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Charter Revision Commission Summary Report Prior to April 14, 2020, Ballot Proposals

Sioux Falls, South Dakota: Since June, 2019, the Sioux Falls Charter Revision Commission ("Commission") has conducted a series of seven public meetings to assist them in preparing a report of proposed revisions to the City's Charter. The Commission is prepared to deliver the proposed revisions to City election authorities for placement on the upcoming April 14, 2020 ballot.

During the course of the public meetings, the Commission reviewed and discussed each section of the City Charter. The agenda for each public meeting alerted the public as to which particular sections would be discussed for that meeting. Each of the public meetings was televised on CityLink and archived for public access. The Commission invited guests to explain the workings of the Charter provisions under review. Current Charter sections were also compared to other versions of the Model City Charter as promulgated by the National Civic League, from which the City Charter is based. The historical significance of various sections was also discussed. Possible Charter revision proposals were discussed with City departments, City Council members, Commission members, and citizens. After extensive review and discussion, the Commission affirmatively voted to advance two proposed measures which, following delivery and filing with the City Council and City Clerk, will be presented to the public for further consideration and, ultimately, to be voted on by City voters.

The first proposal would add an eligibility requirement to Section 2.02(b) of the City Charter requiring candidates for district-specific Council seats to be a resident of the District for a period of six months immediately prior to the election.

The second proposal would ensure that the requirements set forth in Section 8.01(d) of the City Charter regarding voter initiation of proposed Charter amendments are, at all times, at least as stringent as those set forth in the State Constitution. This would satisfy State law, which requires that the requirements of City Charter and ordinance be at least as stringent as those imposed by State law.

Each of these proposed revisions will be presented in the form of Charter Amendments to city voters for their consideration in the upcoming City election. City voters have previously approved revisions to the City Charter in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. The City's Charter is the broad governing document for the conduct of local municipal government in Sioux Falls.

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