

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

March 03, 2025

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Jodi Burroughs, Melissa Anderson, Anthony Wilson, Christine Houk, Randy Holt, Ted Berry, Rodney Dew

1. Ms. Houk recognized Mr. David Frea, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, for their presentation.

Mr. Frea thanked all the members for participating on the Charter Review Committee and presented the following recommendations. He shared their process and what they reviewed. He explained the existing form of government and referred to page six of their report. He said they considered Council/City Manager, Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant, and Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant forms of government. He said page two of the report shows that 5 of the 9 members preferred City Manager with Mayor elected by Council. Three (3) of them preferred the current form of government and one (1) prefers the Hybrid form. In addition, four (4) supported a hybrid form if their first preference was not in the majority. He said the committee members recommend Council pursue some type of change in the Charter as to form of government.

Ms. Burroughs asked about their study of Hilliard. Mr. Frea explained that Hilliard was a new change in the form of government. They had a strong Mayor, and the Mayor decided not to run again. Mr. Wilson asked if there was any quarry where the President of the Council would be selected by the voters in the City Manager form. Mr. Frea said yes, but no one supported that idea.

Mayor Stage thanked the members for doing a yeoman's job with this Charter review. The Mayor said the Committee invited someone from Hilliard to explain their form of government, but believes that the Mayor/City Administrator of Grove City was not offered the same opportunity. He shared an article from 1994 voicing support for a strong Mayor form of government. He said "checks and balances" is not a new subject and was addressed in that article stating that "in a City Manager form of government, the Council acts as the legislative and the executive branches and is a stark contrast to the use of checks and balances and the separation of powers". He also pointed out that the appointment of Boards & Commissions and having these appointments go through Council action/ratification was not supported in the last charter review. He said he was not given the opportunity to make the points addressed in this article or in his written testimony, with the Committee. He said the Charter is our constitution and it has only been changed four times since 1958. It is a sacred document and changing it is an extremely important position for the City to take.

Ms. Houk expressed appreciation for the additional comments from the Mayor. She said that "checks and balances" were talked about on one of the meeting that the Mayor had missed. The Mayor explained that he read all of the minutes and there wasn't much of a discussion. He said when questions were given to Hilliard, it would have been nice for the Mayor to receive those questions to respond to as well. Mr. Frea offered that when the Committee discussed checks and balances, there were two items that were focused on: term limits and the power of veto. Most

discussions were about who appoints Boards & Commissions, the City Administrator and other personnel.

Mr. Berry asked if the members that liked the Hybrid model would share what they like best about it. Mr. Roach said he likes the tradition of voting for Mayor but would be willing to give some more power the Council. He feels the Mayor should choose the cabinet with confirmation of Council. He believes there is no need for drastic change. Ms. Sgalla said she wanted to see change and recognizes that overhauling the form of government is a big task. If nothing else, she would like to see some things balanced out – such as confirmation of appointments.

Mr. Holt said that he was expecting more of a singular recommendation from the Committee because there's a lot of work that has to proceed based on this recommendation. He asked if preferences are the same as voting. Mr. Frea said that 6 of the 9 agreed with some change. It was unclear what to change. It was not a straight up and down.

Ms. Houk said she felt like the Committee got to a good spot to relay each person's preference. She said it's in the shades of grey where the magic happens and that's why Council asked a group of citizens to review this. She said she hopes the Committee learned a lot about how our government works and what is in our Charter. She feels it was punted back to Council and that is where it should be. Change to the Charter is not something that any of them should take lightly.

Mr. Kintz said when he looks at his time on the Committee, he thinks that Mayor Stage and Chuck Boso have been amazing stewards in their roles over their time period but they are not going to be here forever. He said we need something better than adequate. With all the other communities around us that seem to be thriving, he feels it is tied to their form of government.

Mr. Wilson asked if there was any research on peer review articles conducted by the Committee on the forms of government, and if so, was there one that came up as thematic in that research. Mr. Frea said the crux of the research were the two articles from the International City Managers Association. He said they were also given a spreadsheet of all the different forms of government.

Mr. Linder said this is his second time around on a Charter Committee and spent about 15 years on the Planning Commission. He said not one time did he get influenced by any City member. His biggest fear is that residents don't know what Strong Mayor or City Manager means and that there needs to be some education.

Ms. Anderson asked if there was any research done on term limits. Mr. Frea said they didn't go into term limits much. Ms. Anderson mentioned checks and balances as well as the power of veto. This has happened recently and she would like to know how the checks and balances are different with a City Manager form. Mr. Frea said with the current form of government, Council has the ability to override the Mayor's veto. In a City Manager form, there would be no veto ability. Mayor Stage said in all the time he has been here, veto power has only been used three (3) times. Mayor Stage said the first veto was passed by Council by five to zero. The vote to override the veto was zero to five. All five Council Members changed their minds after they received more information. One item that Mr. Frea did not bring up is the Appropriation Ordinance. He said once the Mayor submits the budget to Council, only Council can make adjustments and the Mayor cannot veto that particular ordinance.

Ms. Zimomra said this is the community she chose to live out her life in. She recognized that we would not have quality of life in Grove City without the current Mayor and City Administrator. No one ever opposed that on the Committee. She said she has been a City Administrator under

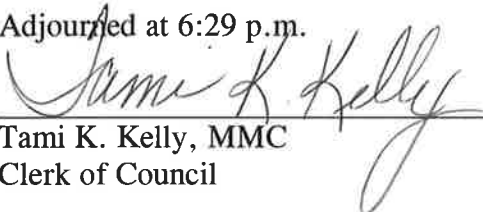
Strong Mayor and that worked very well. She has also been a City Manager. She feels this Charter review was about moving forward. She explained her background, currently a government teacher at Glen College. She said she can find every form of government in Ohio. She said when she uses the phrase "Ceremonial Mayor" that person has whatever authority is delegated by the Charter, but if you have the title of Mayor, there is always a recognition by the public that this person carries some weight. She said a lot is about chemistry and transparency and the acceptance of the community for what form of government they want. Finally, one of the largest discussions was around the appointment of Boards & Commissions and if there was a way for Council to have a role in them. She said there was no clear direction on that either.

Mr. Jeff Buskirk said he has been a resident for 33 years. If you want to change something, you need to know what is broken. Then, you need to be able to explain it and why it needs fixed.

Ms. Houk said Council will have a mini retreat and will be pondering what to do with this information. She expressed many thanks to each member for their work.

2. A motion to adjourn was made and approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 6:29 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Christine Houk
President of Council



City of Grove City

2024 Charter Review Committee

Report to City Council

January 22, 2025

This report represents the views of the 2024 Grove City Charter Review Committee. The Committee thanks the City for providing us the opportunity to serve on this project and supporting us in our endeavors. We compliment the City's management team and staff for their complete professionalism and assistance throughout the process. The Committee is hopeful City Council and Administration find that we have completed our charge as entrusted and that our report and recommendations are found beneficial.

Introduction and Charge of the Task Force

Examination of the Grove City Charter arose as a top priority at the February 24, 2024, Grove City Council Governance Retreat. A subsequent City Council workgroup consisting of the three most senior members of Council proposed the creation of a special Charter Review Committee for the express purpose of reviewing the Grove City Charter provisions related to Grove City's form of government and propose change. Accordingly, on August 5, 2024, City Council adopted Resolution CR-33-24, which established the nine-member Charter Review Committee. The Committee was charged with reviewing the "Charter provisions related specifically to Grove City's form of government and make recommendations for any changes related thereto to the Charter." The Committee convened for the first time on September 11, 2024.

The special Charter Review Committee was comprised of the following members:

David Frea (Chair)	Judith Zimomra (Vice Chair)	Wayne Kintz
Mike Linder	Brian Parks	Jeff Ritchie
Chris Roach	Cynthia Sgalla	Kathleen Welsh

Ex-Officio Members:

Ted Berry - Council	Christine Houk - Council	Randy Holt - Council
Mayor Richard "Ike" Stage	Stephen Smith	Tami Kelly, mmc

Mayor Stage and Council Members Christine Houk, Ted Berry, and Randy Holt, attended various meetings and shared their direct experience within the current form of government.

The Task Force would like to recognize and thank Chuck Boso, City Administrative Assistant, Tami Kelly, Clerk of Council, and Stephen Smith, Director of Law for their contributions to this effort.

Outcome and Recommendations

The Committee discussed three options. The options, as appended to this report, are summarized below:

Council/City Manager: The Mayor would be elected by and from within Council or directly by the public, serving as a ceremonial head of state without executive duties. Appointments to boards, commissions, and committees would be made by Council, with department heads hired by the City Manager, and the Law Director/Firm confirmed by Council.

Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant: Maintain the current form of government with the exception that Council would confirm Mayoral appointments to boards and commissions.

Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant: The current form of government would remain unchanged.

Each member shared their preference as follows:

In favor of moving to a Council/City Manager form of government with the Mayor being elected by and from within Council: **Frea, Kintz, Parks, Sgalla, and Zimomra.**

In favor of moving to a Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government: **Welsh.**

In favor of staying with the current Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government: **Linder, Ritchie, and Roach.**

In addition, Members **Linder, Roach, Sgalla, and Zimomra** indicated that if their preferred form of government was not seen as a viable option, each would be supportive of the Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government.

Accordingly, it is the recommendation of the 2024 Charter Review Committee that Grove City Council pursue Charter amendments to effectuate change with respect to Grove City's current form of government.

Further, if the Charter is to be amended, it is recommended that any typographical errors be corrected, pronouns be degenderized, and references to board and commission terms be corrected from 6 to 4 years.

Narrative of Committee Work

The Committee held its organizational meeting on September 11, 2024. After selecting a Chair and Vice-Chair, the City Law Director provided the Committee an overview of the Grove City Charter and functioning of the City's existing Strong Mayor-Council-Administrative Assistant form of government. Members were subsequently tasked with reviewing the current City Charter and studying best practices in city governance.

The Committee began its work by examining various publications comparing two predominant forms of local government: Strong Mayor/City Administrator and Council/City Manager. Particular attention was given to the International City Manager Association's *ICMA Council-Manager* and Ohio City & County Management Association's *OCCMA Ohio Council-Manager* articles.

At the September 25, 2024, meeting, the Committee continued its study of the current form of government. Discussions focused on which elected officials held the power to appoint members of boards, commissions, and committees, as well as department heads and staff. The terms of Council Members and the selection process for Council President were also examined.

Committee members were provided minutes and work products from the Grove City Governance Retreat Report (February 2024) and special Council meetings held in May, June, and July 2024. Articles on the City of Hilliard's voter-approved transition from a Strong Mayor to a Council/City Manager system in November 2018 were also distributed. Members agreed to invite representatives from Hilliard to meet with the Committee at the next meeting and prepared questions for the guests.

The October 9, 2024, meeting featured City of Hilliard Council Member Les Carrier as a guest. Mr. Carrier discussed Hilliard's transition to a Council/Manager form of government, noting that the change coincided with the retirement of its long-term Mayor. He highlighted the hiring of Hilliard's first City Manager, Michelle Crandall, which, in his opinion, contributed to significant economic growth. Ms. Crandall provided written answers to the Committee's questions, emphasizing the advantages of employing a professional City Manager, who, she believes, operates free from the political influence often associated with the Strong Mayor/City Administrator form of government.

During the meetings on October 30 and November 6, 2024, the Committee shifted its focus to potential governance changes for Grove City. Members developed and refined a list of aspirational goals for the governing structure, including:

- **Collaborative** – elected officials (both executive and legislative) should work together for the common good.
- **Consensus/Compromise** – strategies and tactics arrived at through consensus building when possible, and compromise when necessary.
- **Participatory** – citizens can proactively volunteer to serve on boards and commissions.
- **Responsive** – citizens have multiple ways to connect with their elected officials, to get things done.
- **Clarity** – delineation of power should be clearly addressed in charter.

- **Balanced** – represents the broadest will of citizens.
- **Nonpolitical Staffing** – separate staffing from potential political influence and favor.
- **Strengthening Checks & Balances** – opportunities to ensure single elected official can't promote/block an action.

The Committee also recommended public notification and transparent application processes for all board, commission, committee, and department head positions. Postings should include job/task description and candidate qualifications, be accepted online and in written form, and be qualified and stack-ranked (but not culled) by the City Administrator/Manager. Mayor Stage noted that this best practice could be adopted even without a change to the Charter.

Members debated who should have appointment authority and whether Council confirmation was adequate to meet the established goals. Concerns were raised about the limitations of a system where a Mayor could block nomination of candidates for Council confirmation, potentially excluding qualified candidates preferred by Council.

At the December 4, 2024, meeting, the Committee discussed the critical appointment of a City Administrative Assistant versus City Manager. Members tasked the Chair and Vice-Chair with drafting recommendations for three governance options:

Council/City Manager: The Mayor would be elected by and from within Council or directly by the public, serving as a ceremonial head of state without executive duties. Appointments to boards, commissions, and committees would be made by Council, with department heads hired by the City Manager, and the Law Director/Firm confirmed by Council.

Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant: Maintain the current form of government with the exception that Council would confirm Mayoral appointments to boards and commissions.

Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant: The current form of government would remain unchanged.

Each Member shared their preference as follows:

In favor of moving to a Council/City Manager form of government with the Mayor being elected by and from within Council: **Frea, Kintz, Parks, Sgalla, and Zimomra.**

In favor of moving to a Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government: **Welsh.**

In favor of staying with the current Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government: **Linder, Ritchie, and Roach.**

In addition, Members **Linder, Roach, Sgalla, and Zimomra** indicated that if their preferred form of government was not seen as a viable option, each would be supportive of the Hybrid Strong Mayor/Council/Administrative Assistant form of government.

On January 22, 2025, the Committee agreed to this Report and its submission to Council.

APPENDIX A

Options for Governance for Grove City

The form of governance should:

- Collaborative – elected officials (both executive and legislative) should work together for the common good.
- Consensus/Compromise – strategies and tactics arrived at through consensus building when possible, and compromise when necessary.
- Participatory – citizens can proactively volunteer to serve on boards and commissions.
- Responsive – citizens have multiple ways to connect with their elected officials, to get things done.
- Clarity – delineation of power should be clearly addressed in charter.
- Balanced – represents the broadest will of citizens.
- Nonpolitical Staffing – separate staffing from potential political influence and favor.
- Strengthening Checks & Balances – opportunities to ensure single elected official can't promote/block an action.

Definitions

Head-of-State = Representing city at events, ceremonies, and official functions, and advocating for city in interactions with other municipalities and government bodies.

Chief Executive = Overall administration strategic leadership, policy implementation, administrative oversight, public representation, crisis management, and economic development.

Admin = City Administrator (current)/City Manager

Vote = Simple majority (4 of 7) unless specifically noted. i.e. super-majority, 2/3rds, ...

Council/City-Manager

All Boards, Commissions, Committees, Ad-Hoc/Task Force, and Department Heads openings will have public notification with job/task description and candidate qualifications.

Applications will be solicited online and in written form. Applications will be qualified and stack-ranked (but not culled) by City-Manager.

Mayor –

- A. Elected by and from within Council to serve as head-of-state (no appointment/executive duties) until Council reorganizes following general election cycle.
- B. Elected by the people for a four year term to be head-of-state (no appointment/executive duties).

City Manager –

Council will appoint by ?super majority? vote to be Chief Executive of city.

Boards, Commissions, Committees – Civil Service Commission, the City Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Park Board

Council will appoint by simple majority vote.

With the exception of;

Records Commission – appointed by statute.

Ad-Hoc Committees and Task Force – established and appointed by Council Ordinance.

Department Heads – Finance Director, Safety Director, Service Director, Information Services, Parks, Development, and Others.

~~Appointed~~ Hired by the City Manager.

Law Director/Firm –

Council will contract by vote

Hybrid Mayor w/Council Confirmation/City Manager

All Boards, Commissions, Committees, Ad-Hoc/Task Force, and Department Heads openings will have public notification with job/task description and candidate qualifications.

Applications will be solicited online and in written form. Applications will be qualified and stack-ranked (but not culled) by City-Manager.

Mayor –

Elected by the people for a four year term to be head-of-state and chief executive of the City.

City Manager –

Mayor will appoint with Council confirmation ?super majority? vote.

Boards, Commissions, Committees – Civil Service Commission, the City Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Park Board

Mayor will appoint with Council confirmation vote.

With the exception of;

Records Commission – appointed by statute.

Ad-Hoc Committees and Task Force – established and appointed by Council Ordinance

Department Heads – Finance Director, Safety Director, Service Director, Information Services, Parks, Development, and Others.

~~Appointed~~ Hired by the City Manager.

Law Director/Firm –

Mayor will contract with Council confirmation vote

Strong Mayor/City-Administrator

All Boards, Commissions, Committees, Ad-Hoc/Task Force, and Department Heads openings will have public notification with job/task description and candidate qualifications.

Applications will be solicited online and in written form. Applications will be qualified and stack-ranked (but not culled) by City Administrator.

Mayor –

Elected by the people for a four year term to be head-of-state and chief executive of the City.

City Administrator –

Mayor will appoint.

Boards, Commissions, Committees – Civil Service Commission, the City Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Park Board

Mayor will appoint.

With the exception of;

Records Commission – appointed by statute.

Ad-Hoc Committees and Task Force – established and appointed by Council Ordinance

Department Heads – Finance Director, Safety Director, Service Director, Information Services, Parks, Development, and Others.

~~Appointed~~ Hired by the Mayor/City Administrator.

Law Director/Firm –

Mayor/City Administrator will contract.

With the exception of an elected Mayor, removal is by same appointing authority upon expiration of term, non-attendance, or for cause.

The Grove City Record, Guest Column- Published on February 16th, 1994

Boso makes case for 'strong' Grove City mayor

– Charles W Boso, Jr. City Administrator

What is a mayor to do? Quite a bit actually. Recently on this page, Craig McDonald, managing editor of the Record, touted the virtues of the "Council-city manager" form of government and called for our community to change to that system.

However, the recommendation was not founded so much on the benefits of having a city manager (except that several area communities operate under that system), as it was on the appearance that the duties of the mayor seem to be dwindling under our current form of government.

Mr. McDonald's apparent disdain for our mayoral form of government seems to stem from the establishment of a "magistrate" to assume some of the mayor's court responsibilities and his belief that this would result on nothing for our "mayor to do".

This belief overlooks critical aspects of our city government and the major responsibilities of our mayor

First, the request for a magistrate was made in large part out of necessity.

Since former Council president Brian Buzby (an attorney) left office Dec. 31, there are no current Council members trained and qualified as required by the Ohio Supreme Court to conduct court in the absence of the mayor (as required by our city charter)>

Obviously, there will be court sessions when the mayor, because of illness or personal business, will not be able to conduct court.

It is only proper that there should be a contingency for ensuring that cases be heard in a timely manner.

Not only would the cancellation of court be an inconvenience to those accused, it could lead to many cases being dismissed without justice being served.

But the need for a magistrate goes beyond just the need to fill a contingency plan, and the reasons for having a strong mayor form of government go way beyond just the need to have a local mayor court.

Mr. McDonald is missing the point as to the larger benefits of our mayor-Council government over a Council-manager form.

As Mr. McDonald described many communities with a Council-manager form of government have their "mayors" chosen by, and from among the elected Council members and serve in a figure-head" capacity.

The administrators or "managers" in these cities, then work directly for the Council members.

Not only do these Councils act as the legislative bodies, but they also directly orchestrate the cities administrative or "executive" functions through the manager.

Clearly this is in stark contrast to the use of "checks and balances" of separate powers in the legislative-executive-judicial system on which our city charter state and federal governments are based.

With our checks and balances in Grove City, our mayor is the strong "Chief Executive Officer" that retains legislative veto power, determines administrative policy objectives through intensive short, and long-range planning, initiates new legislation and oversees complete budgetary management.

However, in Council-manager cities, Council basically provides all legislative, administrative and budgetary control.

As law professor, Robert Martineau recently stated in the Ohio City Management Association Newsletter, the "Council-manager plan in group authority with no accountability." And the real division in government should be between executive and legislative branches which requires a strong mayor.

Martineau's statement implies that the Council-manager form of government is not well suited the complexities of a growing metropolitan area and that a mayor-Council form of government is better capable of operating under these conditions.

This is in direct contradiction to Mr. McDonald's editorial which equated the mayor-Council form of government as being "quaint."

While I believe there are distinct lifestyle advantages in retaining some quaintness in our community, there is nothing particularly quaint about a mayor-Council form of government used by many large cities, including Columbus.

In fact, the complexities of today's society and our laws provide even more support for the separation of powers, relieving the mayor or executive branch of our government from also serving a judicial role.

Does it not make sense that those who are initiating our legislation (administration or Council) and those voting on legislation, creating law and attaching penalties (Council) should not be the same as those who are passing judgement in the court?

Our administration believe that a better way to serve the public and the accused is to provide a person trained in law to try cases brought locally.

Yes, professionalism should be a concern of all residents, as stated by Mr. McDonald.

Fortunately, a magistrate would only add to the professionalism in local justice and the protection of rights that a complex legal system requires.

This is not a surrender of standards as Mr. McDonald stated in his editorial, but an elevation of those standards.

Even more important, we do not recognize the "worrisome implications" this would lead to as his editorial suggested but did not outline.

Throughout history, we have seen many cases of power becoming so centrally located that the lines of checks and balances became nominal or nonexistent.

The resulting abuse often proved quite varied and extreme.

It is surprising that a journalist, working in a profession that is often described as the watchdog of government, would advocate concentration of power happening locally.

We believe the best method of government is a system that has three strong branches in legislative-executive-judicial.

If it were not so, perhaps the residents of Ohio would also be better served by elimination of the governor's office and allowing the legislature to replace him with a "State Executive" to act only in their behalf, and only to be replaced when they decide.

Observations regarding Resolutions CR-33-24

"Charter Review Committee for the Express purpose of reviewing the City's Form of Government"

1. The City completes A statistically sound community survey biannually. The latest survey of November 2023 had "free" flow comments offered to the community to get broader feedback. In analyzing the more than 400 comments only one referenced the form of government as a challenge. The number 1 concern of our citizens is traffic followed by taxes and schools. Obviously, changing the form of government is not a priority in the eyes of our constituents.
2. A misnomer. "Once a city reaches 40,000+ in population it should go to a City Manager form of government, without an elected mayor." Data within the state of Ohio does not support that theory. For example, of the 32 cities that are the largest in Ohio and members of the Ohio Mayors Alliance only 8 have a city manager form of government. If you add Hilliard and Westerville, that are not part of the Alliance, it brings the total to 10 out of 34 or 70% have a "strong mayor" form of government. Seven of the 10 still have a city-wide election of the mayor for a four-year term. The elected mayor serves on council as the president. Population is irrelevant.
3. Comments made over the past 6 months have implied the city is not as "effective" and as "efficient" as under the current form of government. Again, there is no data to support those observations. The city is quite proud of the Aa1 bond rating it currently holds by Moody's. The most recent rating sheet from Moody's has the following comment:

Governance: The city's governance issuer profile score is neutral to-low (G-2). City management maintains stable operations that point to high degrees of budgetary reliability along with continuance of healthy reserves and liquidity. The city's institutional structure is sound, though it must request voter approval for property or income tax rate increases.

The city demonstrates good transparency and disclosure practices that are in-line with sector standards.

Secondly, The Financial Review Task Force established by Resolution CR-09-19 comprised of 13 citizens issued the Final Report to city council March 2020. The Task Force conclusion included this comment:

After a thorough and extensive review of the City's short-term and longer-term capital needs, operating expenditures, service levels, revenue streams, and budget, the Task Force was impressed with the current financial state and services provided to the City's residents. The city has been conservative in its spending practices while maintaining a strong, supportive quality of life for Grove City residents.

pg 21 2019 Citizens Financial Review Task Force final report to City Council March 2020.

4. The office of "Mayor" ranks highest in the minds of our voting citizens as evidenced by the voter pattern over the past 5 mayoral elections. In reviewing voter pattern, the number of votes for the office of Mayor is higher than any other candidates on the ballot. There is heavy falloff of voter responses to the "Council at Large" seat. The only higher voter responses over the past 5 mayoral races were the Issue 1 and Issue 2 question. Removing the opportunity for our citizens to have a direct influence on the management of this city is a step backwards in Governance.

I thank council for this opportunity to share these observations.