

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING AN AD) RESOLUTION NO. 00-2984
HOC CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION)
) Introduced by
) Bill Atherton, Councilor

WHEREAS, Metro's 1992 Charter gives Council the ability to refer to the voters single-issue amendments; and

WHEREAS, there may be other issues needing examination, which can only be addressed by a comprehensive review of the entire charter; and

WHEREAS, Metro is a relatively young agency, and, as such, it is appropriate to periodically conduct an evaluation of its structure and operations to ensure that defined goals are being met; and

WHEREAS, conducting a comprehensive review is the most effective vehicle for providing a constructive, in-depth evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the creation of an ad hoc Charter Review Commission will enable Metro to explore more than one issue within a defined structure and involving adequate representation of interests throughout the region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby authorizes and approves the formation of an ad hoc Charter Review Commission, as set forth in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____,

WITHDRAWN

David Bragdon, Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

EXHIBIT A
RESOLUTION NO. 00-2984

GUIDELINES FOR FORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF AN AD HOC
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Charge

The Commission will study the Metro Charter by all appropriate means, including open hearings/ meetings, and/or individual/group interviews; and will report findings, conclusions, and recommendations, including any proposed amendments, to Council.

Composition

Nine (9) members, appointed as follows: one member by Executive Officer, one member by Auditor, and one member by each individual Metro Councilor holding office as of December 1, 2000, for a total of seven members by Council.

Staffing

Either Metro General Counsel or his agent will facilitate the meetings. Clerical support staff from Council and/or Executive Office will coordinate the committee, take minutes, and schedule meetings.

Timeline & Process

The Commission will meet a maximum of twelve (12) times, over a period not to exceed one year, commencing upon approval of the Commission by Council, and concluding on or before December 31, 2001. The following process and structure will be applied to the meetings:

- All meetings will be at times convenient to volunteer schedules, with public meetings to be held on evenings or weekends, to allow for the greatest possible public input.
- Staff will keep a continual draft report as meetings progress, showing options considered, and decisions reached.
- Metro Counsel (staff) will explain Metro's organization, the Commission's charge, and present a summary of the key parts of the Charter. The Commission will elect a chair from among its members at this meeting.
- Other elected officials, interested department heads and/or the general public may make presentations regarding what they would like to see changed.
- Commission will discuss issues, and prepare any proposed amendments and a report for Council.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 00-2984 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING AN AD HOC CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Date: September 20, 2000

Prepared by: Peggy Coats

BACKGROUND

Voters approved a home-rule charter for Metro in 1992. Prior to that time, Metro's structure and responsibilities were laid out by the Oregon Legislature. During the months of July and August 2000, Metro engaged in an intensive public process to seek advice on a possible amendment to its home-rule charter as it pertained to the internal governing structure of Metro. Several options for an alternative structure were explored, including merging the executive officer and presiding officer positions into a regionally elected leadership position; eliminating the executive officer and having council appoint an agency administrator; and having the presiding officer elected regionally along with Council appointment of an agency administrator.

After a series of public hearings, Metro Council approved a proposed amendment to the charter on August 17. This amendment will go before the voters in November. Two councilors and some members of the public voiced opposition to the process used to arrive at the amendment, stating that there was inadequate public involvement, and too little time spent fully exploring the issues at hand.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

Metro's Charter gives Council the ability to refer to the voters single-issue amendments, such as the proposed amendment for the November ballot. Although the process to develop the proposed amendment involved a number of public leaders, there may be other issues needing examination, which could be best addressed by a comprehensive review of the entire charter.

Because Metro is a relatively young agency, it is appropriate to periodically conduct an evaluation of its structure and operations to ensure that defined goals are being met. Conducting a comprehensive charter review is the most effective vehicle for providing a constructive, in-depth evaluation.

The goal of the proposed resolution is to create an open-ended charter review commission enabling Metro to explore more than one issue within a defined structure and involving adequate representation of interests throughout the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 00-2984, for the purpose of creating an ad hoc Charter Review Commission.