



CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

LO25-0038
Charter Review

Hearing Date: 2/4/2026

Hearing Start Time: 4:00 PM

Hearing End Time: 6:30 XM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: 10

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** Ryan Dorsey
 - **Vice Chair** John Bullock
 - Odette Ramos
 - Zac Blanchard
 - Jermaine Jones
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MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- Committee members
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NOTES

- Chair Dorsey welcomed to committee and discussed the documents before the committee
 - An outline of the proposals to date
 - Drafts of revisions to Articles VII, VIII, and IV
- The Chair discussed the spreadsheet of current topics
 - The committee may later resolve to submit all moving topics as one proposal
- The Chair reviewed two new topic suggestions (available in bill file)
 - The first addressed the BOE and budget process
 - The second addresses the process by which vacancies on the city council are filled and calls for them to be filled by a special election
- Councilmember Ramos indicated that she was working on written proposals for her capital budget and DLR/OCS submissions
- Councilmember Blanchard asked for clarification that the public comments are available to review
 - They are available in the bill file on Legistar
- Councilmember Blanchard also reiterated the importance of soliciting feedback from the City Administrator and Mayor's team

- CM Ramos asked whether a future meeting would be devoted to the BOE
 - The Chair indicated yes but today Article VII is the focus because it was a very broad and warrants some additional discussion
- There will be a more in-depth conversation about the BOE (including its existence)
- Chair Dorsey introduced his rough draft on revisions to Article VII
 - And clarified that it does not incorporate the most up to date revisions
 - The Director of the Department of Legislative reference emphasized the importance of retaining some explicit revisions and suggested that the breadth of the edits may be a bit too expansive
 - The Chair suggested that the Charter need not include any departments
 - DLR notes that these removals may leave a gap in guidance for agencies
 - The Chair notes that he has worked on a transition provision that would limit the effect of the removal of language to the replacement of code or the next general election
 - The Chair noted that powers and duties present in the Charter that prevent the modern work of government ought to be moved to code but those necessary provisions that have been omitted can be fairly reinserted
 - This document as an attempt to identify and cull repetitive provisions and those powers that delve into administrative, regulatory, and legislative
 - The document aims to set common standards across agencies as opposed to the piecemeal nature of each agency as the charter currently exists
 - The Mayor's Office of Government Relations noted that it may be problematic to remove specific purpose provisions for agencies
 - The Charter should protect things that could be subject to shifts of the tenor of elected officials
 - The City Administrator exists separate from departments due to its uniqueness
 - Other departments are struck in the existing document, save several which are expressly provided for
 - There are several agencies of note (for example, Health) that may warrant the retention of powers and duties
 - The State may require a Commission of Social Services
 - The Committee debated the need of companion legislation in tandem with amendments
- Chair Dorsey moved to Article VIII
 - There are minor deletions and adjustments meant to remove minor privileges from the control of the Board of Estimates
 - The Chair again noted that this is a particularly old provision
 - It is unclear whether this provision could be removed entirely from the Charter
 - There is state and case law that may impact
 - If retained, it should be simplified
 - The article may also be a backstop on the executive's authority to give away public goods
- CM Blanchard noted his appreciation for simplicity but wants to ensure that the committee takes time to tackle the substantive matters such as Budget, Funds, BOE
 - The Chair noted that he has a similar working draft for Budget and BOE
 - CM Blanchard also remarked that it would be "based" to require the city operate trackless trolleys
- CM Ramos noted that the administration has an existing bill on procurement and an accompanying ordinance

- DLR notes that drafting capacity could be an issue and does not want to rush article VII
 - Also notes that a comprehensive rewrite in several years could be even more feasible

Hearing Packet in bill file? -----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance Sheet in bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Vote Record in bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? -----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Notes by: Ethan Navarre
 Notes Date: 2/4/2026

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