

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

Effective 2022, shall the number of wards in the city be reduced from fifteen (15) to twelve (12), and the composition of the city council change to one member from each of twelve (12) wards, and an additional three (3) members to be elected "at large"?
[Amends Section 201]

"Shall city council members be limited to serving three (3) consecutive full terms as a ward based councilmember and three (3) additional consecutive terms as an at large council member." (Amends Section 202)

Shall the ward and boundaries committee redistrict the city into twelve (12) wards in time for the election of November 2022? [Amends Section 204]

Effective 2022, shall the number of wards in the city be reduced from fifteen (15) to twelve (12), and the composition of the city council change to one member from each of twelve (12) wards, and an additional three (3) members to be elected "at large"? [Amends Section 201]

"Shall city council members be limited to serving three (3) consecutive full terms as a ward based councilmember and three (3) additional consecutive terms as an at large council member." (Amends Section 202)

The affect of this amendment is to allow council members to serve three terms as ward based and three terms as at large council members.

Shall the ward and boundaries committee redistrict the city into twelve (12) wards in time for the election of November 2022? [Amends Section 204]

The amendments would reduce the number of wards in the city from 15 to 12, and would create three "at-large" council seats, which would be elected citywide. The changes to the council structure would not take place until the 2022 election, to coincide with the next required redistricting process.

201. – Elected officials.

The elected officials of the city shall consist of a mayor, who shall be elected at-large by the qualified voters of the City of Providence, and a city council which shall consist of fifteen (15) members, three (3) of whom shall be elected at-large, and one (1) elected from each of the twelve (12) wards into which the city shall be divided pursuant to section 204 of this article.

202. – Date of Election and Terms of Office

The mayor shall be limited to serving (2) consecutive full terms (excluding any partial term of less than two (2) years previously served); and council members shall be limited to serving three (3) consecutive full terms as a ward based council member and excluding any partial term of less than two (2) years previously served and (three (3) additional consecutive full terms as at large council member (excluding any partial term of less than two (2) years previously served)

204. – Wards and ward boundaries.

The city shall be divided into twelve (12) fifteen (15) wards, the boundaries of which shall be drawn pursuant to the provisions of this section.

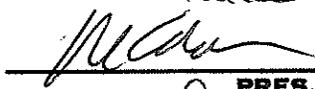
(a) At its first meeting in 2021, the city council shall enact an ordinance providing for the establishment of the boundary lines of the twelve (12) wards of the city, said boundary lines to be established based on the federal census of 2020. Said boundary lines shall be implemented for the election to take place in November 2022. Subsequently, at its first meeting in 2031, and in every tenth year thereafter, the city council shall enact an ordinance providing for the establishment of the boundary lines of twelve (12) wards, to be revised as necessary based upon the federal census of 2030 and each federal decennial census thereafter.

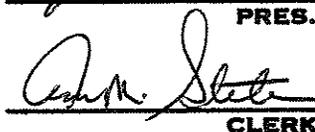
(b) The procedure set forth in this subsection shall be completed no later than March 1st of the following year, 1982, in the case of the committees appointed in September, 1981, 2001 and 2011, and March first of each tenth no later than the first day of May in the case of committees appointed in September 2021, and of each year thereafter.

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).