendments to the City Charter that could improve accountability. A City Council committee chaired by the Mayor met weekly for several months to consider local issues and information from other municipalities. Three immediate recommendations emerged: restructuring the reporting requirements so that the City Auditor is accountable to City Council; restricting civil service eligibility; and providing for City Council involvement with the selection of the City Attorney. Voters overwhelmingly approved these accountability changes in November 2001.

What Issues Remain?

Although there has been vigorous debate about such issues as term limits and council pay for a number of years, ultimately these changes were not included on the November 2001 ballot. However, citizens continue to hold strong opinions about leadership and local government. As the charter mandates a two-year waiting period after a successful amendment election, the first date on which voters could again consider changes to the charter is November of 2003.

Identify Issues

Rather than proposing or debating specific changes, the Mayor will engage the community in a yearlong, multi-phase process. A broad-based civic discussion about leadership and local governance is the first step. Initially, the Mayor and the Charter Committee of City Council will create a small ad hoc committee of interested citizens who will work with civic groups, community organizations, neighborhood associations and local educational institutions to consider the following questions:

- What do you expect from local government?
- How is local government related to leadership?
- What works well in San Antonio right now?
- What would you change about local government in San Antonio?

Identify Solutions

During the second phase of the process, responses to these basic questions will help shape a briefing paper on charter reform. The paper will incorporate citizen input and be informed by history of governance in San Antonio and other cities and regions, as well as current best practices. The Mayor and the City Council Charter Committee will call upon national organizations such as the International City/County Management Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities for their expertise. The resulting briefing paper will recommend approaches to improving local government and leadership, which will be presented through public hearings and community discussions. The Charter Committee will then present proposed changes to the City Council.

Advocate for Changes

During the final phase of the process, the Mayor and City Council will advocate for the recommended charter changes. Civic, business and neighborhood groups who have been involved in the community-based discussion process will be urged to actively support a campaign to pass the proposed amendments to San Antonio's charter.

Timeline for Charter Changes

Mayor & Charter Committee appoint Ad Hoc Committee	June 2002
Committee develops Community-Based Process	July--August 2002
Community-Based Process	Sept. 2002--Feb. 2003
Prepare Briefing Paper	March--April 2003
Briefing Paper Presented	May 2003
Public Hearings	June--July 2003
Council Vote on Ballot Language	August 2003
Advocacy	August--October 2003
First Possible Date for Public Vote	November 2003