THE MUNICIPALITY OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

D.C City Charter



ANNOTATED

WITH AMENDMENTS TO AND INCLUDING THOSE APPROVED IN THE PRIMARY AND CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS,

Preamble

We The People,

under authority conferred by the Constitution of the United States, the People of the Municipality of Washington, District of Columbia (hereafter referred to as D.C.) enact this Charter as the establishment of the municipality for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the development, establish justice; insure tranquility; provide for the common defense; promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity safety;to enable the District to effectively provide services and meet the needs of the people efficiently; to allow fair and equitable participation of all persons in the events of the city; to provide for transparency, accountability, and ethics in governance and civil service; to foster fiscal responsibility; to promote prosperity and to meet the broad needs for a healthy, growing city.

Bill of Rights

The people of the City of D.C., by adoption of this Charter, create and continue a body corporate known as the "City of Washington, D.C." and provide for continuing control of their municipal corporation. The D.C. City Council shall not, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another Municipality, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay. Full faith and Credit shall be given in D.C. to the public Acts, Records and Proceedings of every other Municipality. The powers not delegated to Congress may be legislated in the D.C. City Council. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the Municipalities. D.C. shall not make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any Municipality deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law in a federal District Court; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. No person shall hold any office in D.C. as a member of the D.C. City Council or as an executive officer of D.C. that has not made a pledge to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion) The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by D.C. City Council on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, gender or failure to pay debt.

Introduction

§1. The City. The City of D.C. as now existing shall continue with the boundaries and with the powers, rights and property, and subject to the obligations and liabilities which exist at the time when this charter shall take effect.

Article I // Mayor

\$1. Official Power. The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall be the head of the municipal government of the District of Columbia. The Mayor shall be part of the City Council, but will be a non-voting member of the council. The Mayor shall have the right, under rules to be adopted by the Council, to be heard by the Council or any of its committees.

§2. Election Term. The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall be elected alongside their Deputy Mayor in the District of Columbia. The term for the District of Columbia Mayor will be every three months, and so on. A Mayor who resigned from office prior to the completion of a full term shall have their Deputy Mayor assume the Office of the Mayor till the end of the original term.

§3. Heads of Departments; Appoint; Remove.

a. The Mayor shall make the various nominations required by the Charter to be made by the Mayor, and in sending the names of nominees to the Council for their majority approval he shall file with the Council to be read before the question of confirmation is voted upon a certificate substantially in the following form:

[CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION]

I hereby nominate [NAME] to the position of [DEPARTMENT] and I certify that in my opinion he is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the nomination solely in the interest of the City. [It must be stated on a PDF with the Mayor's signature for validation purposes]

No appointments shall be considered by council unless accompanied by such certificate.

b. No public officer shall hold his office for any specific term, except as otherwise provided by law. However, public officers may be removed from their office pending six city counselors ruling.

§4. General Powers. The Mayor, subject to this charter, shall exercise all the powers vested in the city, except as otherwise provided by law.

a. The Mayor shall be responsible for the effectiveness and integrity of city government

operations and shall establish and maintain such policies and procedures as are necessary and appropriate to accomplish this responsibility including the implementation of effective systems of internal control by each agency and unit under the jurisdiction of the Mayor.

b. It shall also be the duty of the Mayor to be vigilant and active in the enforcement of the ordinances of the City; to exercise a constant supervision over the acts and conduct of all officers and employees; to receive and examine into all complaints made against them for violation or neglect of duty, and certify the same to the Council or proper board, and to secure cooperation between the various departments and offices of the City.

c. The Mayor with the power vested in him or her will be able to call for a municipal lockdown, meaning that all departments will be under lockdown and that no one will be able to go onto any team that applies to the municipal government other than DCCC.

d. The Mayor shall be authorized to issue and enforce administrative orders, not inconsistent with this or any other Act of the Congress or any act of the Council, as are necessary to carry out his functions and duties.

e. The Mayor may reorganize the offices, agencies, and other entities within the executive branch of the government of the District by submitting to the Council a detailed plan of such reorganization. Such a reorganization plan shall only be valid if the Council consents, without such approval, said reorganization becomes invalid after 6 days. After which a resolution disapproving such reorganization must be submitted by the council.

f. The Mayor may delegate any of his functions, other than the function of approving or disapproving acts passed by the Council or the function of approving contracts between the District and the Federal Government to any officer, employee, or agency of the executive office of the Mayor, or to any director of an executive department who may, with the approval of the Mayor, make a further delegation of all or a part of such functions to subordinates under his jurisdiction.

§5. Removal of Mayor. The Mayor may be removed from office by the City Council—with 6 counselors concurring—upon a written petition to the FEC of at least 25 residents of the city of D.C. of whom are not deemed alternative accounts. Only one petition may be submitted to the Federal Elections Commission every 3 weeks and petitions may only be submitted in regards to the Mayor having committed a high crime in accordance with U.S. Code and has been found guilty of such, with all appeal options exhausted.

§6. Succession.

a. In case of the removal of the Mayor from office, the powers and duties of the office of Mayor

shall devolve upon the Deputy Mayor.

b. If the Deputy Mayor is unable to succeed the office of Mayor or a Deputy Mayor is not in office to succeed the office of Mayor, the office shall devolve upon the Council Chair

c. If the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council Chair are unable to succeed the Office of the Mayor or are not in office to succeed the Office of the Mayor, the City Council members shall internally vote, with a majority of the remaining counselors concurring, whom within the City Council shall succeed the Office of the Mayor.

§7. Special Election. During an election for the Office of the Mayor, if the leading candidates are within five votes of each other or have the same number of votes, a special election will be hosted for a period of 24 hours.

§8. District Attorney General. The Mayor is authorized to establish the Office of the District Attorney General to represent legal matters involving the Municipal Government. The District Attorney General will be nominated to the City Council utilizing the format in Article 1 § 3(a). The District Attorney General must be a legally qualified individual holding a BAR certification and will represent the Municipal Government in any and all matters of a criminal and civil nature in District Court, legal advice or other judicial matters concerning the Municipal Government. The District Attorney General may be removed via the authority of the Mayor or a concurrence of six members of the City Council.

Article II///Deputy Mayor

\$1. Official Power. The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia shall be the Deputy head of the municipal government of the District of Columbia

§2. Election Term. The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia shall be elected alongside the Mayor in the District of Columbia. The term for the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor will be every three months, and so on. A Mayor who resigned from office prior to the completion of a full term shall have their Deputy Mayor assume the position till the end of the original term.

§3. Official Duties. The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia will assist the Mayor of the District of Columbia with all duties and will also be considered a member of the council and will be the presiding officer only when the seat of the Council Chair is vacant or the Council Chair is unavailable to preside. The Deputy Mayor will assume both roles of assisting the Mayor and will be a council member.

§4. General Power.

- a) The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia shall, if the Mayor resigns or is impeached by the people of the District of Columbia, assume the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.
- b) The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia is a member of the District of Columbia Council and may vote on local ordinance bills or nominations, but not resolutions related to the expulsion of Council Members.
- c) The Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia will have the power to, when the Mayor is absent for more than three days, carry out the Mayor's responsibilities until the Mayor is present again.
- d) The Deputy Mayor will, if needed, be able to host ceremonial awards in the absence of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.
- e) The Deputy Mayor shall be able to make municipal orders if the Mayor is absent from his duties

§5. Removal of Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor will be impeached the same as the Mayor of the District of Columbia, through impeachment by six members of council and petition to the FEC of at least 25 people of the District of Columbia of whom are not alternative accounts. Petitions may only be submitted in regards to the Mayor having committed a high crime in accordance with U.S. Code and has been found guilty of such, with all appeal options exhausted.

§6. Succession. In the event the Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia resigns or is impeached, the Mayor will be able to nominate a new Deputy Mayor, pending majority vote of the City Council using the nomination format in Article I § 3(a). There shall be only one Deputy Mayor.

Article III// City Council

§1. The Council. The Council, except as otherwise in the Charter provided, is the legislative body of the City.

a. Meetings and records of the proceedings of the Council shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law. The Council shall hold regular meetings in City Hall at least one day each week. The Council shall adopt a schedule for its regular meetings and, by resolution, may establish periods when each will be in recess. Counselors must be provided at least 24 hours notice for in-game sessions; but may hold Trello votes for any items or resolutions at any time. Trello votes are open for 24 hours and may be closed early if a majority, 2/3 majority or other majorities in accordance with this Charter are met.

§2. Composition of Council.

a. The council shall consist of the Deputy Mayor and seven council members, one of whom shall be internally voted to assume the Office of the Council Chair.

§3. Council Chair.

- a) The Council shall elect one of its members as Council Chair.
- b) The Chair of the Council shall be the Presiding Officer of the City Council. The Deputy Mayor shall exercise the powers and duties of the Chair of the Council in case of vacancy in that office, or in the case of unavailability due to sickness, absence from the city or disability of the Council Chair.
- c) In case of a vacancy in the Council Chair and the Deputy Mayor, or in the case of sickness, absence from the city, or disability of the Council Chair and the Deputy Mayor, the most senior member of the Council not similarly disqualified shall act as the Presiding Officer. The sequence of succession to act shall be based upon seniority, the most senior person being determined by the greatest cumulative time in office as a member of the City Council. If, however, two or more of those members eligible have the same seniority in office, the authority for one of those members to act as the Presiding Officer shall be determined by alphabetical priority according to the beginning letter and, if necessary, by the letters following the beginning letter as they sequentially appear in each of those members first letter of their username, second letter of their username, third letter of their username and so on, until alphabetical priority is determined. In each case, the highest priority in the alphabetical sequence shall be the letter "A."

§4. Quorums

a. Four of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum be present, and may compel the attendance of absentees; and nothing in the Charter shall prevent a smaller number from transacting business by a majority vote of the members present to the extent necessary to fill vacancies in the membership of the Council in the manner provided where no quorum can be assembled except by filling such vacancies. Except as otherwise in the Charter provided, action by the Council shall be taken by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Council. Whenever in the Charter a certain proportion of the Council is required for the performance of any act, except as otherwise provided, it shall mean such proportion of the entire membership of the Council.

b. If a member of the City Council is unavailable to vote for a session, the Counselor may authorize the use of a proxy to vote in their place. The Counselor must provide to the City Council, through the use of an official letter, of who the proxy is, what items the proxy will vote

on, and how the proxy will vote. The proxy is not permitted to divert from the Counselor's decision on items the proxy will vote on and on items the Counselor abstains from or has not listed in his official letter, the proxy will also abstain. The proxy may not already be part of the City Council nor hold a civil office within the Municipal Government.

§5. Election; Term; Vacancies.

a. The members of the City Council shall be elected by the citizens of the city of D.C. every three months, either before or after the election of the Mayor dependent on the current Federal Election Commission's election schedule. Federal elections shall take priority over municipal elections. The FEC shall hold all elections and make the determination of whether to hold the election of the City Council before and after the election of the Mayor.

b. Members of the City Council shall hold their office for three months commencing immediately following the results of the elections made by the Federal Elections Commission.

c. If a vacancy occurs within the City Council, the Mayor, with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the remaining City Council in favor, shall fill the vacancy lasting until the end of the term, pending appropriate background checks from the Federal Election Commission to ensure alternative accounts are not assuming office. There is not a vacancy if there are six Councilmen and one Chair of the Council, as the Chair of the Council is still a D.C. Councilor.

§6. Term limit. There is no established term limit. Incumbent councilmen will be able to re-run as many times as they please.

§7. Powers of Council.

a. The Council, in addition to all enumerated powers, shall have power to adopt local laws which it deems appropriate, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter or with the Constitution or laws of the United States, for the good rule and government of the city; for the order, protection and government of persons and property; for the preservation of the public health, comfort, peace and prosperity of the city and its inhabitants; may propose the expulsion of fellow councilors pending two-third concurrence of the council; and to effectuate the purposes and provisions of this charter or of the other laws relating to the city.

b. The Council shall have power to provide for the enforcement of local laws by legal or equitable proceedings, to prescribe that violations thereof shall constitute misdemeanors, offenses or infractions and to provide for the punishment of violations thereof by civil penalty, fine, forfeiture or imprisonment, or by two or more of such punishments. However, such proceedings must be held in the Federal District Court.

c. All legislative power of the City except as otherwise provided in the Charter is vested in the

Council and shall be exercised by ordinance, subject to the power of veto or approval by the Mayor as set forth in the Charter. Other actions of the Council may be by order or resolution, upon motion.

d. Congress shall not be authorized to amend or revoke the powers within the DC Charter without the unanimous approval of both chambers of Congress.

e. The Council shall have authority to create, abolish, or organize any office, agency, department, or instrumentality of the government of the District and to define the powers, duties, and responsibilities of any such office, agency, department, or instrumentality.

f. The Council shall adopt and publish rules of procedures which shall include provisions for adequate public notification of intended actions of the Council.

g. The Council, or any committee, or person authorized by it, shall have power to investigate any matter relating to the affairs of the District, and for that purpose may require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. For such purpose any member of the Council (if the Council is conducting the inquiry) or any member of the committee may issue subpoenas, and administer oaths upon resolution adopted by the Council or committee, as appropriate. If an individual refuses to comply with or disobeys a subpoena, the Council has the authority, through resolution, to bring the matter to a Superior Court. The Superior Court can then issue an order mandating the person to appear and provide relevant evidence related to the ongoing investigation. Failure to adhere to this court order can result in the court treating it as contempt, similar to the consequences for failing to comply with a subpoena or testify in a case pending before that court.

§8. Local Laws. Except as otherwise provided by law, all legislative action by the council shall be by local law. The style of local law shall be "Be it enacted by the council as follows." Every local law shall embrace only one subject. The title shall briefly refer to the subject-matter.

§9. Vote Required for Local Law or Resolution. Except as otherwise provided by law, no local law or resolution shall be passed except by at least the majority affirmative vote of all the members voting.

§10. Local Laws; Action by Mayor.

a. Every local law certified after its passage by the council, shall be presented to the Mayor for approval.

b. If the Mayor approves the local law, the Mayor shall sign it and return; it shall then be deemed to have been adopted. If the Mayor disapproves it, he or she shall return it with his or her objections stated in writing. The council may reconsider the same. If after such reconsideration

the votes of two-thirds of all the council members be cast in favor of repassing such local law, it shall be deemed adopted, notwithstanding the objections of the Mayor.

§11. Council Chair. The Council shall elect from among its members a Chair and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the council with supervision of the Deputy Mayor or Mayor.

§12. Amendment of Charter. Amendments to this Charter may be adopted by any of the following methods: a. Two-thirds of the City Council.

b. If two-thirds is not reached, a reconsideration by majority vote of the City Council and then by the electoral of D.C. that shall take place on Sunday and end 24 hours thereafter.

\$13 Sergeant-At-Arms; Procedure; Expulsion of Members. The mayor shall nominate a Sergeant-At-Arms (SAA) to be confirmed by a majority of the City Council. The SAA, while not a voting member of the council, shall be the recipient of the election returns and the judge of qualifications of its own members, subject, however, to review by any court of competent jurisdiction; shall have authority to compel the attendance of absent members and to punish its members for disorderly behavior; may provide to the FEC completed petitions from the people of the District of Columbia in favor of removing the Mayor or Deputy Mayor; and after explaining the charges with credible evidence and conducting a public hearing that takes place at the DC Council Building, may ask a councilor to propose an expulsion resolution of councilors for the D.C. City Council-at-large to vote via two-thirds concurrence. Expulsion of councilors may only be submitted in regards to the councilman having committed a high crime in accordance with U.S. Code and has been found guilty of such, with all appeal options exhausted.

§14. Rules of the Council. The Council shall determine the standing rules of its own proceedings.

\$15. The City Council is vested the power to temporarily suspend departments of the city government if given a valid reason with significant amounts of evidence of said valid reason for suspending a city department.

§16. The City Council is vested the power to recommend to the group managers changes to D.C. in relation to development, including but not limited to in-game features and team assignment, through the use of developmental bills with the format of the bill beginning with "DEV - ## - 0001" where ## shall be the number associated with which Council Term is being referred to.

\$17. Seating. A seating plan will be determined by the Council Chair or by the Deputy Mayor. The seating plan will be in use every session/meeting.

\$18. Speeding limits. The Council will be able to establish a speeding limit, to be enforced by the D.C. Police Department.

§19. Road laws. The Council will be able to establish local laws regulating the use of public roads, roadways, sidewalks, crosswalks, highways, or other public pedestrian access areas not owned by the Federal Government or a private entity.

§20. Federal Sovereignty Clause. This Charter recognizes the Constitutional principle of Federal Sovereignty. If the Council chooses to pass local ordinance that fails to coincide with any enacted and effective federal law, or is unconstitutional, Congress is hereby authorized to pass a concurrent resolution to amend or repeal local ordinance. Such concurrent resolutions may be started in either the House of Representatives or the Senate and must pass both chambers. The Supreme Court can, in accordance with the powers given to them in Article III of the Constitution, strike down unconstitutional local ordinance.

§21 Special Election. During an election for the City Council, if the leading candidates for a specific seat are within five votes of each other or have the same number of votes, a special election will be hosted for those seats for a period of 24 hours.

Article IV// D.C. Police Department

§1. Department; Chief.

a. There shall be a Metropolitan Police Department, the head of which shall be the Chief, a civil office, who shall be nominated by the Mayor.

b. Whenever in the judgment of the City Council, the Chief may be removed from office via six members of City Council ruling.

c. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Office of the Chief, the Chief shall be nominated by the Mayor.

d. In the event the Chief goes rogue, the department Chief will be blacklisted from all municipality entities and will be automatically fired and the Deputy Chief will assume the Chiefs role.

§2. Deputy Chief; The Chief shall have the power to appoint and at pleasure remove Deputy Chiefs, a civil office. During the absence or disability of the Chief, the Deputy Chief, or if he shall be absent or under disability shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chief.

§3. Chief; powers and duties.

a. The Chief shall have cognizance and control of the government, administration, disposition and discipline of the department

b. The Chief shall be the Chief executive officer of the police force. He shall be chargeable with and responsible for the execution of all laws and the rules and regulations of the department.

§4. Department; duties

a. The police department and force shall have the power and it shall be their duty to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest offenders, suppress riots, mobs and insurrections, disperse unlawful or dangerous assemblages and assemblages which obstruct the free passage of public streets, sidewalks, parks and places; protect the rights of persons and property, guard the public health, preserve order at elections and all public meetings and assemblages, regulate, direct, control and restrict the movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic for the facilitation of traffic and the convenience of the public streets, parks and places; arrest all street mendicants and beggars; enforce and prevent the violation of all laws and ordinances in force in the city; for these purposes to arrest all persons guilty of violating any law or ordinance for the suppression or punishment of crimes or offenses; and with the approval and consent of the surrounding White House area utilizing the powers described in in 18 U.S. Code § 3056 and 3056(a) per 31 U.S. Code § 1357.

b. The local police will not be subject to less control over the D.C metropolitan area unless the area is controlled by the federal government. The local police will hold the same power as federal police over the D.C metropolitan area unless stated otherwise by existing federal law.

Article V// D.C. Fire Department

§1. Department; Chief.

a. There shall be a fire department the head of which shall be the Chief, a civil office, who shall be nominated by the Mayor.

b. Whenever in the judgment of the overall City Council, the Chief may be removed from office via six members of the City Council.

c. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of Chief, a Chief shall be nominated by the Mayor.

§2. Deputy Chief; The Chief shall have the power to appoint and at pleasure remove one Deputy Chief, a civil office. During the absence or disability of the Chief, the Deputy Chief, or if he shall be absent or under disability, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chief.

§3. Chief; powers and duties.

a. The Chief shall have cognizance and control of the government, administration, disposition and discipline of the department.

b. The Chief shall be the Chief executive officer of the fire department. He shall be chargeable with and responsible for the execution of all laws and the rules and regulations of the department.

§4. Department; duties.

a. The fire department and force shall have the power and it shall be their duty to support the public health; restrict the movement of public vehicular and public pedestrian traffic for the proper protection of human life and health; enter properties to perform fire-combating and medical assistance; operate public vehicles to support their duties; non-destructively bypass traffic laws in the event of an emergency; perform the duties needed to ensure the upholding of public health and structural integrity

Article VI// D.C. Emergency Medical Services

\$1.Department Chief. There shall be an Emergency Medical Services Chief, a civil office, who shall be nominated by the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

b. Whenever in the judgment of the City Council, the Chief may be removed via six counselors ruling.

c. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of Chief, a Chief shall be nominated by the Mayor.

§2. Deputy Chief; The Chief shall have the power to appoint and at pleasure remove one Deputy Chief, a civil office. During the absence or disability of the Chief, the Deputy Chief, or if he shall be absent or under disability shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chief.

§3. Chief; powers and duties.

a. The Chief shall have cognizance and control of the government, administration, disposition and discipline of the department.

b. The Chief shall be the Chief executive officer of the emergency medical services department. He shall be chargeable with and responsible for the execution of all laws and the rules and regulations of the department.

§4. Department; duties. a. Emergency Medical Services (EMS), also known as ambulance

services or paramedic services, are emergency services which treat illnesses and injuries that require an urgent medical response, providing out-of-hospital treatment and transport to definitive care. The emergency medical services will be tasked with assisting individuals who are injured or critically damaged with their tools to help the individual.

§5. The emergency medical services will be able to if requested to be a designated medic for an important figure within the government if the Chief consents, a medic will be chosen by the Chief.