

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: BF 17

ISSUE CATEGORY: Budget & Finance

SOURCE: Alvin Brooks, Retired Trustee

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: 11-103(1)

Letter dated 10/19/20

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION: 47-1-4

RELEVANT LAW(S): Case on PERA and Retirement as mandatory subject;

(Retirement)

PERA

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Increase board composition to eleven Trustees.

RATIONALE: GRSCD has more retired members than there are active members, has the same duties as elected active members and an additional retiree will ensure that retirees are represented at all times.

“As the 2010 commission examines whether it should or not make changes to the current make up of the current general retirement system, it should consider the following: (1) prior to 1974 the retired position was an appointed position. It is now an elected position. (2) When the charter was enacted there were more active employees than retirees. Currently, there are more retirees than active employees. And this trend is going to continue. (3) Unless all of the active trustees become incapacitated at the same time, active employees will always be represented. (4) This is not true with retirees. If the lone retiree trustee becomes incapacitated, retirees will not have a representative on the board. (5) Although in effect since 1938, it is unusual for a governing body to have an even number of members.

“Base [sic] on the fact that there are more retirees than active members, one could conclude that the retirees have at least an equal interest with the active members in the decision making process of the retirement system. And, therefore, should be equal in all other respects.” – *Alvin Brooks, Retired Trustee, Letter dated November 1, 2010.*

ANALYSIS: See legal opinion on PERA and Retirement/Pension system.

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: