

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

Approved

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2012, the 2012 Charter Review Commission submitted its report and recommended amendments to the Providence Home Rule Charter to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council accepted the 2012 Charter Review Commission Report on June 21, 2012, and referred it to the Committee on Ordinances for consideration;

WHEREAS, the City Council Committee on Ordinances conducted a public hearing on July 26, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Committee on Ordinances considered various aspects of the 2012 Charter Review Commission Report and the recommendations therein, as well as additional proposed Charter amendments, and adopted certain of the recommendations and proposed amendments on July 26, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the various proposed amendments to the Providence Home Rule Charter adopted by the City Council Committee on Ordinances must be transmitted to the Rhode Island Secretary of State no later than August 8, 2012 in order to appear on the ballot for the General Election to be held in November 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, DECREED AND ORDERED:

That the following ballot question, as adopted on _____, 2012, be submitted to the Rhode Island Secretary of State to appear on the November 2012 ballot:

Shall the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism be established by Charter? [Adds Section 1018]

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The amendment would add a department of arts, culture and tourism as a Charter-established department. Arts, Culture & Tourism has operated for more than a decade as a mayoral department.

1018. Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism.

There shall be a Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, the director of which shall be the director of art, culture, and tourism, and who shall be a person holding at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited university.

The duties and powers of the director shall include, without limitation, the following:

(1) To administer the city arts programs, including to enter into cooperative agreements with other governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations for purposes of administering public programs;

(2) To coordinate city services for large special events and film projects;

- (3) To promote city and neighborhood festivals and concerts;
- (4) To do research, conduct educational programs, and disseminate information to the public regarding art, culture and tourism;
- (5) To sponsor art and culture activities conducted in the name of the City of Providence, and, in conjunction therewith, to develop procedures and practices that will assure both the appropriate evaluation of such projects and the monitoring of expenditures;
- (6) To award grants to cultural organizations and to individual artists. The director should monitor the equitable distribution of such grants so as to ensure that arts and cultural programs reflect the city's diverse heritage;
- (7) To work with other city departments to support and nurture creative businesses;
- (8) To negotiate sponsorships for large scale events and for promotion of Providence tourism, and to execute resulting sponsorship agreements on behalf of the city, subject to the authority of the city solicitor. Terms of such agreements may include, without limitation, identification of a sponsor on city promotional materials and web sites;
- (9) To acquire grants from federal and state government and local and national foundations in order to support policy, programming, and research activity;
- (10) To serve as one of the mayor's appointments to the Providence Warwick/Convention and Visitors Bureau.

IN CITY COUNCIL


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OUTLINE OF COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary outline of the amendments recommended by the Commission:

1. Adds a statement of intent of the city's government, including protecting the health, welfare, safety and financial well-being of the resident, and enables the elected officers to take such actions as they deem necessary for same. (Article I).
2. Allows the city to publicize electronically instead of in a newspaper, minimizing the expenditure of funds on costly publication. (Article I)
3. Recommends the inclusion of city councilors elected at-large and offers two options to accomplish this. (Article II).
4. Clarifies the procedures for acquisition and sale of city property, and enunciates the city's policy to promote minority and women's enterprise programs. (Article IV).
5. Codifies duties of the City Solicitor not currently provided for in the Charter, and permits the Solicitor to hire legal staff according to the needs of the Office. (Article VI).
6. Amends the budget and finance procedures to, among other things, establish a budget reserve fund and a method for financing that fund. Defines and qualifies the manner in which the funds may be used and must be reported. (Article VIII).
7. Renames the "Personnel Department" as the "Human Resources Department," amends some of the responsibilities of that office in accordance with current practice, and clarifies the procedure for suspending, disciplining, or discharging employees. (Article IX).
8. Adds the mayor and internal auditor as members of the Retirement Board. (Article IX).
9. Places the newly established Public Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Department ("PEMA") under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Public Safety. (Article X).
10. Changes the qualifications for the director of public property. (Article XI).
11. Establishes the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism and Culture as a department defined by charter, while maintaining the same duties and responsibilities contained in its governing ordinance. (Article X).
12. Limits individuals from serving more than two consecutive terms as chair of a board, authority or commission, and prohibits the mayor, city council and department heads from influencing the hiring of a family member or business associate. (Article XII).
13. Affords future charter review commissions additional time to review and propose amendments to the charter. (Article XIII).