



of Kansas City, Inc.  
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## **RESOLUTION**

### *City Charter Review Diligence and Public Participation*

WHEREAS, Mayor Sly James on May 31, 2013, appointed a citizens Charter Review Commission of 13 Kansas City, Missouri residents to review the Charter of the City of Kansas City, Missouri and make recommendations for amendments to the Charter, if any; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission began working in earnest on charter review beginning with its first meeting held on meeting of June 19, 2013, with an overview of the City Charter presented by the City Attorney and recommendations from the City Manager regarding three administrative subjects, namely, provisions regarding the classified service of city employees, the contingent appropriation and what departments to name and provide for in the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission continued its discussion of the City Manager's three recommended administrative changes at its second meeting held on June 26, 2013, including consideration of draft amendments for such administrative changes prepared by the City Attorney and, further, decided to consider in future meetings two significant governance changes, namely, (1) changing the composition of the city council from six in-district city council members and six at-large city council members, to more in-district city council members and fewer at-large city council members and (2) giving the mayor the sole power to hire and fire the city manager instead of such power residing with the mayor and city council together; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission has decided to conclude its work by July 31, 2013 and submit its recommendations to the City Council in time for it to have the option to submit any proposed amendments to the voters at the November 5, 2013 election, thereby limiting discussion of the proposed change in the composition of the city council to only one meeting on July 10, 2013, discussion of the proposed mayoral power to hire and fire the city manager to only one meeting on July 17, 2013, and discussion of all three changes to one meeting on July 24; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission has not yet scheduled any public hearings on any of these items or other changes to the City Charter that the public might suggest; and

WHEREAS, the proposed governance changes to the city council's evenly balanced city council composition and powers of the mayor over the city manager to the exclusion of the city council are major changes to a system of governance in place for 89 years, since 1925, that warrant significant community wide discussion; nationwide research of the experiences of other major American cities; past, current and projected demographics for Kansas City; and related complicated and serious matters; and

WHEREAS, Mayor James, the Charter Review Commission's appointing authority has cautioned the commission, "Do it right. Do it well," and take the time necessary to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of The Citizens Association of Kansas City, Inc. that the Charter Review Commission (1) not adopt its proposed schedule and instead take the time to seriously and comprehensively study all proposed City Charter amendments, particularly