

# City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave  
Pomona, CA 91766

## Special Meeting Minutes

### CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION



*Chair Derek Engdahl  
Commission Member John Clifford  
Commission Member Efrain Escobedo  
Commission Member Ann Tomkins  
Commission Member Dean Rudenauer  
Commission Member Edward Jimenez  
Commission Member Eunice Russell*

#### VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful  
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of  
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

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Thursday, June 10, 2021

5:00 PM

Teleconference via Zoom

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**5:00 P.M. Teleconference via Zoom**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Engdahl called the Charter Review Commission Special Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Escobedo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Derek Engdahl  
Commission Member John Clifford  
Commission Member Efrain Escobedo  
Commission Member Ann Tomkins  
Commission Member Eunice Russell (arrived at 5:04)

Absent: Commission Member Dean Rudenauer  
Commission Member Edward Jimenez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Linda Matthews, Human Resources/Risk Management Director (Staff Liaison Matthews)  
William Priest, Deputy City Attorney  
Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

1. **Discuss and Give Direction Regarding the Charter Review Commission's Draft Final Report to the City Clerk, Including How to Group Measures and Final Language Changes**

Chair Engdahl shared that the goal tonight was to get as much done as they can to ensure the last meeting on June 24 is short and sweet.

Staff Liaison Matthews gave an overview of the draft report and explained the process detailed in the included attachments of getting the proposals on the ballot. She said the Commission needed to finalize its reports and indicate which items needed to be separate or standalone. She explained the Commission could decide what order they wanted the items on the report to the City Clerk and pointed out it would be most likely the way the County would order them on the ballot.

Commissioner Clifford asked if they could name the measures and mentioned the Library Board had been able to choose the name of its measure in the past.

Staff Liaison Matthews said the Commission could let the City Clerk know what names they preferred and she could pass the information along to the County.

Commissioner Tomkins asked if the City Clerk would wait until closer to the election to submit the resolutions like last time or if she intended to draft them earlier.

Staff Liaison Matthews said it would probably be closer to the election.

Commissioner Tomkins asked if the City Clerk could determine the order of the measures for placement on the ballot.

Deputy City Attorney Priest shared that would be at the purview of the City Clerk and City Council. He pointed out that under the Elections Code, the County had some discretion to assign letters to the ballot measures. He explained the County would probably order the measures alphabetically because the Commission is submitting a series of measures

to go on the ballot and the Commission would not be able to choose random letters.

Commissioner Clifford asked if they would have to come into City Hall to sign the measures between now and June 30. He asked if they could have an in-person meeting for the last meeting.

Staff Liaison Matthews explained the city was not planning to resume in-person meetings.

Deputy City Attorney Priest said they could work out whatever is most administratively important and pointed out that the most important factor would be for the Commission to take official action on the record before June 30.

Commissioner Tomkins asked about the timeline and process for writing ballot arguments.

Staff Liaison Matthews explained that after June 30 they would no longer be part of a Brown Act body and they would be able to coordinate that at will. She said technically the Council needs to assign that as a priority, but there was no need to do it prior to June 30.

Deputy City Attorney Priest pointed out Attachment 3 in the report and explained that ten years ago the Council gave authority to write ballot arguments in favor to members of the Charter Review Commission. He said it seems reasonable they would do the same for this Charter Review Commission.

Commissioner Tomkins pointed out some of the last arguments had a lot of signatures and suggested just having one person, like the Chair, sign the arguments.

Commissioner Clifford explained it is an advantage to have more signatures because it shows more people are in favor of the measure. He shared his experience as a member of the 2010 Charter Review Commission.

Chair Engdahl suggested they tackle this issue after June 30.

Commissioner Escobedo asked the process of writing the title and summaries.

Deputy City Attorney Priest explained the process and said it would be at the discretion of the City Clerk when it would go to Council probably sometime in 2022. He said once the Council calls the election, the City Attorney would write an impartial statement on the measures.

Chair Engdahl asked about tracking all the members down for signatures on the report.

Commissioner Clifford pointed out that two of the Commission members did not sign the report from the 2010 Charter Review Commission.

Deputy City Attorney Priest explained a majority of the Commission could sign and it would be legally binding. He said if the desire was to have everyone sign, staff would do



what they can to obtain those signatures.

Chair Engdahl said the first priority was to decide which measures the Commission would like to combine.

Staff Liaison Matthews pointed to the included attachments to help in guiding the conversation.

Chair Engdahl gave an overview of the document he compiled and stressed it was not definitive but could be used as a point of reference.

Commissioner Clifford shared his experience on the past Charter Review Commission and stressed they needed to ensure they did not group controversial items that may not pass with other items.

Commissioner Tomkins said separating the items made it easier for voters to understand. She indicated she understood the cost involved and said the Commission needed to be diligent when deciding which items needed to be separated.

Commissioner Clifford pointed out there might be separate campaign committees that could advocate for certain items.

Commissioner Escobedo said the criteria for grouping in the shared attachment was very helpful.

Commissioner Tomkins mentioned the large main measure and said the Commission should look at it carefully to see if there were any controversial items grouped in the measure that may keep it from passing. She expressed the city tax language change might cause some people to vote no on the measure if voters did not take a broader look at the language being changed. She pointed to the last Charter Review Commission measure for reference.

Deputy City Attorney Priest pointed out the language clearly indicated it should not be effective until approved by the electors, but said he understood the concern that voters might misread the language. He said he included the language for technical correction.

Commissioner Tomkins indicated she was not advocating for its removal and pointed out if it were separated they could include an impartial analysis making it clearer for the voters.

The Commission discussed some of the other items that might be controversial in the main measure.

Commissioner Russell suggested splitting the main measure into two main measures to help ensure one controversial item does not sink the whole measure.

Commissioner Escobedo asked about the controversial items and suggested not

including those items to save time and cost. He asked if there was anything in the main measure that they could consider removing.

Chair Engdahl pointed out it was hard to determine what items were going to be controversial.

Chair Engdahl recessed the meeting for a five-minute break at 7:01. The meeting resumed at 7:06.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided the following Charter amendments would be placed on the ballot as separate measures for the November 8, 2022 Municipal Election:

1. Police Oversight Commission
2. Ethics Commission
3. Independent Redistricting Commission
4. Term Limits
5. Resign to Run
6. Primary Election
7. Campaign Finance

The Commission approved the measures in the following order; reflected in the final vote for Item 1:

1. Police Commission (806 – new)
2. Ethics Commission (807)
3. Redistricting (201)
4. Term Limits (401.5)
5. Resign to Run (402)
6. Primary Election (901)
7. Campaign Finance (1401)
8. General Charter (All)

**Commissioner Russell proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clifford, to approve the aforementioned measures with the suggested changes. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0 (Commissioners Jimenez and Rudenauer absent).**

The Commission continued the discussion on the language changes in the General Charter Update (Attachment H).

Deputy City Attorney Priest went over some of the language changes in the update.

The Commission suggested some changes to the language in the General Charter update and Staff indicated they would make the directed changes.

After some discussion, the Commission decided to remove the realignment language.

The Commission expressed some items they would like the next Charter Review

Commission to look at, including realignment, compensation of Council and expenses.

Deputy City Attorney Priest indicated he would write a ballot question for the Ethics Commission. He said he could present it at the next meeting or have a subcommittee look at it prior to next meeting.

Staff Liaison Matthews suggested the Commission form a subcommittee to review the suggested language changes and the Ethics Commission report prior to the final meeting on June 24. Commissioners Clifford, Tomkins, and Russell agreed to serve on the final report subcommittee.

**2. Discuss Next Steps Including But Not Limited to Steps Needed to Prepare the Final Report for Adoption at the Last Regular Charter Review Commission Meeting on June 24, 2021**

Chair Engdahl indicated they had discussed all of this in the previous item.

**COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Russell expressed her appreciation to the other Commissioners and Staff for their great work throughout the process.

Commissioner Clifford said he agreed with Commissioner Russell and pointed out they had a unique perspective having been on the previous Charter Review Commission. He said compared to that experience, the work on this Commission had been a great experience. He thanked Staff and the other members of the Commission for all of the hard work.

Chair Engdahl said he was going to save his comments for the final meeting and expressed his appreciation for his fellow Commissioners and staff.

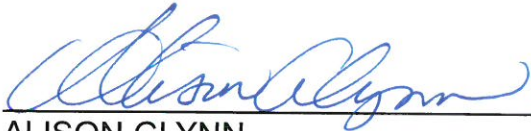
**STAFF ITEMS**

Staff Liaison Matthews thanked the Commission and said it had been a pleasure to work with everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Tomkins, to adjourn the Charter Review Commission meeting at 8:08 pm to the next regular meeting on June 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0 (Commissioners Rudenauer and Jimenez absent).**

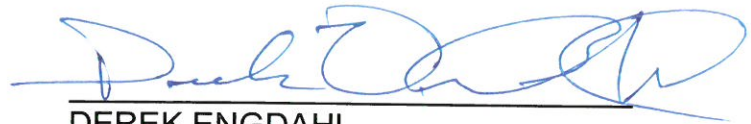
Respectfully submitted,



ALISON GLYNN

Deputy City Clerk /Commission  
Secretary to the Pomona Charter  
Review Commission

ATTEST:



DEREK ENGDAHL

Chair of the Pomona Charter Review  
Commission

