

# REQUEST FOR CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION ACTION

MEETING DATE(S): 01/05/2010

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**SUBMITTED TO:** HB Charter Review Commission

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mark D. Bixby, Charter Review Commissioner *MDB*

**SUBJECT:** Add new charter section to require the city council to determine at least once every 10 years whether charter review is warranted.

**Statement of Issue:** Over time, current city practice has diverged from strict charter compliance as needs have changed in the decades between major charter revisions. This proposal will require the city council to determine at least once every 10 years whether charter review is warranted.

**Recommended Action: Motion to:**

Amend Huntington Beach charter to add new section requiring the city council to hold a public hearing and city council vote at least once every 10 years to determine whether charter review is warranted. If a majority of the council votes that review is warranted, such review will proceed in a manner of the council's choosing.

**Analysis:**

City practice has slowly diverged from strict charter compliance in a number of areas in the decades since the last comprehensive charter revision. Given that the likelihood of divergence increases as the time between comprehensive charter revisions increases, I propose amending the current charter to require the city council to periodically determine whether comprehensive charter review is warranted. Such review on a regular basis will help to keep city practice more in sync with the charter.

At least once every 10 years the city council shall hold a public hearing and council vote to determine whether charter review is warranted. If the council votes that review is warranted, the review will proceed in the manner of the council's choosing. This could be via council subcommittee, full council discussion, appointed charter revision commission, elected charter revision commission, etc.

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The review process may or may not result in any ballot measures being submitted to the voters.

Such regular, periodic review should help to prevent the charter from becoming stale, as well as to provide opportunities for “scanning the horizon” to make proactive charter amendments to enable the city to cope better with looming future issues.