

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GOS 22

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Operation & Structure

SOURCE: Frank Houston. Exec. Dir.

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: §2-106 (Standards of Conduct)

Michigan Common Cause

8/1/09 Letter

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION: Art. VI, Div. 1

RELEVANT LAW(S):

(Generally); Div. 2 (Disclosure Requirements);

Div. 3 (Standards of Conduct); Div. 4 (Board of Ethics)

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Strengthen Ethics Commission to ensure proper preventative and investigative measures are taken on ethical concerns and complaints.

RATIONALE: Promotes and assures accountability and responsibility; discourages improper influence; avoids conflict of interest. – Frank Houston, 8/1/09 Letter.

ANALYSIS: The role and function of the Ethics Commission as set forth in the City Charter are threefold: (1) Provide advisory opinions regarding the “meaning and application of provisions of the Charter, city ordinance or other laws or regulations establishing standard of conduct for elective officers, appointees, or employees”; (2) Recommend improvements in the standards of conduct; and (3) Initiate investigations. Through its authority to recommend improvements in the city’s standards of conduct the Ethics Commission ostensibly has sufficient power and means to impact the adoption of any additional preventative measures deemed necessary to maintain and promote ethical behavior in city government. Also, it’s uninhibited investigatory power appears to affords the Ethics Commission the ability and latitude to ensure all necessary investigative measures are taken to address ethical concerns and complaints.

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: