



DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMUNITY FORUM

Government Departments and Services
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Charter Mandated Departments	Existing Departments	DetCharter's Proposed Departments
Auditor General	Auditor General	Auditor General
Ombudsperson	Ombudsperson	Inspector General
City Planning Commission	City Planning Commission	City Planning Commission
Budget Dept	Budget Dept	Budget Dept
Planning Dept	Planning Dept	Planning and Development Dept
Finance Dept	Finance Dept (Purchasing)	Finance Dept
Law Dept	Law Dept	Law Dept
Human Resources Dept	Human Resources Dept	Human Resources Dept
Environmental Affairs		*combined with Buildings...
Health & Sanitation	Health & Wellness Promotion	Community Health
Arts		Arts
Building	Buildings, Safety Engineering, Environment	Buildings, Safety Engineering, Environment, Renewable Resources
Community and Economic Development	Office of Neighborhood Comm Revitalization	*combined with Planning and Development
Consumer Affairs		*combined with Inspector General
Public Works	Public Works	Streets and Sanitation
Fire	Fire	Fire
Historical	Historical	Historic
Human Rights	Human Rights	
Police	Police	Police
Public Lighting	Public Lighting	*combined with Streets and Sanitation
Recreation	Recreation/Arts	Recreation
Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
Water and Sewerage	Water and Sewerage	Water and Sewerage
Zoological	Zoological	Zoological
Council of the Arts		*combined with Arts Dept
	Workforce Development	*combined with Economic Development
	General Services	
	Human Services	*combined with Human Resources
	Information Technology Services	
	Office of Targeted Business Development	*combined with Economic Development
25 total departments	26 total departments	19 total departments

ARTICLE 7. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 3. ARTS

Sec. 7-301. Department.

The arts department is headed by a ~~seven (7)~~ nine (9) member commission. The members of the commission shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the mayorⁱ.

The term of membership on the commission is four (4) years, and not more than two (2) members' terms expire each year.

The commission shall appoint, with approval of the mayor, the arts director and a deputy arts director. The director and the deputy director serve at the pleasure of the commission.

The council shall act as an advisory body to the mayor and the city council and as advocate for the arts and aesthetics in all aspects of city life. It shall advise and support cultural institutions and groups interested in cultural activities. It shall encourage, develop and support a wide variety of programs which reflect the cultural needs and experiences of all citizens and shall encourage participation by all citizens in the cultural activities carried on in the cityⁱⁱ.

The arts department shall maintain and operate the Detroit Institute of Arts directly or pursuant to an operating agreementⁱⁱⁱ.

ⁱ This proposal combines the Arts Department and the Council of the Arts into one department with a 9-member commission, a Director and Deputy Director.

ⁱⁱ Added to Sec. 7-301 from 9-201.

ⁱⁱⁱ Reflects recommendation of GDS 21, as is the current practice.

CHAPTER 5. HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Sec. 6-503. Human Resources Director and Deputy.

The human resources director shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by a majority vote of City Council. However, if the City Council does not disapprove the appointment within thirty (30) days, it is deemed confirmedⁱ.

The mayor with City Council approvalⁱⁱ may remove the director without cause. A deputy human resources director shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the human resources director.

Sec. 6-505. Civil Service Commission.

The human resources department is headed by ~~a six (6) member civil service commission~~ the Human Resources Directorⁱⁱⁱ.

The mayor shall appoint two (2) members to two (2) year terms beginning February fifteenth (15th) of each even numbered year and the city council shall appoint three (3) members to two (2) year terms beginning February fifteenth (15th) of each odd numbered year. A member may be removed only for cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled for the unexpired term, if any, by the authority making the original appointment. The human resources director shall serve ex-officio on the commission.

A member must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the city. The members of the commission may hold no other public office or public employment except that of notary public. The commission shall be representative of the total community and shall meet at least once each month.

The commission may hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. To enforce a subpoena or order for production of evidence or to impose any penalty prescribed for failure to obey a subpoena or order, the commission shall apply to the appropriate court. The Commission may delegate the powers to hold hearings, administer oaths and take testimony.

Sec. 6-506. Non-Discrimination.

No city employee or applicant for employment can be discriminated against

No city employee or applicant for employment shall be discriminated against ~~because of race, color, creed, national origin, age, political orientation, sex, sexual orientation, or non-disabling handicap~~ in accordance with State and Federal Law^{iv}. The human resources department shall take affirmative appropriate^v action as required by the Constitutions of Michigan and the United States, to assure that all levels of the classified service are reasonable representative of the ethnic and sex composition of the city.

Sec. 6-516. Residence.

The city may, by ordinance, establish residency requirements for city employment in accordance with state law^{vi}.

Sec. 6-509. Classification of Positions.

The human resources director shall prepare, maintain, and from time to time revise a classification plan for all positions in the classified service. The classification plan shall include an appropriate title for each class and a description of the duties and responsibilities of positions in the class. The human resources director may consult with the heads of city agencies in the preparation of those descriptions.

The classification plan and any revision of it, shall be filed with the city clerk and shall be a public record and shall be published on the City of Detroit website^{vii}. The plan or any revision shall become effective thirty (30) days after filing, except that, within the thirty (30) day period, the civil service commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of any classified employee or the head of any agency affected, review the classification plan or any revision and, after giving the human resources director a full hearing, may make changes if it finds upon clear and convincing evidence that the description or classification of any position or positions is improper.

Rationale:

ⁱ Reflects changes already adopted by the Commission.

ⁱⁱ Reflects changes already adopted by the Commission.

ⁱⁱⁱ References GDS 101 – Make HR Director and not Commission head of Human Resources.

^{iv} Eliminates confusion by referencing State and Federal Law.

^v References GDS 16 – eliminates the phrase “affirmative action” and replaces with “appropriate action”.

^{vi} Eliminates confusion by referencing State and Federal Law.

^{vii} Envisions the implementation of a section of the City’s website that will contain information related to the experience, qualifications and skills of all elected and appointed officials and department and agency heads in the Detroit City Government resulting in more transparency and accessibility for citizens.

ARTICLE 7. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 4. BUILDINGS, SAFETY, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Sec. 7-401 Department of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, Environment and Renewable Resources

The Department of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, Environment and Renewable Resources (BSEERR) is headed by a director who is appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council. However, if the City Council does not disapprove the appointment within thirty (30) days, it is deemed confirmedⁱ.

Sec. 7-402 Qualifications

The director of the department of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, Environment and Renewable Resources shall have:

- a) A Masters Degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, or Planning with a minimum of 7 years experience in a management or administrative role or;
- b) A Bachelors Degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, or Planning with a minimum of 10 years experience in a management or administrative role or;
- c) A degree in public administration with a minimum of 10 years experience in related fieldⁱⁱ.

Sec. 7-403 General Purpose

The Department of Buildings, Safety, Engineering, Environment and Renewable Resources shall administer and enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the use of land ("zoning") and to conserve and protect the natural resources of the city of Detroit in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of the people, to promote improved social and economic conditions in the city and to protect limited environmental resources for the future benefit of city inhabitantsⁱⁱⁱ.

~~Sec. 7-403. Board of Zoning Appeals.~~

~~Except as otherwise provided by an ordinance, one (1) appeals board with the powers and duties that may be provided by ordinance shall be established by the city council in accordance with state law to review any decision made by the department under section 7-402 where any law, ordinance or regulation requires review by an appeals board. The ordinance shall provide for rules governing the appeal, including the parties entitled~~

~~to be heard in proceedings before the appeals board and the effect of a decision of the board, and may provide compensation for board members. In any review proceeding, the building department shall file a written statement and may appear before the appeals board in support of its decision^{iv}.~~

Sec. 7-404 Powers and Duties

The BSEERR shall:

- 1) Administer all applications for permits, grants, variances, waivers or exceptions of any kind under zoning laws, ordinances and regulations shall be made to the department^v;
- 2) Allow or deny permits, grants, variances, waivers and other exceptions upon the terms and conditions provided by ordinance^{vi};
- 3) Administer and enforce all other laws and ordinances regulating the development, maintenance and use of real property in the city^{vii};
- 4) Develop and implement programs for response to emergency conditions which pose an immediate danger to health and safety to the people of Detroit or to the city's environment^{viii};
- 5) Develop and implement a coordinated and comprehensive environmental policy that includes the conservation and protection of land, water, air, renewable and reusable resources for the city of Detroit in compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations^{ix};
- 6) Develop and coordinate policy, programs and procedures for remediation, redevelopment and reuse of contaminated land sites in the city of Detroit^x;
- 7) Advise, consult and cooperate with agencies of the federal, state and local governments and the general public in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter^{xi};

~~Sec. 6-604. Conservation.~~

~~The department of environment shall develop programs for the protection and conservation of natural resources within the city of Detroit^{xii}.~~

~~Sec. 6-605. Environmental Legislation.~~

~~The department of environment shall propose new ordinances, laws and regulations to the mayor, city council and other governmental entities as appropriate for improvement of the quality of the environment and promotion of the mission of the department^{xiii}.~~

Sec 7-405 Departmental Processes

The department shall create streamlined licensing and permitting processes, which coordinate departmental services concerning development in the most efficient manner possible^{xiv}.

Rationale:

- ⁱ Sec 7-401 Combines the current “Building Department” and “Department of Environmental Affairs” into a single entity as is currently being implemented with the inclusion of Renewable Resources per GDS - 3.
- ⁱⁱ New section recommending qualifications for the head of the department.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sec 7-403 combines the purpose of both departments.
- ^{iv} Sec 7-403 is to be included in Article 4, The Legislative Branch, of this charter.
- ^v From Sec 7-402 – Applications filed under zoning law
- ^{vi} From Sec 7-402 – Applications filed under zoning law
- ^{vii} From Sec 7-404 – Duty under other regulatory laws
- ^{viii} From Sec 6-603 – 4 – Powers and Duties; emergency conditions
- ^{ix} From Sec 6-603 – 1,3 – with inclusion of terms “renewable and reusable” from GDS 3
- ^x From Sec 6-603 – 6
- ^{xi} From Sec 6-603 – 5,8,9,10,11 – This is a “catch-all” for listed subsections.
- ^{xii} Sec 6-604 is included in new Sec 7-404 – Powers and Duties – Subsection 5
- ^{xiii} Sec 6-605 is included in new Sec 7-404 – Power and Duties – Subsection 5
- ^{xiv} From GDS 95 with the addition of “streamlined licensing and permitting”

ARTICLE 7. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 17. DEPARTMENT OF STREETS AND SANITATION

Sec 7-1701 Department

The Department of Streets and Sanitation shall be headed by the Streets and Sanitation Director who is appointed by the Mayor. The Streets and Sanitation Director may appoint a Deputy Directorⁱ.

Sec 7-1702 Qualifications

The Streets and Sanitation Director and Deputy Director shall be licensed in the state of Michigan as a mechanical or electrical engineer and have a minimum of 10 years experience in the administration of public servicesⁱⁱ.

Sec 7-1703 General Purpose

The Department of Streets and Sanitation shall administer and maintain all public lighting, public lighting plants, and traffic control systems; manage the collection of garbage and debris; and construct and maintain the public way as described by this chapter of the Detroit City Charterⁱⁱⁱ.

Sec 7-1704 Duties and Responsibilities

The Department of Streets and Sanitation shall:

- 1) Supervise and control all public lighting and public lighting plants^{iv};
- 2) Furnish and sell light, heat and power to any person, firm, division, or corporation within or outside of the city to the extent permitted by law^v;
- 3) Provide for the management and collection of garbage and debris in the manner least harmful to the environment^{vi};
- 4) Except as otherwise provided by law or Charter, in cooperation with the department of environment, enforce the environmental ordinances of the city, relating to this chapter^{vii};
- 5) Provide for the construction, maintenance, demolition and engineering design of streets, alleys and public buildings^{viii};
- 6) Plan, establish and maintain systems and devices for safe and expeditious regulation and control of traffic within the city^{ix};
- 7) The Department of Streets and Sanitation may repair sidewalks if an owner fails to do so after notification. The cost of any sidewalk repair is the responsibility of the property owner^x;

- 8) Exercise other powers and perform other duties necessary to carry out its functions^{xi}.

Sec 7-1705 Limitations on Sale of Assets^{xii}

The following limitations shall apply relative to ~~public lighting~~ the Department of Streets and Sanitation equipment, facilities and services:

- 1) The city may not sell or in any way dispose of any property needed to continue the operation of any ~~city owned public utility furnishing lighting~~ Department of Streets and Sanitation services, unless approved by a majority of city voters voting on the question at a regular ~~or special~~ election.
- 2) The city may not grant any ~~public utility~~ franchise for public ~~lighting~~ services which is not subject to revocation at the will of the city council unless the proposition is first approved by three-fifths (3/5) of city voters voting on the question at a regular ~~or special~~ election.
- 3) All contracts, franchises, grants, leases or other forms of transfer in violation of this section shall be void and of no effect against the city.

ⁱ This is a new chapter to be added to the City Charter replacing the departments of Public Lighting, Public Works, and Sanitation. The current charter provides for a Health and Sanitation Department, this proposal suggests the Health Department be recognized separately.

ⁱⁱ New Section establishes the Streets and Sanitation Director under generally recognized qualifications for such a position while eliminating the public lighting commission.

ⁱⁱⁱ New section combines purposes of Public Lighting, Public Works and Sanitation.

^{iv} From Sec 7-1204 – Powers and Duties (Public Lighting)

^v From Sec 7-1204 - Powers and Duties (Public Lighting)

^{vi} From Sec 7-701/7-202 – Department (Public Works)/Sanitation (Responsibilities in Health and Sanitation)

^{vii} From Sec 7-701 – Department (Public Works)

^{viii} From Sec 7-701 – Department (Public Works)

^{ix} From Sec 7-701 – Department (Public Works)

^x From Sec 7-702 – Sidewalk Maintenance (Public Works)

^{xi} From Sec 7-1204/7-701

^{xii} From Sec 7-1205 with noted changes including the Commissions will to eliminate special elections.