

**DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY**

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GDS 27

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Department & Services

**SOURCE:** Gwinnette W. Crownley

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** §6-516 (Residence)

Letter dated November 15, 2010

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:**

**RELEVANT LAW(S):**

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**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:** Go back to the former residency rule for all employees.

**RATIONALE:** “Once there was a requirement for all city personnel to reside in the city. The Police and Fire Fighters vehemently contested this rule and eventually the State legislators voted for a change in the residency rule for them. At that time, the ruling was not applicable to any other city employees. Later, for some unknown reason, the city did away with city residency requirement for all employment. Prior to that, only for specific jobs requiring special skills was the rule made an exception. It seems that with the budget crisis and so many unemployed Detroiters, the city would want its personnel to reside within its boundaries, paying taxes to support it with monies they earned from the city. A look at changing back to the residency rule should be seriously considered by this commission. People who live in the city at least should have priority for jobs. It’s been shown that persons who live in the city have a vested interest in what happens to it; the opposite is true when persons reside outside it. (That’s why incentives are being looked at to get Police and Fire personnel to move back into the city. When they live here, they pay more taxes, **and their very presence helps to deter crime. The same is true when you have other employees with a vested interest in what happens to the property around them, especially when they are property owners, as are most or many city employees.**)” –Gwinnette W. Crownley, Letter, dated November 15, 2010.

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:**