

April 7, 2004

Honorable Kevin Burke, Chief Judge
Hennepin County District Court
C-1009 Government Center
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Re: Minneapolis Charter Commission

Dear Judge Burke:

Attached for your information is the 2003 Annual Report for the Minneapolis Charter Commission.

Respectfully,

Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission

Attachment

**MINNEAPOLIS CHARTER COMMISSION
2003 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO: The Honorable Judge Kevin Burke, Chief Judge
Hennepin County District Court

FROM: Jim Bernstein, Chair
Minneapolis Charter Commission

1. MEMBERSHIP

In 2003, the Charter Commission had 15 members as shown in the attached roster.

2. OFFICERS

Election of Officers was held February 5, 2003:

Joseph Bester	Chair
Pete Rhodes	Vice Chair
Donald Fraser	Secretary

3. STAFF

Assistance was provided by the following City staff:

Joe LaBat	Assistant City Attorney
William Dunning	Assistant City Attorney
Susanne Griffin	Director of Elections
Jan Hrcir	Chief Council Committee Coordinator (August through December)
Jan Belsaas	Council Committee Coordinator (January through July)

4. MEETINGS

The Charter Commission held nine regular meetings.

5. ATTENDANCE

The March 5, April 2 and June 4 meetings were canceled. The attached chart shows the dates Commissioners were excused from the meeting during the year. No Commissioners were absent without requesting to be excused.

6. RULES

Charter Commission Rules were considered, but no revisions were approved during 2003.

7. ISSUES CONSIDERED

- Charter revisions; Informational contacts with Mayor and Council Members
- New ward boundary plan
- Charter amendments relating to contract procedures
- Ward 3 election results

- Proposed legislation - Instant Run-Off for Presidential, Congressional & Statewide elections, SF #158
- Charter Commission vacancies
- Plans and priorities of the Charter Commission
- Charter Commission Rules amendments
- Leave of absence requests
- Residency requirements for Commissioners
- Request for Charter amendment by referendum (See 12 below)
- Election issues relating to redistricting (See 9 below)

8. RESEARCH ISSUES

No research information was requested by the Charter Commissioners.

9. SPEAKERS

Susanne Griffin, Director of Elections, presented Ward 3 election results

Dennis Miller proposed various Charter amendments

Merry Keefe, City Clerk, provided suggestions for a Planning/Goal Setting Session

Bert Black, former Charter Commissioner, spoke on behalf of his request for a Charter amendment by a 13-0 Council vote relating to timing for the next Council Member election due to redistricting (See 11b below)

10. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY PETITION

There were no Charter amendments by petition

11. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY ORDINANCE

a) Ordinances amending the Minneapolis City Charter relating to City contracts to conform to State Statute, as follows:

- Chapter 3 relating to *Powers and Duties of Officers*;
- Chapter 4 relating to *City Council--Powers--Duties, Etc*;
- Chapter 5 relating to *Taxation and Finance*; and
- (Postponed to January 2004)

b) Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Section 3, Paragraph F of the Minneapolis City Charter relating to *City and Ward Boundaries*, to amend the timing of Council Member elections due to redistricting. (Referred to the City Council 11/5/03)

12. CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY REFERENDUM

Aaron Marcus, President, Citizens Organized for Harm Reduction, submitted a proposed Charter amendment by referendum relating to medicinal marijuana distribution centers in the City of Minneapolis. This amendment was determined to be inappropriate for the City Charter.