
MEMORANDUM

TO: CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
FROM: MAX WELLS
SUBJECT: SUGGESTED AMENDMENT, CHAPTER XI, SECTION 4
DATE: APRIL 10, 2014
CC: JOHN ROGERS

An amendment has been suggested that would enable the city council at any time to amend the adopted budget and transfer appropriations between departments or to any other purpose, without a recommendation from the city manager.

I would urge the Commission not to adopt this recommendation.

The current provision has enabled the manager to be a strong financial steward of budget resources. The manager is encouraged to first meet the policy objectives of the budget, and also to save money when and where possible. The financial discipline created by this provision has enabled the city to keep property tax rates at lower levels than would otherwise be possible.

My experience as council finance committee chairman leads me to believe that this provision is one of the most critical charter provisions underpinning the excellent financial management that our city enjoys, and without it our citizens would be saddled with higher than necessary tax rates.