



Charter Review Commission
Citizen Comments



City of Dallas

2014 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

April 29, 2014
Comment Card

In favor

permanently retain electronic recordings of
the following Boards & Commissions:

1. City Plan Commission
2. Board of Adjustment
3. Permit & License Appeal Board
4. Landmark Commission
5. Public ~~Board~~ & Convention Board
6. DAET
7. Charter Review Commission
8. Council

Name: Neil Emmons

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Address:

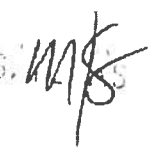
2525 Turtle Creek Blvd Dallas TX 75219

Email Address:

neilemmons@gmail.com

2014 APR 29 PM 5:17

To: Charter Review Committee
From: Honorable Michael King (former city official-Dallas Park Board 2001-2007)
Subj: City of Dallas Charter (public hearing/comments)
Date: April 29, 2014



Good Afternoon,

I would like to thank every one of you for taking on this task of reviewing how this city is governed, whether it's a strong mayor, or council management form of government. What matters after you have accomplished your task is this in the **Best Interest of the Citizens of Dallas** or the Elected and Appointed Officials (city manager, city auditor, city attorney, city secretary, municipal judges etc.).

Listed are my recommendations during this process:

- 1. Keep the current form of governance, with the **Park Board** as is since 1905
- 2. Councilmember terms- should be change to 4 years, with staggered terms
- 3. Term limits to 2 (new change of 4 years) 8 years.
- 4. No compensation increase for councilmember's

In reference to the Park Board, this body was created in 1905 to keep politics out of the parks and recreation system, to operate the system on a set budget. Since 14-1 this Board has been known for preparing those interested in running for higher office, if they chose to do so. Many well known citizens served on this board namely: Edwin Kiest, Ray Hubbard, Julius Schepps, Ebby Halliday, Petis Norman, Billy Allen, Yvonne Ewell, Dwaine Caraway, Sheffie Kadane, Monica Alonzo, Alan Walne, Linda Koop, Mike Rawlings, Dianne Curry, Carol Brandon, C.W. Whitaker, Faye Gafford, Gloria Hogg, Pancho Medrano, Delia Jasso, Joan Walne, Michael King, and those who are currently serving. Also, by serving on this board it gives the appointed citizens the opportunity to see how city hall works internally and externally hands on. As a former Park Board member it was a high honor to serve the citizens of Dallas, right beside the late Honorable, Leo Chaney, Jr. Council District 7.

Please make this document part of the public comments. Thanks

April 29, 2014

Good evening City Charter Review Commission,

My name is Erik R. Wilson and I am the current President of the Unity Estates HOA for the past 14 years, located near the intersection of Hampton Rd. and Wheatland Rd. We have one of Oak Cliff's finest subdivisions of 285 homes constructed by the African American Pastor's Coalition in 1999.

At our last HOA meeting on April 1, 2014 we agreed on the following recommendations to the Charter Review Commission:

- We are in favor of the current City Manager form of government.
- We support the current council and mayor terms of two and four years. With city council and mayor only being able to serve for eight years total.
- We are in agreement of increasing both council and mayor's pay up to \$60,000 for council and \$90,000 for mayor.
- We are against the limitation on the frequency of open mic speakers.
- We are not in favor of imposing a filing fee for council or mayoral candidates.

Erik R. Wilson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik R. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "W".

Unity Estates HOA – President.

From: Beth Bentley [mailto:bentley@swbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 9:37 AM
To: CRCDallas
Subject: Recordings of Public Meetings

Please distribute to members of the commission.

Charter Review Commission,

I was quite surprised to learn that recordings of public meetings are destroyed by City staff after only 90 days. Some of these decisions concern zoning issues and will forever impact the use of a piece of property. The current owner and future owners ought to be able to access the public records years down the road to understand why the decision was made. Sometimes these recordings are necessary just to interpret the written minutes of the board or commission.

The cost to retain these recorded meetings permanently is negligible, especially since they charge the public when a copy is requested.

The destruction of these records goes against an open, transparent government.

Please reconsider this policy.

Thank you,
Beth Bentley
5551 Vickery Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75206

From: Mark Rieves [mailto:mark@rieves.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 10:39 AM

To: CRCDallas

Subject: Opposition to the proposed destruction of Board & Commission records after 90 days

Please forward this email and my letter to the Charter Review Commission. The attached letter expresses my opposition to the proposed destruction of Board & Commission public meeting records after 90 days.

If for some reason my request cannot be performed, I would greatly appreciate you letting me know so that I can find an alternative means to send my formal concerns to the Charter Review Commission.

Sincerely,

Mark Rieves

5530 Goodwin Ave

Dallas, TX 75206

mark@rieves.net

214-707-8285

From: Nell Gaither [<mailto:nell@tpride.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:41 AM
To: CRCDallas; Medrano, Adam; Rafael McDonnell; Patti Fink
Subject: Review of proposed changes to Dallas City Charter

Dear Representative Anchia and Charter Review Committee members:

My name is Nell Gaither and I work with the advocacy organization Trans Pride Initiative and I serve on the Dallas LGBT Task Force. I have reviewed the changes proposed for the Dallas City Charter and have the following comment.

Comment: A recommendation has been made to update the language in Chapter XVI, Section 16 to include all protected classes and refers to Dallas City Code Section 34-35. The updated language includes "gender identity." I would propose that this be modified slightly to read "gender identity and expression." I would also suggest the addition of "genetic characteristics" to the list of protected classes.

Justification: "Gender identity" encompasses a persons sense or understanding of their own gender. It is necessary to include "or expression" to also encompass assumptions about gender made by others based on the manner in which individuals behave or act, especially as that relates to assumptions associated with stereotypical gender norms.

Adding "genetic characteristics" to the list of classes is becoming more common and helps address potential discrimination based on findings of genetic testing. Adding this protection can remove a barrier to genetic testing that may identify disease or physical conditions in early stages, allowing for more effective and economical treatment of possible physical health issues, as well as greater peace of mind for employees.

Thank you for considering this comment and for your service to the City of Dallas.

--

Nell Gaither, President, Trans Pride Initiative
P.O. Box 3982, Dallas, Texas 75208
214.449.1439 | nell@tpride.org

From: Cece Cox [mailto:CCox@myresourcecenter.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 2:35 PM
To: CRCDallas; Anchia, Rafael (Rafael.Ancia@haynesboone.com); anchia1@swbell.net
Cc: Cece Cox
Subject: To charter review commission from Cece Cox
Importance: High

Dear Representative Anchia and Charter Review Committee members:

I am Cece Cox, J.D., the chief executive officer of Resource Center. For over 30 years, the Center has been a leader in North Texas and statewide advocating for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, and all people affected by HIV. I wanted to offer my input on a proposed change for the Dallas City Charter.

The committee has proposed updating the language in Chapter XVI, Section 16 to include all protected classes and refers to Dallas City Code Section 34-35. The updated language includes "gender identity." I would ask that this be modified slightly to read "gender identity and expression," and suggest the addition of "genetic characteristics" to the list of protected classes.

Both Dallas County and Parkland Health and Hospital System protect on the basis of "gender identity and expression." "Gender expression" refers to the ways in which we each manifest masculinity or femininity. It is an extension of our "gender identity," our innate sense of being male or female, but "gender expression" is a separate characteristic from "gender identity."

Adding "genetic characteristics" would bring the city into compliance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, which prohibits prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment. Among North Texas public sector employers, both DART and Parkland Health and Hospital System provide this protection.

Thank you for considering my comments. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cece Cox

Cece Cox, J.D. | Chief Executive Officer
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Blog (Dallas Morning News) <http://bit.ly/1f1zbtq>



resourcecenter

Visit the Center's Facebook page [HERE](#) and Twitter page [HERE](#).

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From: Arthur rogers [mailto:tasajr@swbell.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 3:34 PM

To: CRCDallas

Subject: Records Destruction

TWIC

Nothing is built in this city without extensive oversight by the City and City approval. So, who would be responsible if a building (approved by the City in writing) collapsed one hundred days after it was finished? Not the building inspector who approved the drawings, because there would be no record of his/her doing so. If records are to be destroyed, why keep them at all?

Art Rogers, Architect

Please forward this to the Charter Review Commission

From: Gay Hopkins [mailto:hopkbks@swbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 5:10 PM
To: CRCDallas
Subject: Preserving records

To the Charter Review Commission,

I am in favor of preserving the records of the city's committees and commissions. In this age of electronics, a computer geek, which I am not, can find a way to preserve them with little effort and expense.

It's time to shelve the "but we've always done it this way" attitude.

Thank you,
Gay Hopkins
6030 Monticello Ave.
Dallas, TX 75206
hopkbks@swbell.net

From: Harryette Ehrhardt [mailto:hbe@swbell.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 10:05 PM
To: CRCDallas
Subject: Save all recordings--always!

For so many reasons we need to keep all recordings of all our committee, commission, etc. meetings. The cost is nothing and the benefit even one recording might afford is great. Who can know how important and helpful this could be in the future.

Mainly, it is the right and reasonable thing to do—cost is almost nothing and the value as a transparent, open “serving the public” governance is great!

Thank you for your service!! Just think--save what you recorded and someday your great grandchild can hear you say all these recordings should be saved--well--that would be something to make your great grandchild proud! Do It! Harryette Ehrhardt, 5731 Swiss Ave. 75214



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Is there a reason that "gender" is not included in XVI (16)a?

Have city employees been given commensurate compensation increases to those recommended by III (4)? What is good for Council should also be good for our other employees. How can there be monitoring/enforcement of "no communication between Council members and restricting members"? Four additional members would just be another "fight" at Council. Support retention of subvotapes, but video not necessary.

Name: Mark Beikner

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Address: 121 West For Finley's [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]



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*Please figure out a way to build the Trinity Lakes that were promised to the taxpayers in the bond that was passed over 10 years ago! We were recently informed that the Trinity Trust ran out of money and can only build a pathetic 4 acre pond. And we were told the trust needed 900 million more dollars to build the lakes we were promised... That, to me, is serious gross misappropriations of funds when you are that far off! Fix it and build Trinity Lakes!!!

Name: Autumn McCall

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Address: 3233 Throckmorton St. DALLAS, TX 75219

Email Address: [REDACTED]

P.S. I Love the New
311 App!



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- ① APPOINT A PUBLIC ADVOCATE TO WORK WITH CITIZENS ON ALL ETHICS COMPLAINT FININGS THIS WILL CUT DOWN OF FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINTS. WE NEED MAJOR REVISIONS TO OUR ETHICS CODE.
- ② PASS AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SHELTER TO ALL DALLAS HOMELESS. WE ARE PAYING AT LEAST 2X THE COST TO PROVIDE BASIC SHELTER TO OUR HOMELESS IN JAILING THEM & HEALING THE DISEASES THE GET SWEEPING IN THE STREETS
- ③ NO OUTSOURCING OF CITY MEETINGS. A 1ST COME 1ST SERVED MEETING ATTENDANCE MOF. NO PRE-TICKETING

④ REDISTRICTING - WE MUST ENFORCE COMPACTNESS. TOTALLY KEEP COUNCIL MEMBERS OUT OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Name: RICHARD P. SHERIDAN
 Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 Address: 11301 DENNIS RD, # 362, DALLAS, TX 75229
 Email Address: [REDACTED]

THIS
 HEAVY
 COST
 150
 MILLION
 ANNUALLY