



## CHARTER COMMISSION

AGENDA SECTION	NEW BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	APRIL 15, 2021

ITEM:	Mayor's Term Length (Chapter 2 Section 7)	
DEPARTMENT:	Administration	BY/DATE: Nicole Tingley, 4/7/21

### BACKGROUND:

It has been requested by Commissioner Frost Simula to discuss the term length of the Mayor. His proposal for changing the Mayor's term of 2 years to the length of 4 years is attached.

In 2018, the Charter Commission proposed to the City Council an ordinance to change the Mayor's term length from 2 years to 4 years. The City Council did not pass this ordinance (4 nays, 1 aye) and the issue was put on the November 2018 ballot as the following question:

"Shall the Columbia Heights City Charter be amended to change the mayoral term from a two-year term to a four-year term, with the change being effective January 1, 2021?"

The results were YES: 3,587 (42.86%) and NO: 4,783 (57.1%).

Before 2018, the last time I could find that this was on the ballot was in 1998. At that time the Charter Commission recommended to the City Council to have it placed on the ballot as a question instead of changing the charter by ordinance. The question was:

"Shall the Columbia Heights City Charter be amended to change the mayoral term from a two-year term to a four-year term, with the change being effective January 1, 2000?"

The results were YES: 3,765 and NO: 4,446

In the election year 2005, during discussion of another charter change regarding having wards and adding councilmembers, the Charter Commission voted to keep the Mayor's term at two years.

There were not any other discussions of this topic at the Charter Commission or the City Council that I was able to find.

For background information from the last time this issue was deliberated in 2017/2018, I have also included some attachments.

### ATTACHMENT(S):

Proposal from Commissioner Frost Simula  
Ordinance 1643 presented to the City Council in 2018  
July 20, 2017 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2017 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes  
Excerpt from the February 12, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes