



**METRO**  
PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

# METRO CHARTER

Effective January 6, 2003

Filed by the Metro Charter Committee with the elections officer of the Portland area metropolitan service district, pursuant to ORS 268.730 approved by district voters at the November 7, 1992 general election; as amended by district voters at the November 7, 2000 general election; and amended by the district voters at the May 21, 2002 primary election.

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## PREAMBLE

We, the people of the Portland area metropolitan service district, in order to establish an elected, visible and accountable regional government that is responsive to the citizens of the region and works cooperatively with our local governments; that undertakes, as its most important service, planning and policy making to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for ourselves and future generations; and that provides regional services needed and desired by the citizens in an efficient and effective manner, do ordain this charter for the Portland area metropolitan service district, to be known as Metro.

## CHAPTER I NAMES AND BOUNDARIES

Section 1. Title of Charter. The title of this charter is the 1992 Metro Charter.

Section 2. Name of Regional Government. The Portland area metropolitan service district, referred to in this charter as the “Metropolitan Service District,” continues under this charter as a metropolitan service district with the name “Metro.”

Section 3. Boundaries. The Metro Area of governance includes all territory within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Service District on the effective date of this charter and any territory later annexed or subjected to Metro governance under state law. This charter refers to that area as the “Metro Area.” Changes of Metro boundaries are not effective unless approved by ordinance. No change of Metro boundaries requires approval by a local government boundary commission or any other state agency unless required by law. The custodian of Metro records shall keep an accurate description of Metro boundaries and make it available for public inspection.

## CHAPTER II FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

Section 4. Jurisdiction of Metro. Metro has jurisdiction over matters of metropolitan concern. Matters of metropolitan concern include the powers granted to and duties imposed on Metro by current and future state law and those matters the Council by ordinance determines to be of metropolitan concern. The Council shall specify by ordinance the extent to which Metro exercises jurisdiction over matters of metropolitan concern.

Section 5. Regional Planning Functions.

(1) Future Vision.

(a) Adoption. The Council shall adopt a Future Vision for the region between January 15, 1995 and July 1, 1995. The Future Vision is a conceptual statement that indicates population levels and settlement patterns that the region can accommodate within the carrying capacity of the land, water and air resources of the region, and its educational and economic

resources, and that achieves a desired quality of life. The Future Vision is a long-term, visionary outlook for at least a 50-year period. As used in this section, “region” means the Metro Area and adjacent areas.

(b) Matters Addressed. The matters addressed by the Future Vision include but are not limited to: (1) use, restoration and preservation of regional land and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations; (2) how and where to accommodate the population growth for the region while maintaining a desired quality of life for its residents; and (3) how to develop new communities and additions to the existing urban areas in well-planned ways.

(c) Development. The Council shall appoint a commission to develop and recommend a proposed Future Vision by a date the Council sets. The commission shall be broadly representative of both public and private sectors, including the academic community, in the region. At least one member must reside outside the Metro Area. The commission has authority to seek any necessary information and shall consider all relevant information and public comment in developing the proposed Future Vision. The commission serves without compensation.

(d) Review and Amendment. The Future Vision may be reviewed and amended as provided by ordinance. The Future Vision shall be completely reviewed and revised at least every fifteen years in the manner specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(e) Effect. The Future Vision is not a regulatory document. It is the intent of this charter that the Future Vision have no effect that would allow court or agency review of it.

(2) Regional Framework Plan.

(a) Adoption. The Council shall adopt a regional framework plan by December 31, 1997 with the consultation and advice of the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) created under Section 27 of this charter. The Council may adopt the regional framework plan in components.

(b) Matters Addressed. The regional framework plan shall address: (1) regional transportation and mass transit systems; (2) management and amendment of the urban growth boundary; (3) protection of lands outside the urban growth boundary for natural resource, future urban or other uses; (4) housing densities, (5) urban design and settlement patterns; (6) parks, open spaces and recreational facilities; (7) water sources and storage; (8) coordination, to the extent feasible, of Metro growth management and land use planning policies with those of Clark County, Washington; and (9) planning responsibilities mandated by state law. The regional framework plan shall also address other growth management and land use planning matters which the Council, with the consultation and advice of the MPAC, determines are of metropolitan concern and will benefit from regional planning. To encourage regional uniformity, the regional framework plan shall also contain model terminology, standards and procedures for local land use decision making that may be adopted by local

governments. As used in this section, “local” refers only to the cities and counties within the jurisdiction of Metro.

(c) Effect. The regional framework plan shall: (1) describe its relationship to the Future Vision; (2) comply with applicable statewide planning goals; (3) be subject to compliance acknowledgment by the Land Conservation and Development Commission or its successor; and (4) be the basis for coordination of local comprehensive plans and implementing regulations.

(d) Amendment. The Council may amend the regional framework plan after seeking the consultation and advice of the MPAC.

(e) Implementation. To the maximum extent allowed by law, the Council shall adopt ordinances: (1) requiring local comprehensive plans and implementing regulations to comply with the regional framework plan within three years after adoption of the entire regional framework plan. If the regional framework plan is subject to compliance acknowledgment, local plans and implementing regulations shall be required to comply with the regional framework plan within two years of compliance acknowledgment; (2) requiring the Council to adjudicate and determine the consistency of local comprehensive plans with the regional framework plan; (3) requiring each city and county within the jurisdiction of Metro to make local land use decisions consistent with the regional framework plan until its comprehensive plan has been determined to be consistent with the regional framework plan. The obligation to apply the regional framework plan to local land use decisions shall not begin until one year after adoption and compliance acknowledgment of the regional framework plan; and (4) allowing the Council to require changes in local land use standards and procedures if the Council determines changes are necessary to remedy a pattern or practice of decision making inconsistent with the regional framework plan.

(3) Priority and Funding of Regional Planning Activities. The regional planning functions under this section are the primary functions of Metro. The Council shall appropriate funds sufficient to assure timely completion of those functions.

(4) Protection of Livability of Existing Neighborhoods.

(a) Livability Protection. The Regional Framework Plan shall include measures to protect the livability of existing neighborhoods taking into consideration air pollution, water pollution, noise, and crime as well as provision of an adequate level of police, fire, transportation and emergency services, public utilities, and access to parks, open space and neighborhood services.

(b) Density Increase Prohibited. Neither the Regional Framework Plan nor any Metro ordinance adopted to implement the plan shall require an increase in the density of

single-family neighborhoods within the existing urban growth boundary identified in the plan solely as Inner or Outer Neighborhoods.<sup>1</sup>

(c) Report on Effects of Proposed Urban Growth Boundary Amendment.

Prior to approving any amendment or amendments of the urban growth boundary in excess of 100 acres the Council shall prepare a report on the effect of the proposed amendments on existing residential neighborhoods. Copies of the completed report shall be provided to all households located within one mile of the proposed urban growth boundary amendment area and to all cities and counties within the district. The report shall address:

- i. Traffic patterns and any resulting increase in traffic congestion, commute times and air quality.
- ii. Whether parks and open space protection in the area to be added will benefit existing residents of the district as well as future residents of the added territory.
- iii. The cost impacts on existing residents of providing needed public services and public infrastructure to the area to be added.

(d) Implementation. The Metro Council shall implement the requirements contained in Subsections a, b, and c within one year of adoption thereof.

Section 6. Other Assigned Functions. Metro is also authorized to exercise the following functions: (1) Acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of: (a) a metropolitan zoo, (b) public cultural, trade, convention, exhibition, sports, entertainment, and spectator facilities, (c) facilities for the disposal of solid and liquid wastes, and (d) a system of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities of metropolitan concern; (2) disposal of solid and liquid wastes; (3) metropolitan aspects of natural disaster planning and response coordination; (4) development and marketing of data; and (5) any other function required by state law or assigned to the Metropolitan Service District or Metro by the voters.

Section 7. Assumption of Additional Functions.

(1) Assumption Ordinance. The Council shall approve by ordinance the undertaking by Metro of any function not authorized by Sections 5 and 6 of this charter. The ordinance shall

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<sup>1</sup> (a) Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter is repealed on June 30, 2015 unless at the general election held in 2014, a majority of the electors voting on the question of whether or not to retain Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter as part of the Metro Charter vote to retain the subsection. If the electors vote to retain the subsection, Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter of this measure shall remain in effect. If a majority of the electors do not vote to retain Subsection 4(b) of Section 5 of the Metro Charter, then that subsection is repealed on June 30, 2015.

(b) By appropriate action of the Metro Council, the question described in subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the people for their decision at the general election held in 2014.

(c) This section is repealed on January 1, 2016.



contain a finding that the function is of metropolitan concern and the reasons it is appropriate for Metro to undertake it.

(2) Assumption of Local Government Service Function.

(a) An ordinance authorizing provision or regulation by Metro of a local government service is not effective unless the ordinance is approved by the voters of Metro or a majority of the members of the MPAC. Voter approval may occur by approval of a referred measure (1) authorizing the function or (2) relating to finances and authorizing financing or identifying funds to be used for exercise of the function. As used in this section, “local government service” is a service provided to constituents by one or more cities, counties or special districts within the jurisdiction of Metro at the time a Metro ordinance on assumption of the service is first introduced.

(b) An ordinance submitted to the MPAC for approval is deemed approved unless disapproved within 60 days after submission.

(c) No approval under this subsection is required for the compensated provision of services by Metro to or on behalf of a local government under an agreement with that government.

(3) Assumption of Other Service Functions. The Council shall seek the advice of the MPAC before adopting an ordinance authorizing provision or regulation by Metro of a service, which is not a local government service.

(4) Assumption of Functions and Operations of Mass Transit District. Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, Metro may at any time assume the duties, functions, powers and operations of a mass transit district by ordinance. Before adoption of this ordinance the Council shall seek the advice of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation or its successor. After assuming the functions and operations of a mass transit district, the Council shall establish a mass transit commission of not fewer than seven members and determine its duties in administering mass transit functions for Metro. The members of the governing body of the mass transit district at the time of its assumption by Metro are members of the initial Metro mass transit commission for the remainder of their respective terms of office.

(5) Boundary Commission Functions. The Council shall undertake and complete a study of the Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission, with advice of the MPAC, by September 1, 1995. The Council shall implement the results of the study and shall seek any legislative action needed for implementation.

Section 8. Preservation of Authority to Contract. All Metro officers shall preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the ability of Metro to contract for all services with persons or entities who are not Metro employees.

Section 9. General Grant of Powers to Carry Out Functions; Construction of Specified Powers. When carrying out the functions authorized or assumed under this charter: (1) Metro has all powers that the laws of the United States and this state now or in the future could allow Metro just as if this charter specifically set out each of those powers; (2) the powers specified in this charter are not exclusive; (3) any specification of power in this charter is not intended to limit authority; and (4) the powers specified in this charter shall be construed liberally.

### CHAPTER III FINANCE

Section 10. General Authority. Except as prohibited by law or restricted by this charter, Metro may impose, levy and collect taxes and may issue revenue bonds, general and special obligation bonds, certificates of participation and other obligations. The authority provided under this section supplements any authority otherwise granted by law.

Section 11. Voter Approval of Certain Taxes. Any ordinance of the Council imposing broadly based taxes of general applicability on the personal income, business income, payroll, property, or sales of goods or services of all, or a number of classes of, persons or entities in the region requires approval of the voters of Metro before taking effect. This approval is not required (1) to continue property taxes imposed by the Metropolitan Service District, (2) for the rate or amount of any payroll tax imposed by a mass transit district as of June 1, 1992, if the functions of that district are assumed by Metro, or (3) for additional payroll tax revenues for mass transit imposed to replace revenues lost by withdrawal of any locality from the service area of the mass transit district after June 1, 1992. For purposes of Sections 11, 13 and 14 of this charter, "taxes" do not include any user charge, service fee, franchise fee, charge for the issuance of any franchise, license, permit or approval, or any benefit assessment against property.

Section 12. Voter Approval of General Obligation Bonds. Issuance of general obligation bonds payable from ad valorem property taxes requires the approval of the voters of Metro.

Section 13. Prior Consultation for Tax Imposition. Before imposing any new tax for which voter approval is not required, the Council shall establish and seek the advice of a tax study committee that includes members appointed from the general population, and from among businesses and the governments of cities, counties, special districts and school districts, of the Metro Area.

Section 14. Limitations on Expenditures of Certain Tax Revenues.

(1) Generally. Except as provided in this section, for the first fiscal year after this charter takes effect Metro may make no more than \$12,500,000 in expenditures on a cash basis from taxes imposed and received by Metro and interest and other earnings on those taxes. This expenditure limitation increases in each subsequent fiscal year by a percentage equal to (a) the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index, All Items, for Portland-Vancouver (All Urban Consumers) as determined by the appropriate federal agency or (b) the most nearly equivalent

index as determined by the Council if the index described in (a) is discontinued.

(2) Exclusions From Limitation. This section does not apply to (a) taxes approved by the voters of Metro or the Metropolitan Service District and interest and other earnings on those taxes, (b) payroll taxes specified in Section 11 of this charter, and (c) tax increment financing charges on property.

Section 15. Limitations on Amount of User Charges. Except to the extent receipts in excess of costs from food and beverage sales, parking and other concessions are dedicated to reducing charges for the provision of goods or services to which the concession directly relates, charges for the provision of good or services by Metro may not exceed the costs of providing the goods or services. These costs include, but are not limited to, costs of personal services, materials, capital outlay, debt service, operating expenses, overhead expenses, and capital and operational reserves attributable to the good or service.

#### CHAPTER IV FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Section 16. Metro Council.

(1) Creation and Powers. The Metro Council is created as the governing body of Metro. Except as this charter provides otherwise, and except for initiative and referendum powers reserved to the voters of Metro, all Metro powers are vested in the Council.

(2) Composition. Beginning January 6, 2003, the Council consists of seven (7) councilors, one of whom shall be elected at large and designated President of the Council and six (6) each nominated and elected from a single district within the Metro Area. Until that date the Council consists of the seven (7) members of the Metro Council whose terms begin or continue in January 2001 and whose districts continue until replaced.

(3) Initial Terms of Office. The terms of office of the four Councilors receiving the highest number of votes among the seven Councilors elected in 1994 end January 4, 1999. The terms of office of the other three Councilors end January 6, 1997. Thereafter the term of office of Councilor is four years.

(4) Presiding Officer, Council President.

(a) Presiding Officer. At its first meeting each year before 2003, the Council shall elect a presiding officer from its Councilors.

(b) Council President. The Council President presides over the Council. The Council President sets the Council agenda subject to general rules established by a Council adopted ordinance. Except as provided otherwise by the Metro Charter, the Council President appoints all members of the committees, commissions and boards created by the rules of the Council and ordinances of Metro.

(5) Annual Organizing Resolution. At the first Council meeting each January the Council shall adopt an annual organizing resolution naming a deputy and establishing such committees as the Council deems necessary for the orderly conduct of Council business.

(6) Council Meetings. The Council shall meet regularly in the Metro Area at times and places it designates. The Council shall prescribe by ordinance the rules to govern conduct of its meetings. Except as this charter provides otherwise, the agreement of a majority of Councilors present and constituting a quorum is necessary to decide affirmatively a question before the Council.

(7) Quorum. A majority of Councilors in office is a quorum for Council business, but fewer Councilors may compel absent Councilors to attend.

(8) Record of Proceedings. The Council shall keep and authenticate a record of Council proceedings.

#### Section 17. Metro Auditor.

(1) Creation. The office of Metro Auditor is created. The Auditor is elected from the Metro Area at large for a term of four years. The Auditor serves full time and may not be employed by any other person or entity while serving as Auditor.

(2) First Election; Disqualification for Other Metro Elected Offices. The Auditor is first elected in the first statewide primary or general election after adoption of this charter for a term beginning January 2, 1995. During the term for which elected, and for four years thereafter, the Auditor is ineligible to hold the office of Metro Councilor.

(3) Duties. The Auditor shall: (a) make continuous investigations of the operations of Metro including financial and performance auditing and review of financial transactions, personnel, equipment, facilities, and all other aspects of those operations, and (b) make reports to the Metro Council of the results of any investigation with any recommendations for remedial action. Except as provided in this section, the Auditor may not be given responsibility to perform any executive function.

Section 18. Term of Office. The term of office of an officer elected at a primary or general election begins the first Monday of the year following election and continues until a successor assumes the office.

CHAPTER V  
OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS AND EMPLOYEES

Section 19. Qualifications of Elected Officers.

(1) Councilor. A Councilor shall be a qualified elector under the constitution of this state when his or her term of office begins and shall have resided during the preceding 12 months in the district from which elected or appointed. When the boundaries of that district have been apportioned or reapportioned during that period, residency in that district for purposes of this subsection includes residency in any former district with area in the district from which the Councilor is elected or appointed if residency is established in the apportioned or reapportioned district within 60 days after the apportionment or reapportionment is effective.

(2) Council President and Auditor. The Council President and Auditor shall each be a qualified elector under the constitution of this state when his or her term of office begins and shall have resided during the preceding 12 months within the boundaries of Metro as they exist when the term of office begins. At the time of election or appointment, the Auditor shall also hold the designation of certified public accountant or certified internal auditor.

(3) Multiple Elected Offices. A Metro elected officer may not be an elected officer of the state, or a city, county or special district during his or her term of office. As used in this charter, special district does not include school districts.

(4) Judging Elections and Qualifications. The Council is the judge of the election and qualification of its members.

Section 20. Compensation of Elected Officers.

(1) Council. Prior to 2003, the salary of the presiding officer is two-thirds the salary of a circuit court judge of this state and the salary of every other Councilor is one-third the salary of a circuit court judge of this state. Beginning January 6, 2003, the salary of the Council President shall be that of a circuit court judge of this state and the salary of every other Councilor is one-third the salary of a circuit court judge. A Councilor may waive a salary.

(2) Auditor. The salary of the Auditor is eighty percent of the salary of a circuit court judge of this state.

(3) Full Compensation. Elected officers' compensation, as established by this charter, shall be the elected officers' full and exclusive compensation for their duties as Metro officers or for any duties or responsibilities resulting from their position. This section does not preclude elected officers from receiving ordinary employee fringe benefits or being reimbursed for any actual and reasonable expenses incurred by an elected officer in the course of performing official duties.

Section 21. Oath. Before assuming office a Metro elected officer shall take an oath or affirm that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of the office and support the constitutions and laws of the United States and this state and the charter and laws of Metro.

Section 22. Vacancies in Office.

(1) Councilor. The office of Councilor becomes vacant upon the incumbent's: (a) death, (b) adjudicated incompetency, (c) recall from office, (d) failure following election or appointment to qualify for the office within 10 days after the time for his or her term of office to begin, (e) absence from all meetings of the Council within a 60 day period without the Council's consent, (f) ceasing to reside in the district from which elected or appointed, except when district boundaries are reapportioned and a Councilor is assigned to a district where the Councilor does not reside and the Councilor becomes a resident of the reapportioned district within 60 days after the reapportionment is effective, (g) ceasing to be a qualified elector under state law, (h) conviction of a felony or conviction of a federal or state offense punishable by loss of liberty and pertaining to his or her office, (i) resignation from office, or (j) becoming an elected officer of the state or a city, county or special district.

(2) Council President and Auditor. The offices of Council President or Auditor become vacant in the circumstances described in subsection (1)(a)-(d) and (g)-(j) of this section, or if the Council President or Auditor ceases to reside in the Metro Area. The office of Auditor also becomes vacant if the incumbent ceases to hold the designation of certified public accountant or certified internal auditor.

(3) Vacancy After Reapportionment. If a Councilor vacancy occurs after the Councilor has been assigned to a reapportioned district under Section 31 of this charter, the vacancy is in the district to which that Councilor was assigned.

(4) Determination of Vacancy. The Council is the final judge of the existence of a vacancy.

Section 23. Filling Vacancies. A majority of Councilors holding office shall fill a vacancy by appointment within 90 days after it occurs. The term of office of the appointee runs from the time he or she qualifies for the office after appointment until a successor is duly elected and qualifies for the office. If the vacancy occurs more than 20 days before the first general election after the beginning of the term for that office, the term of office of the appointee runs only until the first Council meeting in the year immediately after that election. A person shall be elected for the remainder of the term at the first primary or general election after the beginning of the term.

Section 24. Limitations of Terms of Office.

No person may be elected Councilor for more than three consecutive full terms, not including any term or terms as Council President. No person may be elected Council President for more than two consecutive full terms. Any term served as Executive Officer shall be considered as a term served as Council President. The limitations of this section apply only to terms of office

beginning on or after January 2, 1995.

Section 25. Appointive Offices and Commissions.

(1) Chief Operating Officer. The Council shall provide by ordinance for the creation of the office of the Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Operating Officer's duties and responsibilities will be more specifically established by ordinance. The Council President appoints the Chief Operating Officer subject to confirmation by the Council. The Chief Operating Officer serves at the pleasure of the Council and is subject to removal by the Council President with the concurrence of the Council.

(2) Metro Attorney. The Council shall provide by ordinance for the creation of the office of Metro Attorney. The Council President appoints the Metro Attorney subject to the confirmation by the Council. The Metro Attorney serves at the pleasure of the Council and is subject to removal by the Council President with the concurrence of the Council.

(3) Other Offices. The Council may provide by ordinance for the creation of other offices not subordinate to the Chief Operating Officer. The duties and responsibilities of these offices will be more specifically established by ordinance. The Council President appoints all other officers subject to confirmation by the Council. All other officers serve at the pleasure of the Council and are subject to removal by the Council President with the concurrence of the Council.

(4) Commissions. The Council may by ordinance create Commissions with duties and responsibilities as specified by the Council. The Council President appoints all Commissioners subject to confirmation by the Council. Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Council and are subject to removal by the Council President with the concurrence of the Council.

Section 26. Metro Policy Advisory Committee.

(1) Creation and Composition. The Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) is created. The initial members of the MPAC are:

(a) One member of each of the governing bodies of Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties appointed by the body from which the member is chosen;

(b) Two members of the governing body of the City of Portland appointed by that governing body;

(c) One member of the governing body of the second largest city in population in Multnomah County appointed by that governing body;

(d) One member of the governing body of the largest city in population in Washington County appointed by that governing body;

(e) One member of the governing body of the largest city in population in Clackamas County appointed by that governing body;

(f) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro Area in Multnomah County other than either the City of Portland or the second largest city in population in Multnomah County, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro Area in Multnomah County other than the City of Portland or the second largest city in population in Multnomah County;

(g) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro Area in Washington County other than the city in Washington County with the largest population, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro Area in Washington County other than the city in Washington County with the largest population;

(h) One member of a governing body of a city with territory in the Metro Area in Clackamas County other than the city in Clackamas County with the largest population, appointed jointly by the governing bodies of cities with territory in the Metro Area in Clackamas County other than the city in Clackamas County with the largest population;

(i) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro Area in Multnomah County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro Area in Multnomah County;

(j) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro Area in Washington County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro Area in Washington County;

(k) One member from the governing body of a special district with territory in the Metro Area in Clackamas County appointed jointly by the governing bodies of special districts with territory in the Metro Area in Clackamas County;

(l) One member of the governing body of Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon appointed by the governing body of that district; and

(m) Three persons appointed by the Council President and confirmed by the Council. No person appointed under this part of subsection (1) may be an elected officer of or employed by Metro, the state, or a city, county or special district. Each person appointed under this part of subsection (1) shall reside in the Metro Area during the person's tenure on the MPAC.

(2) Change of Composition. A vote of both a majority of the MPAC members and a majority of all Councilors may change the composition of the MPAC at any time.

(3) Duties. The MPAC shall perform the duties assigned to it by this charter and any other duties the Council prescribes.



(4) Bylaws. The MPAC shall adopt bylaws governing the conduct and record of its meetings and the terms of its members.

Section 27. Metro Office of Citizen Involvement.

(1) Creation and Purpose. The Metro Office of Citizen Involvement is created to develop and maintain programs and procedures to aid communication between citizens and the Council.

(2) Citizens' Committee in Office of Citizen Involvement. The Council shall establish by ordinance (a) a citizens' committee in the office of citizen involvement and (b) a citizen involvement process. The Council shall appropriate sufficient funds to operate the office and committee.

CHAPTER VI  
ELECTIONS AND REAPPORTIONMENT

Section 28. State Law. Except as this charter or a Metro ordinance provides otherwise, a Metro election shall conform to state law applicable to the election.

Section 29. Elections of Metro Officers.

(1) Generally. Except for certain elections to fill a vacancy in office, the first vote for Councilor, Council President or Auditor occurs at an election held at the same time and places in the Metro Area as the statewide primary election that year. If one candidate for a Metro office receives a majority of the votes cast at the primary election for all candidates for that office, that candidate is elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast at the primary election, the candidates receiving the two largest numbers of votes cast for the office are the only names to appear on the general election ballot that year as candidates for that office. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes cast at the general election for that office is elected.

(2) Nonpartisan offices. All elections of Metro officers are nonpartisan. Election ballots shall list the names of candidates for Metro offices without political party designations.

Section 30. Multiple Candidacies. No person may be a candidate at a single election for more than one Metro elected office.

Section 31. Reapportionment of Council Districts After Census.

(1) General Requirements. Within three months after an official census indicates that the boundaries of Council districts deny equal protection of the law, the Council shall change the boundaries to accord equal protection of the law and shall assign Councilors to the reapportioned districts. As nearly as practicable, all Council districts shall be of equal population and each shall be contiguous and geographically compact. The Council may by ordinance specify additional criteria for districts that are consistent with this section.

(2) Failure to Reapportion. If the Council fails to establish Council district boundaries as provided by this section, the Council President shall establish the boundaries within 60 days.

(3) Redistricting After Year 2000 Census. Within three (3) months after completion of the year 2000 Census, the Council shall establish six (6) Council districts in a manner that accords equal protection of the law. The three (3) Councilors serving terms that expire in January 2005, shall each be assigned to one of the six (6) districts and their terms shall continue. Council members will be elected to serve four (4) year terms for the other three (3) districts in the regularly scheduled elections to be held in 2002. For the purpose of Section 33 of this charter, the seven (7) councilors in office in January 2001 shall be deemed to be serving in the districts from which they were elected until January 2003.

Section 32. Recall.

(1) Generally. An elected officer of Metro may be recalled in the manner and with the effect described by the constitution and laws of this state.

(2) Effect of Reapportionment. Upon the effective date of a Council reapportionment under Section 32 of this charter, a Councilor is subject to recall by the voters of the district to which the Councilor is assigned and not by the voters of the district of that Councilor existing before the reapportionment.

Section 33. Initiative and Referendum. The voters of Metro reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum. The Council may provide for the exercise of those powers in a manner consistent with law.

Section 34. Amendment and Revision of Charter. The Council may refer, and voters of Metro may initiate, amendments to this charter. A proposed charter amendment may embrace only one subject and matters properly connected with it. The Council shall provide by ordinance for a procedure to revise this charter.

CHAPTER VII  
ORDINANCES

Section 35. Ordaining Clause. The ordaining clause of an ordinance adopted by the Council is: "The Metro Council ordains as follows: ." The ordaining clause of an initiated or referred ordinance is: "The People of Metro ordain as follows: ."

Section 36. Adoption by Council.

(1) General Requirements. The Council shall adopt all legislation of Metro by ordinance. Except as this charter otherwise provides, the Council may not adopt any ordinance at a meeting unless: (a) the ordinance is introduced at a previous meeting of the Council, (b) the title of the ordinance is included in a written agenda of the meeting at which the ordinance is adopted, (c) the agenda of that meeting is publicized not less than three business days nor more

than ten days before the meeting, and (d) copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection at least three business days before that meeting. The text of an ordinance may be amended, but not substantially revised, at the meeting at which it is adopted.

(2) Immediate Adoption. The provisions of this section do not apply to an ordinance adopted by unanimous consent of the Council and containing findings on the need for immediate adoption.

(3) Vote Required. Adoption of an ordinance requires the affirmative votes of (a) seven Councilors while the Council consists of 13 positions, (b) four Councilors after the Council consists of seven positions as provided by Section 16(2) of this charter.

Section 37. Endorsement. The person presiding over the Council when an ordinance is adopted shall endorse the ordinance unless the Council prescribes a different procedure by general ordinance.

Section 38. Effective Date of Ordinances.

(1) Generally. An ordinance takes effect 90 days after its adoption unless the ordinance states a different effective date. An ordinance may state an earlier effective date if (a) an earlier date is necessary for the health, safety or welfare of the Metro Area; (b) the reasons why this is so are stated in an emergency clause of the ordinance; and (c) the ordinance is approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Councilors. An ordinance imposing or changing a tax or charge, changing the boundaries of Metro, or assuming a function may not contain an emergency clause.

(2) Referred Ordinances. If the Council refers an ordinance to the voters of Metro, the ordinance effective date is the 30th day after its approval by a majority of the voters voting on the measure unless the ordinance specifies a later date. If a referendum petition is filed with the filing officer not later than the 90th day after adoption of an ordinance, the ordinance effective date is suspended. An ordinance is not subject to the referendum after it is effective. An ordinance referred by a referendum petition (a) does not take effect if a majority of the voters voting on the measure reject it and (b) takes effect, unless the ordinance specifies a later date, on the date the results of the election are certified if a majority of the voters voting on the measure approve it.

Section 39. Content of Ordinances. Each ordinance may embrace only one subject and all matters properly connected with it. The Council shall plainly word each ordinance and avoid technical terms as far as practicable.

Section 40. Public Improvements and Special Assessments. General ordinances govern the procedures for making, altering, vacating or abandoning a public improvement and for fixing, levying and collecting special assessments against real property for public improvements or services. State law governs these procedures to the extent not governed by general ordinances.

CHAPTER VIII  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 41. Transition Provisions. All legislation, orders, rules and regulations of the Metropolitan Service District in force when this charter takes effect remain in force after that time to the extent consistent with this charter and until amended or repealed by the Council. All rights, claims, causes of action, duties, contracts, and legal and administrative proceedings of the Metropolitan Service District that exist when this charter takes effect continue and are unimpaired by the charter. Each is in the charge of the officer or agency designated by this charter or by its authority to have charge of it. The unexpired terms of elected officers of the Metropolitan Service District continue as provided by this charter. Upon the effective date of this charter, the assets and liabilities of the Metropolitan Service District are the assets and liabilities of Metro.

Section 42. Effective Date. This charter takes effect January 1, 1993.

Section 43. Severability. The terms of this charter are severable. If a part of this charter is held invalid, that invalidity does not affect any other part of this charter unless required by the logical relation between the parts.

Section 44. State Legislation. By adopting this charter the voters of Metro direct the Council to seek, and request the Legislative Assembly of this state to enact, any legislation needed to make all parts of this charter operative.

Section 45. Further Transition Provisions. The amendments to Sections 16 (4)(b), 16 (5), 18, 20, 23, 26, 27, 28, 32 (2) and 39 adopted by the electors of Metro at the November 2000 election take effect on January 6, 2003.

**Former Section 17 Metro Executive Officer** [Repealed effective January 6, 2003]

**Former Section 21 (2) Compensation of Elected Officers-Executive Officer** [Repealed effective January 6, 2003]

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