

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



MEETING DATE: 04/21/2009 ITEM No. 29 GOAL: Communications, Open Government

SUBJECT

Scottsdale City Charter Review Task Force

REQUESTS

Adopt Resolution No. 7940 establishing a City Charter Review Task Force and the process for appointing members to the task force.

**RELATED POLICIES,
REFERENCES**

City of Scottsdale Charter

BACKGROUND

The City of Scottsdale was incorporated in 1951, and its first charter was adopted in 1961. Since that time, the Charter has been amended by the public on numerous occasions. The Charter was last amended in 2000, and those amendments addressed annual salaries for the Mayor and City Council.

Under the City Charter and the State Constitution, the Charter may be amended by the two-step process of the Council submitting proposed changes to the electorate and the electorate voting to accept those changes.

Resolution No. 7940 calls for the Task Force to consist of seven (7) Scottsdale citizens. Each Councilmember will appoint one member of the Task Force, with the Mayor appointing the chair. Councilmembers shall name their appointment at the June 2 regular council meeting.

The Task Force will make a report to the City Council of their proposed changes. The Task Force will study various possible changes to improve the Charter, including updating obsolete provisions, clarifying ambiguous provisions, and amending the Charter to make city government more efficient and citizen-friendly.

The Scottsdale City Council will consider the recommendations of the Task Force. Any changes recommended by the Task Force and approved by the City Council will go before the voters for their consideration. If Council approves any recommendations to go before the voters before approximately the end of April, 2010, those recommendations would be presented to the voters at the August 31, 2010 regular election, and if passed, would be incorporated into the Charter.

The Scottsdale City Charter Review Task Force shall dissolve once it makes its report to the City Council.

Resolution No. 7940 also directs the City Manager and City Attorney to assist the Task Force in accomplishing its objectives.

Action Taken _____

**ANALYSIS &
ASSESSMENT**

The Task Force will serve as an advisory body to the City Council by making recommendations to improve the City of Scottsdale Charter. The Council retains the power to accept, modify or reject those recommendations, or to approve its own recommendations. Any recommendations receiving Council approval will be submitted to the electorate, and the electorate will determine whether the recommendations become part of the Charter.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

Existing staff would accomplish the necessary work required to support the Task Force.

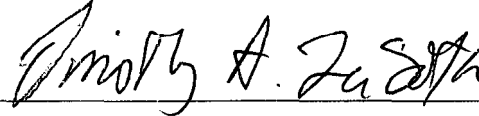
RESPONSIBLE DEPT(S)

City Attorney

STAFF CONTACTS

Tim La Sota, Chief of Staff to the Mayor, tlasota@scottsdaleaz.gov

SUBMITTED BY



4/15/09

Date

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 7940

RESOLUTION NO. 7940

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, FORMING A CHARTER REVIEW
TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsdale was incorporated in 1951, and its first charter was adopted in 1961; and

WHEREAS, the Scottsdale City Charter has not been amended since 2000, and that amendment adjusted salaries for the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the City of Scottsdale benefit from having a city charter that is broad enough to recognize all the current needs of the citizens but allows specificity of intended objectives; and

WHEREAS, it is proper for the Scottsdale City Charter to be reviewed to see if certain changes should be presented to the Scottsdale electorate, to wit, possible changes to update obsolete provisions, provide for more efficient and citizen-friendly operation of city government, clarify provisions that are ambiguous, and any other suggestions they might determine relevant to improving the Scottsdale City Charter; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale as follows:

Section 1. The Scottsdale City Charter Review Task Force is hereby formed, consisting of seven (7) Scottsdale citizens. Each Councilmember shall appoint one member of the Scottsdale City Charter Review Task Force, with the Mayor appointing one member who shall serve as Chairman of Task Force. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the person who appointed the member. Councilmembers shall name their appointment at the June 2, 2009, regular council meeting.

Section 2. The Scottsdale City Charter Review Task Force will make recommendations to the City Council on changes to the Scottsdale City Charter, including possible changes to update obsolete provisions, provide for more efficient and citizen-friendly operation of city government, clarify provisions that are ambiguous, and any other suggestions it might determine relevant to improving the Scottsdale City Charter. The Task Force shall dissolve upon making its report to City Council, unless otherwise directed by the City Council.

Section 3. The City Manager is directed to provide relevant staff and meeting space to assist the Task Force in formulating its recommendations and report.

Section 4. The City Attorney is directed to work with the Task Force to ensure compliance with all public meeting laws and public records laws.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale this 21st day of April, 2009.

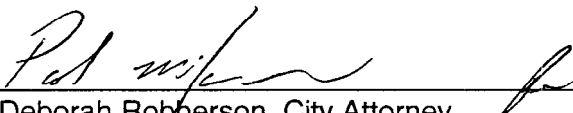
ATTEST:

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an
Arizona municipal corporation

Carolyn Jagger, City Clerk

W.J. "Jim" Lane, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deborah Robberson, City Attorney