

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
TIME CERTAIN
ITEM NO. 6
6:00 PM**

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 19, 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

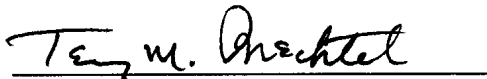
suggestions for Charter amendments made by the public will be the focus of comment at the public hearing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew Martin", written over a horizontal line.

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

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC HEARING

ON

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SAN ANTONIO CITY CHARTER

San Antonio is a home rule city. The City Charter is the fundamental law for the city and establishes the structure, power, and limits of city government. In essence, the charter is the city's constitution.

The voters of San Antonio adopt the charter and any amendments at an election called for that purpose. The charter may not be amended more frequently than every two years. The most recent amendments to the City Charter were adopted in November 2001. The City Council is considering scheduling a charter amendment election for May 15, 2004.

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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 above-described proposals by the Citizens Committee, the Governance Committee has discussed the following proposals:

- to establish an Ethics Review Board as an independent, Council-appointed enforcement agency for ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance ordinances,
- to authorize the direct hiring of assistants by individual members of the City Council.

This public hearing provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the concepts and proposals listed above and any other proposals for Charter amendments. Please sign the speaker sign-up sheet by 6:00 p.m. if you want to speak at this public hearing.