


## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**FROM:** CAROLYN LEHR, CITY MANAGER 

**DATE:** AUGUST 3, 2010

**SUBJECT:** APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER CITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### RECOMMENDATION

Appoint five (or up to seven) residents to the Charter City Committee, to serve with the Council Subcommittee to facilitate a public outreach program that will educate our residents on a ballot initiative to change Rancho Palos Verdes from a General Law City to a Charter City.

### DISCUSSION

On June 29, 2010, the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council received an in-depth presentation by our City Attorney, City Staff and the City's Financial Advisor on the benefits of becoming a Charter City. Following a detailed explanation of the advantages of becoming a Charter City, as well as the disadvantages and limitations, the City Council voted at a subsequent meeting to pursue the Charter initiative, and indicated a preference for the question to be brought before the voters at a March 8, 2011 consolidated election.

The Council was presented with two options for drafting a charter: the City could elect a charter commission through an election of fifteen resident voters of the City, or alternatively, the Council could opt to draft its own charter, which is voted on at an election date established by the Council. The City Council selected the latter process, and appointed a Subcommittee, comprised of Mayor Steve Wolowicz and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Long to lead the process of charter adoption. Council members further determined to appoint five citizens to join the Subcommittee to form a Charter City Committee. The Council directed staff to bring forward names of nominees for the Council to approve at an upcoming Council meeting.

The Charter Subcommittee called its first meeting on July 23, 2010, with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Attorney and City Manager present. Since the Subcommittee was scheduled to consider nominees for the citizen committee, each Council member was

asked to submit up to three names each of residents they would propose to serve on the committee, in advance of the July 23 meeting.

During this first meeting, the Subcommittee approved the “Charter City Committee Purpose and Objectives,” which is attached to this report. It is important to note that the role of the citizen committee members is to educate and support the Charter City proposal within the community, as opposed to the advisory role that other committees and commissions of the City fill.

All combined, the five Council members offered 15 names (three duplicates) for consideration. The Subcommittee reviewed all nominations and identified seven persons on the list who were deemed best suited for the task ahead. The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem have personally called the seven proposed nominees to inform them of this opportunity and to gauge their willingness to serve the community as an advocate of the Charter City proposal. Of the seven, one nominee indicated that she would not be available to serve due to current time constraints; therefore, the Subcommittee selected an alternate. The Subcommittee suggests that the Council could appoint five, six or all seven members to the committee. The Council could also choose to substitute names for those proposed by the Subcommittee.

The seven nominees recommended by the Charter City Subcommittee are:

Ann Shaw  
Bill Gerstner  
Jon Cartwright  
Jeffrey Lewis  
Dave Emenhiser  
Paul Tetreault  
Bill James

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff anticipates no fiscal impact to the appointment of the committee.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. The City Council could choose to appoint a different number of citizens to the Charter City Committee, or no citizen members at all.
2. The City Council could appoint different persons than those recommended by the Charter City Subcommittee.

### **Attachment:**

“Charter City Committee Purpose and Objectives”

## **Charter City Committee**

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The City Council will appoint a Committee comprised of two Council Members (the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem) and five residents of the City to facilitate a robust public outreach program to educate and create a clear understanding of the issues surrounding General Law Cities vs. Charter Cities. The main objectives of the Charter City Committee are as follows:

1. Review the materials that have been presented by the City Attorney's Office and understand the advantages and disadvantages of the general law versus the city charter forms of government;
2. Develop and execute a plan for educating and informing the public regarding the proposed ballot measure to adopt a charter; and
3. Develop a report to the City Council summarizing the public outreach program results and feedback received from the community.
4. Draft the ballot argument in support of adopting the charter and a rebuttal argument, if necessary.

The Charter Committee and City Staff will make informational presentations and hold question and answer forums with various community groups and service organizations. In addition to these community presentations, the public outreach program also will include the development and distribution of an informational brochure, press releases to advise the public of the meetings and locations where information about chartering can be obtained, information on the City's website, and informational programming on RPV-TV.