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Charter Review Meeting - September 16, 2020

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Charter Review Meeting

Chelsea, Massachusetts

September 16, 2020

A regular meeting of the Special Committee -Charter Review was held. The meeting was held at the Chelsea City Hall located at 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150. The following appointees were present: Judith Garcia, Leo Robinson, Calvin Brown, Melinda Vega Maldonado, Todd Taylor, Rosemarie Carlisle, Henry Wilson, Mary Bourque, Jason Stocker, Sharlene McLean, and Miriam Rancatore. Absent was Yesenia Alfaro and Alex Balcarcel. Meeting stated promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Judith Garcia began the meeting with questions by previous sessions. Sharlene McLean asked about the composition of members of the Traffic and Parking commission in regards to the “Director of Housing Community and Development.” She proposed a change into the wording in the Charter section.

Chairperson moved to open the public speaking portion. Councilor Giovanni Recupero spoke in regards to section 6.3 of the traffic and parking commission. Councilor Recupero wants to propose that the Traffic and Parking Commission should not have exclusive authority, the council should have a say in the decisions of the Traffic and Parking Commission.

Councilor Todd Taylor asked a question of the structure of this commission to supersede Council authority. He asked for legal counsel advised. City Solicitor provided an explanation in regards as to why there is exclusive authority for the Traffic and Parking Commission and what constitutes when a petition is brought forth the commission.

Chairperson Judith Garcia closed the public speaking portion. She then moved to discuss Section 7 of the Charter. Sharlene McLean asked a question on redistricting and lines of districts. Jason Stocker reminded the committee of a request by Council President, Roy Avellaneda, to allow for elections on Saturdays. City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher proceeded to state that the charter allows to provide more participation by changing the number of signatures needed to run from 50-100 (example).

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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