

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** July 25, 2022

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding the Reno City Charter Committee's recommendations for amendments to the Reno City Charter, including acceptance of the Reno City Charter Committee 2022 Final Report and Recommendations.

**From:** Calli Wilsey

**Department:** City Manager's Office

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**Summary:** The Reno City Charter Committee completed its biennial review of the Reno City Charter in June 2022, in accordance with requirements in the charter. The committee's final report includes four recommended amendments focused on gender neutral language; the number of wards and makeup of the Council; appointment of a Chief Equity Officer and diversity, equity, and inclusion policies; and green infrastructure projects under local improvements laws. Committee members will present their recommendations and be available to answer questions. Staff recommends Council accept the committee's 2022 Final Report and Recommendations.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Not Applicable

**Previous Council Action:** There is no previous Council action relevant to this item.

**Background:** The Reno City Charter establishes the Charter Committee, its membership, and its duties. Section 1.150 of the charter requires the committee to meet at least once every two years before the beginning of a regular legislative session. This section also requires the committee to meet jointly with the Council after the committee meets and prior to the legislative session. The committee has traditionally met the year before the session to ensure it completes its biennial review of the Charter and sends its recommendations to the City Council in time for the deadline associated with bill draft request (BDR) submissions.

**Discussion:** The Reno City Charter Committee convened for its biennial review of the Reno

City Charter in January 2022. The committee held eight meetings, discussing various topics and potential amendments to the Reno City Charter. The committee's work culminated in the adoption of its 2022 Final Report and Recommendations (attached), which includes four proposed amendments to the charter that are summarized in the table below. The Committee's final report provides an overview of all of the topics discussed and details about the proposed amendments, including draft language.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS	
Amendment No.	Description
2022-01	Elimination of gendered language throughout the Reno City Charter
2022-02	Repeal of changes scheduled to take effect January 2024 related to the number of wards, makeup of elected offices and other related provisions
2022-03	Requirements for a Chief Equity Officer appointment and inclusive community engagement processes
2022-04	Addition of green infrastructure projects to the list of project types that could be authorized under local improvement law

Committee members will present their recommendations to the Council at the joint meeting and be available to answer Council Member questions about their biennial review and final recommendations.

According to NRS 215D.205, the City may submit up to two BDRs to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for drafting. At its August 10, 2022 meeting, Council will hear an item about potential BDR ideas, including those submitted by Council Members, staff, and the Charter Committee. The requests must be submitted by September 1, 2022 for the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

**Financial Implications:** There are no financial implications associated with this item.

**Legal Implications:** Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends Council accept the Reno City Charter Committee 2022 Final Report and Recommendations.

**Proposed Motion:** I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

Reno City Charter Committee 2022 Final Report and Recommendations