



CITY OF DANBURY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

March 10, 2009

Honorable Mark D. Boughton
Honorable Members of the Danbury Common Council
City Hall
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Re: Charter Revision Final Report

It is with Great pleasure that we submit to you the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission. The Commission reviewed the recommendations of the Common Council and accepts those recommendations with the exception of two: the change in length of terms of office and the filling of vacancies for unexpired terms.

Length of terms of office §2-2

The subject of 4 year terms occupied much of the Commission's time. We discussed the pros and the cons and listened to the concerns of the Council Members. Our initial revision narrowly passed by a 5 to 4 vote. We noted the Council's 12 to 7 vote to keep 2 year terms. We believe there are logical reasons for and against 4 year terms as demonstrated by the close vote in both the Commission and the Council

Filling vacancies §2-6

Our intention here is simple. We wanted to grant the Common Council additional time to fill vacancies and we wanted to remove language that could leave a Common Council seat open until the next election. Our belief is that residents of Danbury should have representation in the Common Council. We understand this revised section is not perfect and the Council's process for acting on nominees may delay filling a vacancy. The Commission believes those issues reside within the operating process of the Council and that the Council should comply with the overall intent of the Charter. Therefore we respectfully resubmit this section as worded in the draft report.

Council's other recommendations

We concur with the Council's recommendations and made the following changes:

- Public speaking §2-2

The language was changed to remove "authorized representative."

- Acceptance of donation §4-2

The language was changed to limit the acceptance of donations of cash and other forms of donations that exceed the aggregate of \$1,000 in any fiscal year.

- Special Assessments §7-8

The language covering improvements other than water and sewers was removed.

- Limits on non-referendum bonding §7-10

Non-referendum bonding was changed from the original proposal of 2.5 million per project and a cap of 5 million per year to a limit/cap of 3 million per year. The per project language was deleted.

Enclosed you will find the Final Report of the proposed Charter Changes. In the full text the current language has been shown with deletions crossed through and additions capitalized and underlined. Where appropriate, the Final Report shows numerical re-designations.

The Commission thanks the Common Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to serve the Citizens of Danbury on this important assignment. We have been diligent in our effort to recommend changes that will benefit the Citizens of our beloved City while giving elected officials sufficient flexibility to better manage the City's affairs. The City will face many challenges as it continues to grow, hopefully the changes herein will provide the necessary tools for its government to meet those challenges.

Respectfully Submitted

Carlo Marano Chairman Charter Review Commission
Robert L. King Vice Chairman
Mary Comstock
Mary M. Cronin
Joan Mead
Paul Swenson
Edward T. Torian

Submitted March 10, 2009

By: _____ Secretary
Peter N. Buzaid

Encl.

Peter N Buzaid
Secretary