

CITY OF BALTIMORE
RESOLUTION 20-26
Council Bill 19-0382
(Charter Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Scott, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Sneed, Schleifer, Cohen, Burnett
Introduced and read first time: April 29, 2019
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: July 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING

1 **Charter Amendment -- City Administrator**

2 FOR the purpose of establishing the position of City Administrator as the Chief Administrative
3 Officer of Baltimore City; establishing how the City Administrator is appointed and
4 removed; establishing the powers and duties of the City Administrator; establishing that the
5 City Administrator shall appoint a Deputy City Administrator and certain other staff;
6 ~~providing that the City Administrator may appoint and remove certain municipal officials;~~
7 clarifying and conforming related provisions; generally relating to the position of the City
8 Administrator; providing for a special effective date; and submitting this amendment to the
9 qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

10 BY proposing to amend
11 Article I - General Provisions
12 Sections 2(f) and 7(c)
13 Baltimore City Charter
14 (1996 Edition)

15 BY proposing to amend
16 Article IV - Mayor
17 Sections 3, 4, and 6(b), ~~(c)~~; and (l)
18 Baltimore City Charter
19 (1996 Edition)

20 BY proposing to amend
21 Article VII - Executive Departments
22 Sections 1, 2(b), ~~3, 98(b), and 131(b)~~ and 3
23 Baltimore City Charter
24 (1996 Edition)

25 BY proposing to add
26 Article VII - Executive Departments
27 Sections 135 to 140
28 Baltimore City Charter
29 (1996 Edition)

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
Strike-out indicates matter stricken by amendment.

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1 **§ 4. General powers.**

2 (b) *Chief executive officer.*

3 The Mayor [shall be] IS the chief executive officer of the City[,] AND shall see that
4 ordinances and resolutions are duly and faithfully executed[, and shall have general
5 supervision over all municipal officers and agencies].

6 **§ 6. Appointments of municipal officers.**

7 (b) *Terms of officers.*

8 The terms of all municipal officers appointed by the Mayor shall expire at the end of four
9 years or at the end of the Mayor's term of office, whichever first occurs, with the
10 exception of the terms of THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ~~ANY OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE~~
11 ~~CITY ADMINISTRATOR UNDER THE CHARTER~~, AND some of the members of the Board of
12 School Commissioners, the Civil Service Commission, the Planning Commission, the
13 Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, and those boards and commissions governed by
14 State or federal law. The terms of THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND the members of these
15 boards and commissions are prescribed elsewhere in the Charter or by other law.

16 ~~(e) *Removal—In general.*~~

17 ~~EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THE CHARTER, THE [The] Mayor shall have the~~
18 ~~power to remove at pleasure all municipal officers, except ANY OFFICER APPOINTED BY~~
19 ~~THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR UNDER THE CHARTER and members of boards and~~
20 ~~commissions established by Charter or other law, appointed by the Mayor in the manner~~
21 ~~prescribed in this section and confirmed by the City Council; provided, however, that~~
22 ~~appointees holding office pursuant to the provisions of the Charter relating to the Civil~~
23 ~~Service may be removed from office only in accordance with such provisions.~~

24 (l) *Residency requirement.*

25 (1) THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND ALL [All] heads of departments and bureaus,
26 including presidents of boards and commissions, provided for by this Charter or any
27 other law, and appointed by the Mayor or by the governing board of the department,
28 shall be residents and registered voters of Baltimore City at the time of their
29 appointment and shall remain residents and registered voters during their entire term
30 of office.

31 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to those holding office prior to
32 January 1, 1975, as long as they shall retain that office, and further, shall not apply to
33 A CITY ADMINISTRATOR, a department head, or bureau head appointed after January
34 1, 1975 who signs a declaration of intent to become a City resident and registered
35 voter within six months of the date of appointment. If that department or bureau head
36 fails to abide by this declaration of intent, then the appointment shall be terminated.

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Article VII. Executive Departments

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. General provisions: Executive power; Rules and regulations.

(a) *Executive power of City.*

Except as committed to the Board of Estimates, the executive power of the City is vested in the Mayor, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, the departments, commissions and boards provided for in this article and the special officers, departments, commissions and boards that may be created by law.

(b) *Rulemaking authority.*

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENTS [Departments], acting through their directors, and commissions and boards, may adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with laws or ordinances, for the operation of their respective departments, commissions and boards as they may deem appropriate.

§ 2. General provisions: Powers and duties; Contracts.

(b) *Execution of contracts.*

All contracts on behalf of a municipal agency shall be executed on behalf of the City either by the Mayor, [or the Mayor's designee] THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, or the head of the agency.

§ 3. General provisions: Bureaus and divisions.

(a) *Establishment or abolishment.*

(1) With the approval of the Board of Estimates, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR [the head of a municipal department (except as otherwise provided for the Department of Public Works), commission, or board provided for by the Charter] may establish and abolish bureaus and divisions within that department, commission or board.

(2) Bureaus in the Department of Public Works shall be established or abolished from time to time by an ordinance which shall have been recommended to the City Council by the Board of Estimates and shall have been duly passed by the City Council by a majority vote of its members and shall have been approved by the Mayor.

(b) *Allocation of powers and duties.*

Subject to the authority of the Board of Estimates, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR; OR the head of any department, commission, or board may assign among the bureaus or divisions in that department, commission, or board, duties and powers of that department, commission, or board. A board or commission may act under this subsection only by the majority vote of its membership.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

~~§ 98. Civil Service Commission: Department of Human Resources -- Director.~~

~~(b) Appointment; Term:~~

~~(1) The Director shall be appointed by the City Administrator and must be confirmed by the City Council [, and shall serve,] pursuant to the process set forth in Article IV, Section 6.~~

~~(2) The Director may be removed at any time by the City Administrator.~~

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

~~§ 131. Director of General Services.~~

~~(b) Appointment; Term:~~

~~(1) The Director shall be appointed by the City Administrator and must be confirmed by the City Council [, and shall serve,] pursuant to the process set forth in Article IV, § 6.~~

~~(2) The Director may be removed at any time by the City Administrator.~~

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

§ 135. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: ESTABLISHMENT.

THERE IS A CITY ADMINISTRATOR WHO SHALL BE THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE CITY.

§ 136. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: APPOINTMENT, TERM, ETC.

(A) APPOINTMENT:

THE MAYOR SHALL APPOINT THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6(A).

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.

(1) THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR MUST HAVE, PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT, AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE THAT IS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD, RESPONSIBLE, AND TECHNICAL TO FUNCTION AS THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

(2) THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR SHALL ALSO BE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH MODERN ACCOUNTING METHODS AND BUDGET PROCEDURES.

(3) (2) IN DETERMINING AND ASSESSING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, THE MAYOR MUST GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO:

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1 (I) THE DEPTH, BREADTH, QUALITY, AND IMPORTANCE OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
2 AND THE DEGREE OF PROGRESSION ACHIEVED;

3 (II) THE INDIVIDUAL'S EDUCATION BACKGROUND;

4 (III) EVIDENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO ACCEPT AND
5 SUCCESSFULLY MEET INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES; AND

6 (IV) EVIDENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S EXCELLENT CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL
7 REPUTATION, AND EMPLOYMENT RECORD.

8 (4) (3) TO ASSURE THE SELECTION OF THE MOST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL AVAILABLE, THE
9 MAYOR MAY RETAIN ANY RECOGNIZED TESTING AGENCY TO EVALUATE AND MAKE
10 RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF PROSPECTIVE APPOINTEES.

11 (C) *TERM.*

12 (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S TERM
13 SHALL BE COTERMINOUS TO THE MAYOR.

14 (2) THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE BEYOND THE MAYOR'S TERM
15 UNTIL A QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND CONFIRMED.

16 (D) *SALARY.*

17 THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY SHALL BE SET IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES;
18 ~~BUT IN NO EVENT SHALL THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY BE LESS THAN \$200,000~~
19 ~~PER YEAR.~~

21 **§ 138. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: REMOVAL.**

22 ~~(A) *IN GENERAL.*~~

23 ~~SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR MAY BE~~
24 ~~REMOVED, WITHOUT CAUSE, BY THE MAYOR IN WRITING TO THE CITY COUNCIL.~~

25 ~~(B) *CITY COUNCIL RATIFICATION REQUIRED.*~~

26 ~~(1) THE CITY COUNCIL MUST RATIFY THE MAYOR'S REMOVAL OF THE CITY~~
27 ~~ADMINISTRATOR WITH AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE MAJORITY OF ALL~~
28 ~~COUNCIL MEMBERS.~~

29 ~~(2) A RATIFICATION VOTE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MUST OCCUR AT THE CITY COUNCIL~~
30 ~~MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE MAYOR'S REMOVAL LETTER.~~

31 ~~(3) IF THE CITY COUNCIL FAILS TO TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY~~
32 ~~PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE REMOVED~~
33 ~~BY OPERATION OF LAW.~~

34 THE MAYOR MAY REMOVE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AT ANY TIME.

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1 § 139. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

2 (A) STAFF.

3 THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR MAY APPOINT EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST IN HIS OR HER DUTIES
4 AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

5 (B) DEPUTY CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

6 (1) THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR SHALL APPOINT A DEPUTY CITY ADMINISTRATOR WHO
7 SHALL SERVE AS THE ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR IN THE EVENT THAT THE CITY
8 ADMINISTRATOR IS TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE FOR DUTY OR IF THE POSITION
9 HAS BEEN VACATED.

10 (2) A DEPUTY CITY ADMINISTRATOR MAY NOT SERVE AS AN ACTING CITY
11 ADMINISTRATOR LONGER THAN 6 MONTHS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION BY THE CITY
12 COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6(A).

13 § 140. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: POWERS AND DUTIES.

14 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CHARTER AND UNDER THE DIRECT AUTHORITY AND
15 SUPERVISION OF THE MAYOR, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

- 16 (1) ADMINISTERS THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE CITY AND ~~OVERSEE~~ OVERSEES
17 THE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES;
- 18 (2) EXERCISES SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OVER ALL AGENCIES, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS,
19 AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS;
- 20 (3) APPROVES RULES AND REGULATIONS PROPOSED BY MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS AND
21 AGENCIES;
- 22 (4) SUPERVISES THE PREPARATION OF THE CITY'S PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET AND
23 ~~PARTICIPATE~~ PARTICIPATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF
24 ESTIMATES;
- 25 (5) ADVISES THE MAYOR IN THE FORMATION OF POLICY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
26 PLANS TO ADDRESS DEMANDS FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF
27 LIFE, AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE CITY;
- 28 (6) PERFORMS DUTIES DELEGATED BY THE MAYOR THAT ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH
29 THIS CHARTER; AND
- 30 (7) PERFORMS ANY OTHER DUTY AS REQUIRED BY THIS CHARTER OR REQUIRED BY
31 ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these amendments to the City Charter
33 shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

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1 **SECTION 32. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this proposed amendment to the City
2 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or rejection,
3 in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form specified by the
4 City Solicitor.

Certified as duly passed this 20 day of July, 2020

Brandon M. Scott
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 20 day of July, 2020

Katarina B. Austin
Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Pursuant to Baltimore City Charter, Article IV,
Section 5 (b), this bill became law on August 6,
2020.

Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for form and legal sufficiency
this 23rd day of July, 2020.

Elena DiPietro
Chief Solicitor

A TRUE COPY
Henry Raymond
Director of Finance