

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Debbie Renner, City Clerk *DR*  
**DATE:** January 31, 2008  
**SUBJECT:** Charter Review

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### **PURPOSE**

Council Member Abraham has requested that an item be placed on the agenda to discuss the initiation of a charter review action.

### **BACKGROUND**

Proposed charter amendments were presented to the voters for approval in 2001, 2003, and 2004. The only successful referendum was the last in 2004 which adopted the charter under which we currently operate.

The revisions in 2001 were the result of a major review of the charter over the course of several months by a citizen committee appointed by the Council. Upon completion of the committee's review, the Council reviewed their recommendations and agreed upon a final revised charter to be presented to the voters with a yes/no choice to accept all of the changes or none of the changes. The changes proposed in this version were [for the most part] just clarification and updating. The ballot initiative failed and the revised charter was rejected.

In 2003 the next revision was attempted. No citizen review committee was formed this time as Council felt it was too soon after the previous review. This revision proposed to remove the City Clerk as a charter officer and included an increased salary with automatic increases for the Council. Other proposed changes were mainly updating and clarification. This proposed new charter was also sent to the voters with one question on the ballot to either accept or reject the new charter in whole. Again, the voters rejected the proposed new charter.

The final charter amendment went to the voters in 2004. Again, there was not a comprehensive citizen review committee involved in this revision. The Council reviewed the charter extensively and recommended a number of changes which were presented to the voters in eleven questions. This time, each of the proposed amendments was approved by the voters. Probably the most significant change in this charter was the change from two-year to four-year terms for Council. This version of the charter did not address Council salary, nor did it recommend removing the Clerk as a charter officer. The new charter was adopted in October 2004.

There is extensive documentation of these charter reviews available in my office. If you are interested in reviewing any of it please let me know.

**REQUEST FOR AN AGENDA ITEM to be placed  
on the February 12, 2008 Council Meeting**

**From: Council Member TOM ABRAHAM**

*1/31-08*

**Subject: PROPOSING CHARTER REVIEW**

**AGENDA  
ITEM:**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**Background: Charter review and amendments took  
place 4 years ago, in 2004.**

**Attached please see the relevant  
documents ( 2004 ) and current  
issues for discussion:**

- 1. Districts in Orange City ? 5 or 7 ?**
- 2. Term limit- 8 years or more ?**
- 3. Charter review committee formation**
- 4. Deadlines, City-Attorney duties**
- 5. November 2008 election options**

