

CRC Recommendation No. 2 Regarding Article V, Section 6 (City Attorney)

Recommendation: Council is assigned a designated attorney with the city attorney's office.

Proposed Charter Revision:

§ 6. - CITY ATTORNEY.

There shall be a department of law, the head of which shall be the city attorney, who shall be appointed by the city manager. The city attorney shall be a competent attorney who shall have practiced law in the State of Texas for at least five years immediately preceding his or her appointment. The city attorney shall be the legal advisor of, and attorney for, all of the officers and departments of the city, and he or she shall represent the city in all litigation and legal proceedings. He or she shall draft, approve, or file his or her written legal objections to every ordinance before it is acted upon by the council, and he or she shall pass upon all documents, contracts and legal instruments in which the city may have an interest.

There shall be such assistant city attorneys as may be authorized by the council, who shall be authorized to act for and on behalf of the city attorney. At least one assistant city attorney shall be appointed by the city attorney to serve as the designated liaison to council.

Policy Reasons:

The CRC is recommending this charter revision to ensure that council has a designated attorney within the city attorney's office to assist it in formulating ordinances and working through policy matters.

Proposed Ballot Language:

[in progress]