

23. New Section 9.6 – Official Newspaper

Charter Review Committee

Amendment Summary Section 9.6 (New Section)

Brief Summary of Amendment

- Adds Section 9.6 to Article IX, Miscellaneous Provisions to define “official newspaper” as that term is used in the Charter.
- Defines official newspaper as meeting the requirements of state law but to include posting on the City’s website.

Committee Vote

Yes: Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Steve Wamback, Diamatris Winston, Lok Yin Wu

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Amendment

NEW SECTION. Section 9.6. As is used in this charter the term official newspaper shall mean a publication of general circulation meeting the qualifications required by state law and which is designated by resolution of the City Council as the official newspaper of the City. All items which are required by this charter, by state law or by ordinance to be published in the official newspaper of the City shall also be posted on the City’s website.

Amendment Positions

Rationale for Amendment:

State law requires that jurisdictions use the local newspaper of record for public notification of legislative actions. Since the advent of the Internet, newspapers have been declining in readership and reach to the general public, and no longer provides the widest or consistent distribution. The Internet provides a much wider and consistent distribution and is broadly accessible with a computer, phone, or tablet. This amendment would require, throughout the Charter, the inclusion of the City’s website in the official publication of public notices. This will guarantee wider distribution of important public information and a consistent location for members of the public to access information at the time and place of their choosing. This commonsense amendment updates our charter for the Internet age.

Dissenting Position(s):

None