

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GOS 169

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Operations & Structure

SOURCE: Richard Mack

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: §4-102 (Meetings)

Letter, December 26, 2010

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Require City Council to make efforts to facilitate full public participation in its meetings by adjourning them to larger venues when necessitated by the size of the public audience.

Sec. 4-102. - Meetings.

The city council shall hold its first (1st) meeting in the first (1st) week of January after the regular city general election and, during ten (10) months of the year, shall meet every business day unless otherwise provided by resolution at such times and places as it may provide.

On at least eight (8) occasions during each calendar year, the city council shall hold meetings in areas of the city, to be determined by the city council. Those meetings shall begin between the hours of seven (7) o'clock P.M. and eight (8) o'clock P.M.

Special meetings may be held at the call of the mayor or four (4) or more city council members and, whenever practicable, upon no less than twenty-four (24) hours notice to each member and to the public.

All business which the city council may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the opening meetings act, 1976 P.A.267, MCL 15.261 et seq.; MSA 4.1800 et. seq. The City Council shall make every effort to assure that the members of the public gathered for the meeting are able to witness and participate in the meetings. This shall include adjourning and immediately reconvening a meeting in a larger meeting space in order to accommodate a large gathering of the public.

RATIONALE: “This change helps ensure that the members of the public who gather for various City Council hearings are able to participate in the hearings. There have been meetings with attendance far above the space that the normal city council meeting room can accommodate, and the city council has declined to move the meeting to the larger auditorium across the hall on the 13th floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. This language would prevent that from happening.”-Richard Mack, Esq., Letter, December 26, 2010.

ANALYSIS:

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: