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TO: Charter Commission
FROM: Corrine Heine, City Attorney
DATE: July 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Addendum No. 2 to July 28, 2020 agenda packet

Additional public comments have been received and are attached.

Corrine Heine

From: Kimberly Meehan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Brad Wiersum; Corrine Heine; Dick Allendorf; John Cheleen; John Northrup; Karen Anderson; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Terry Schneider
Subject: RCV November Ballot

Hi All,

I've been following the developments of RCV in Minnetonka and was surprised by your choice to stall a public vote on the matter. While I don't see an immediate need for RCV in Minnetonka in particular, I do think the maneuvering the commission is taking will lead to public distrust and is replete with commissioners' personal bias against RCV.

Also, after reading through the charter commission minutes from July 21st I noted that an email sent by an individual was 100% plagiarized from a fairly biased source. I'm confident that similar to the commission's act of discounting form letters in favor of RCV, you as commissioners are doing your due diligence of evaluating all public emails and disregarding sources that are not credible.

This matter should be decided by the voters and not the charter commission. A benefit of putting the measure on November's ballot is more voters will weigh in. The capabilities of the elderly and the amount of thought voters put behind their vote will be no different than past elections.

Thanks for your public service,

Kim Meehan
5624 Cherry Hill Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Lenetta Jacobson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank Choice Voting

I am writing to let you know that until you give us all more information about this my husband and I vote against it.

Rick and Lenetta Jacobson

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Corrine Heine; Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Cheleen; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver
Subject: Please, NO Ranked Choice Voting

Dear City of Minnetonka Leaders,

As a life long resident I am strongly opposed to changing our voting tradition to Ranked Choice Voting. I would not want to live any place RCV is used as a voting method.

Our current system has flaws but when compared to all others it is the best possible system for selecting our City of Minnetonka leadership.

Sincerely,

Paul St. Clair
Current resident 3830 Haven Rd (19 years)

2885 Foxgate (7 years)

11506 South Oakvale Rd (23 years)

Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Kirk J [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Ms. Heine,

Thank you for your explanation of the role of the Charter Commission and other actors under state law last night.

Further to that, I understand you are the point of contact for the Charter Commission. As you well know, the Charter Commission has the choice to continue its consideration period past both the date of finalizing ballot language and of the election itself. As you also well know, that extra time is intended to further study the issues. As you also know, there is neither a need for additional study, nor a good faith reason to increase the consideration period.

I urge you to support Democracy by urging the Charter Commission to return its recommendation to the City Council now, and to let the City Council and the voters of Minnetonka decide the issue, rather than kicking the can down the road for no purpose other than to ensure it will be voted on by a smaller number of people in the next election rather than a larger number in this election.

Best,

Kirk Johnson
11905 Ridgemount Ave W.

Corrine Heine

From: Anne Deuring [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Recommend RCV

To: Minnetonka City Council,

I urge you to recommend RCV to the City Council tonight. You have done a very thorough study of the subject, which I appreciate very much. At this point, extending the study period will only bog down the process. Thank you.

Anne Deuring

Corrine Heine

From: Jennifer <mnhawk@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV in Minnetonka

Please share this message with the entire commission who have been debating whether Minnetonka will be able to vote on the issue of Ranked Choice Voting in November.

A great deal of information has been gathered, and it is overwhelmingly clear that the community supports getting RCV on the ballot. Please conclude your work at tonight's meeting and make a recommendation to the City Council. No further delay is warranted.

Thank you!

Jennifer Johnson 

Corrine Heine

From: Karen Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fw: Ranked Choice Voting

Another message in opposition to RCV.

From: Sherrie Byron [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Brad Wiersum; Terry Schneider; John Cheleen; Dick Allendorf; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Karen Anderson; David Larson; John Northrup
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Hello,

I'm a Minnetonka resident (for the last 30 years) and we love this city! We've raised our kids here, made lasting friendships with our neighbors, love the trails and lakes, and our schools and neighborhoods can't be beat!

I recently read about your review of "ranked choice voting" in the Minnetonka Memo. I had never heard of that, so decided to look into it further.

If I'm reading it right, it seems that a candidate who received 48% of the vote, could lose to someone who got 32%. Why would that be more fair than the way we vote now? What is the benefit? And who is going to tally up all those votes and ranking in this convoluted manner? This seems like a bad choice to me.

The thing that really concerns me is that most people probably won't take the time to dig deeper and would probably check "yes" on the ballot because who doesn't want fair voting?? Also, most people aren't going to be willing to examine 20 candidates and be able to rank them in a specific order either! It seems like there would be a lot of random guessing going on at the polls.

Let's keep our city great by not uprooting a fair system that has worked for decades where residents can choose between 2 top candidates. It's much easier for us to make an informed decision when we can focus on the issues. I want my vote to be counted for my top choice and not thrown out or re-routed to someone else, so I'm hoping the charter commission decides to leave ranked choice voting off the ballot in November.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I really appreciate it!
Sherrie Byron
Westmill Rd, Mtka

Corrine Heine

From: Karen Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fw: Charter Amendment

A message for the commission

From: Kathryn McCullum [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Karen Anderson
Subject: Charter Amendment

Dear Members of the Charter Commission:

Thank you for the work that all of you have put into the charter amendment proposal. I understand that this is a very difficult time for all of us. I also understand that, with your combined experience and expertise, you will make the right decision for the residents of the city.

Respectfully,

Kathryne McCullum



Corrine Heine

From: Karen Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fw: rcv

A message in opposition

From: Lenetta Jacobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Karen Anderson
Subject: rcv

My husband and I both vote NO on this issue.

Lenetta and Rick Jacobson

Corrine Heine

From: Grace Sheely [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank Choice Voting

Dear Charter Commission:

I am asking for you to establish rank choice voting as an election process. Minnetonka needs a process besides appointments for filling council positions wherever an elected person is unable to complete their term.

Rank choice voting works. Minneapolis has led the way for us to follow.

I do not feel our election process is working well when an appointed council person establishes name recognition and experience and dissuades others from later running against them, an now appointed experienced incumbent. Appointees stay forever and while Minnetonka seems to have an endless group of people willing to be appointed (50+ when Susan Carter was appointed), very few are willing to work the election process of going door-to-door and meeting residents.

I have watched the process of appointment play out. I have seen disingenuous ranking and voting among our council members in an effort to manipulate the process and appoint a specific person. These appointments are a political process that is not working fairly or well.

If you do not establish rank choice voting, you need to clean up the appointment process. Appointment is wrong for elected positions. Let the people of Minnetonka vote for the candidates that they want to represent them. Do not have the council decide for citizens....they get it wrong.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grace Sheely
14325 Grenier Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345
[REDACTED]

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Grace Sheely
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Justice is what love looks like in public, just like tenderness is what love feels like in private. CORNEL WEST, author of Race Matters

Corrine Heine

From: Reggie Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV on the Ballot

Dear Charter Commission Members,

The time is NOW to conclude your studies on RCV and make a recommendation to the Minnetonka City Council TONIGHT.

You have had ample time for research and have heard from many of us in the Community. Please please PLEASE do the right thing and move this issue forward.

Thanks in Advance,
Reggie Klein
3610 Druid Lane

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Corrine Heine

From: City of Minnetonka, MN <minnetonkamn@enotify.visioninternet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: randed choice voting

Message submitted from the <City of Minnetonka, MN> website.

Site Visitor Name: Judy Anderson

Site Visitor Email: [REDACTED] c [REDACTED]

I understand you are taking comments regarding ranked choice voting changes to the city charter. I try very hard to be an informed citizen of Minnetonka and yet today is the first I have heard about this issue. We need much more time to be informed about such an important change to the charter. Please postpone any action on this until citizens can have the information we all need. Thank you.

Corrine Heine

From: Elizabeth Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Amending the City Charter/Ranked voting

I am a long time resident and only just found out that this had been proposed. With the virus there had been no time to disseminate information so residents can hear the facts and make up their minds.

I do not support changing the charter precipitously.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Anderson
16505 Hilltop Terrace
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Kris FALK [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rcv

I am a supporter of ranked choice voting. You at least need to let the people vote in November on our ballot. It is up to the people not the commission

Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Donna Roisen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked voting

Hello all

I believe that ranked choice voting should not be put on the ballot yet. Because of covid, there has not been good ability to discuss and provide information on how this would change our election system

In addition there would be costs associated with changing our election system. Those costs have not been discussed or determined as far as I am aware

I believe this deserves more time and consideration before asking people.to bote on it, as there will be many who do not understand the implications

Kind regards

Donna Roisen

Corrine Heine

From: Diana Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Message for the Charter Commission

Hello Charter Commission Members --

Thank you for all your hard work on considering RCV. Because you have been studying so thoroughly and have received so much feedback from the community, I urge you to close on this tonight and provide your recommendation to the City Council so they can vote on it in August.

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Thanks! *´¨)

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Diana (,.* * Mobile: 612-840-2561●*

Corrine Heine

From: Gohman, Kim [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV in Minnetonka

Good afternoon,

I wanted to write to encourage the Charter Commission to conclude your work tonight and make a recommendation to the city council on the RCV proposal. Your exhaustive study to date has provided you with lots of information to make an informed recommendation to the city council, and a delay will make it impossible for the council to add the issue to the November ballot. Doing so could result in the need for a special election, adding unnecessary expense and administration.

This November's election will have the largest turnout possibly ever in a general election, meaning more people will have a voice in deciding the issue. It's important to get this issue on the ballot and let the voters decide.

Also, I wanted to respond to something someone said during last night's City Council meeting (I also heard it at the Charter Commission meeting I attended) about the templates that some residents have used when they have contacted the Charter Commission and/or City Council about this issue. Please don't disregard people's voice just because the feedback came in the form of a templated letter. There are SO MANY people that are new to getting involved in our democracy, and it's intimidating for them to raise their voices for possibly the first time. They may feel nervous expressing their viewpoint. If they are not an expert on a particular issue, it's often easier to simply "sign on" to a cause they believe in. Or they may simply be too *busy* to write their own separate letter, but wish to voice their support for an issue. For many citizens, communications with a link straight to contacting whomever needs to be contacted is a crucial way for them to raise their hand and voice, and the resulting "hand raises" should not be discounted.

I listened to both a recent Charter Commission and last night's City Council meeting, and the support for RCV has been overwhelming. I urge the Commission to complete their work and return a recommendation to the City Council so that our elected representatives can vote on this issue.

Regards,
Kim Gohman
5348 Oak Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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Corrine Heine

From: David Dayhoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: feedback for the charter commission meeting

Dear Ms. Heine:

Thank you for sharing this comment with the Charter Commission:

The single most important point to stress is that issues like this one, whether you support or oppose them, deserve to be on the ballot when a high percentage of citizens will participate in the election. If it is truly being "rushed through" then the consequence of putting it on the next available ballot is likely a greater chance that uncomfortable voters reject it. There is no reason not to find out. The November 2020 election will surely be among the, if not the single, highest turnout elections ever. Delaying it to a future election will not--and could even incur the city the cost and energy of holding a low-turnout special election.

I respect that some of you may not support RCV. However then I ask that you go ahead and communicate your opposition to the City Council promptly. There has been extensive, open, transparent discussion of the issue, and it's not a new idea, with many neighboring cities already using it for some time now, including hearings in front of your commission. (Incidentally it will be sad and conspicuous that Bloomington voters will get the opportunity, but we might not.) Please make your recommendation one way or the other, then the city council can have an informed vote, and then ultimately the people can decide.

Please give the voters the chance to decide now, and not in some future low-turnout election.

Thank you,
David Dayhoff
5525 Conifer Trail

Corrine Heine

From: JONATHAN WIESE [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Let's move forward with Ranked Choice Voting

First, THANK YOU for taking on RCV and the time it has taken to study it from all sides and provide good guidance to our city.

Second, PLEASE MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TONIGHT so we can move ahead and vote. I want to vote on this at a time when more voters speak (during presidential election years) so our collective thoughts can be that much clearer, however it ends up. Ultimately, it's better democracy that we are ALL interested in—and I truly want the commission's recommendation tonight to align with the spirit of what we all seek.

Thank you so much for all the work you've put in.

Jonathan Wiese
5726 Creek Park Dr
Minnetonka MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Sally Macut [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank Choice Voting (RCV)

Dear Minnetonka City Attny,
I listened in to the City Council meeting last night and heard you speak about RCV. You were very clear and eloquent.

I was also one of the citizens who called in in support of RCV. 12 out of the 16 callers were for putting it on the ballot. That is 86%.

Please help the City Council get the issue back from the Charter Commission and put it on the ballot now. We want to exercise our constitutional rights to vote. And this is an issue the people should decide now. It is the democratic thing to do. And we don't want the Commission or the Council suppressing our vote in this matter. The people should decide.

Thanks you for your attention.

Best,
Sally Macut

Sally Macut
[REDACTED]

Sally Macut Consulting and Fiduciary Services, LLC P.O. Box 573
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Hopkins, MN 55343