

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

PUBLIC HEARING
TERRY BRECHTEL
ITEM NO. 7

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Andrew Martin, City Attorney

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Public Hearing On Proposals To Amend The City Charter

DATE: February 12, 2004

SUMMARY

This item is a public hearing to solicit comments on proposals to amend the City Charter at an election to be called for May 15, 2004.

BACKGROUND

After a number of meetings and two public hearings to solicit input, the Citizens Committee on Charter Review made a unanimous recommendation at their meeting on January 13, 2004, for the City Council to consider submitting the following charter amendments to the voters:

1. Repeal the "lifetime ban" that currently bars anyone from serving more than two terms as either a member of the City Council or as Mayor;
2. Raise the compensation provided to the City Council to an annual salary equal to 75% of the San Antonio median family income published by the U.S. Census Bureau in the last decennial census (currently \$30,998.25), and 100% of the San Antonio median family described above for the Mayor (currently \$41,331.00), adjusted every ten years, and to be effective for the City Council beginning on June 1, 2005; and
3. Lengthen terms from two years to three years, and lengthen term limits from two terms to three terms.

The Citizens Committee on Charter Review discussed but did not make a recommendation on the issue of "applicability": whether the proposed changes to terms and term limits should apply to permit additional terms of office for current members of the City Council.

In addition to the proposals by the Citizens Committee, the Governance Committee has discussed proposals to establish an Ethics Review Board as an independent, Council-appointed enforcement agency for ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance ordinances, and to authorize the direct hiring of assistants by individual members of the City Council. These and any other

suggestions for Charter amendments made by the public will be the focus of comment at the public hearing.

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ANDREW MARTIN

City Attorney

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terry M. Brechtel", written over a horizontal line.

TERRY M. BRECHTEL

City Manager