

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: EPS 26

ISSUE CATEGORY: Enforcement & Public Safety

SOURCE: Dorothy J. Cleveland

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: Art. 6, Ch. 8 (Fire) & Ch. 11 (Police)

Letter dated December 5, 2010

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Employees of the Police and Fire Department shall be crossed trained and deployed as a combined force to fight crime and fire within the city limits.

(A) Cross training and deployment of joint police and fire services. To shift greater resources into the field and away from bureaucratic command structure the police and fire functions shall be combined. The Department of Police shall have two divisions; combined police and fire, and emergency medical protection. The Department shall be headed by a qualified police / fire professional with experience in combining police and fire protection services.

(B) The Division of Fire Protection shall also provide for Emergency Technicians for emergency medical services (EMS). To support the deployment, maintenance of the EMS operations, the voters of the city of Detroit shall be asked to allow for the city of Detroit to levy appropriate funds to support EMS services. EMS tax levies, if approved by the voters shall not be used to support police or fire protection services. The Board of Police Commissioners shall be reconstituted to include the governance of both police and fire operations. The Board of Police Commissioners shall have the ability to initiate investigative actions against any police or fire personnel. Discipline issued by the Board shall not conflict with the collective bargaining agreements of the city.

(C) Fight Against Narcotics and other substance abuse. The Board of Police Commissioners shall investigate and publish an annual report on the department's fight against narcotics infiltration into the city. The report shall outline the resources used to fight against narcotics and other substance abuse, and any new law enforcement methods used in other areas of the country for fight against drugs. The report shall also provide a list of prevention or security measures that average citizens can employ in the fight against narcotics. The report shall also have a specific section or sections from Detroit's public health authorities on prevention methods, new sightings for designer drugs or other narcotic substances that citizens should be made aware of their existence, penetration into urban communities and appropriate steps to prevent additional infiltration of these substances into the Detroit community.

RATIONALE:

ANALYSIS: Cross-training could implicate the collective bargaining rights of the respective department employees and needs to be taken into consideration.

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: See “Historical Charter Analysis - Police Department”, dated July 12, 2010 (Corrected Copy) and “Charter History of Fire Department”, dated July 19, 2010.