

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT CITY OF CHULA VISTA BOARDS & COMMISSIONS FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Commission: Charter Review Commission

Highlights of activities during the fiscal year 2021-2022

1. Charter amendments were proposed for the City Council to review and make recommendations. The goal was to put one or more amendments on the ballot in November 2022.
2. The commission returned to in-person meetings. One meeting was canceled and one postponed due to lack of a quorum. There were 10 absences of commissioners over the year's meetings.

Detailed Summary:

1. The Commission embarked on a major task beginning in November. We completed a thorough review of the City Charter and proposed numerous changes. The City Attorney's office developed a plan of attack which the commission approved. The entire Charter was divided into 4 main focus areas. Each area had two commissioners and one staff member involved in an ad hoc committee. All commissioners served on at least one subcommittee. After the ad hoc committees completed their in-detail review, each subcommittee presented their recommendations and observations to the whole Commission. The Commissioners then debated these items, along with the guidance of the City Attorney, Glen Googins, and the Deputy City Attorney Megan McClurg. The result was a proposal that was presented to the City Council. The proposal included three levels of changes. Level 1 changes were felt to be non-substantive; Level 2 changes had some substance, but were felt to be issues that the public would view as updates and would not substantially change City practices. Level 1 and level 2 changes were bundled into one document. The Commission felt the City Council would approve these changes without much discussion. Level 3 changes were more substantive and included a proposal to change the requirement for City Boards and Commissions be changed from "qualified elector" to "resident. This had been approved by a previous commission. A

second proposed change was to revise the “Legislative Counsel” to “Conflict Counsel.” These changes were discussed by the commission and also sent to the City Council for review. A third change was to require the City Attorney to be a City resident and to have 10 years legal experience instead of 7. A fourth change was to give the City Council the added option to conduct an all-mail ballot to fill a vacancy of a Councilmember’s seat. Another proposed change, which an earlier Commission had recommended, was to suspend a Councilmember who was indicted on felony charges. The current Commission added some changes, but also presented this to the City Council. These five Level 3 changes were offered to the City Council to be included in one Charter update, or to be separated into separate amendments. The presentation was on July 12, 2022. The results of this will be described in the Activity Report for 2022-2023. Of special note is the amount of input from the City Attorney’s Office, the City Clerk, and many offices and City staff. This input allowed the Commission to take into account City practices and how the Charter is being used.

Submitted by James Scofield, Chair
August 10, 2022

cc: Maria V. Kachadoorian, Glen R. Googins