

From: [Patricia Kuta](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#); [Rogers, Chris](#); [Fleming, Victoria](#); [Alvarez, Eddie](#); [Rogers, Natalie](#); [Tibbetts, Jack](#); [Schwedhelm, Tom](#); [Sawyer, John](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3.1 City Charter Study Session comments and recommendations on behalf of Santa Rosa Together
Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 3:50:02 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-3.hff](#)

<!--[if !vml]-->



<!--[endif]-->

SR City Charter Review Process and Charter Revision recommendations

The City Charter Review Process is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to renew our civic democracy. We can develop and adopt charter amendments to create more democratic policies and the government we need to support this renewed democracy.

Santa Rosa Together is working to transform our city government so that, instead of doing things for us, it understands the importance of supporting residents and their organizations and partnering with them to do the work of the city.

I. The Charter Review and Revision Process

• We are advocating for a broad city-wide process, utilizing local, public neighborhood venues, such as: libraries, schools, and fire houses to allow residents to convene with their fellows. There would be at least two charter revision initiative sessions per council district held in different locations with Spanish translation provided.

• Results of the local discussions are reported for all to access via a dedicated location on the City's web page. There is an open comments section on this page.

• The 21-person Charter Review Committee is provided with public email addresses, much like the Planning Commissioners, to be available to take input. All their meetings are public. While public comment may be limited, there should be no limit on written commentary submitted by critical deadlines.

II. Recommended Charter Amendments

• **Rewrite existing Section 10. Citizen and Neighborhood Participation** Clarify the role and authority of the CAB to better represent, coordinate and support neighborhoods. Establish a goal for city-wide effort of neighborhood organization formation.

• **City-wide policy discussions** The City will convene an annual city-wide process of neighborhood input issues of importance as identified by the citizenry.

• **The Charter will Memorialize Council Districts**

Patricia Kuta

pkuta@sonic.net

Santarosatogether.org

Santa Rosa Together

a diverse & non-partisan group of volunteer community members

working together to get more residents engaged,

give everyone a voice and role, and improve the way we work together in the city



From: [Robin](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Charter Review
Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021 6:55:03 PM

City Council Members,

Santa Rosa needs some changes in the way the city is run. It has outgrown the current method of governing by consensus of the elected council members and an appointed mayor. This seems to result in the city stagnating because the council members are beholden to their districts and not to the city as a whole. .

Toward that end, I believe it is time for Santa Rosa to have a mayor that is elected by the people to guide the city towards goals that benefit and take into account the future of the city as a whole.

In establishing the new office of an elected mayor, officials should research thriving cities of a similar size that are governed by a mayor-council set up. And also look at charters of thriving larger cities in the Bay Area to decide how to set up the new system.

For example, the city of Oakland's mayor is elected for a four -year term on an agenda that they put forward to the people during their campaign. They are then responsible to bring this agenda to the city council to work out how to go forward to accomplish their goals and hopefully improve on any ideas in the process. Oakland's mayor also presents the annual budget to the council and they work it out together to best serve the city and accomplish the mayor's agenda. The mayor also appoints or hires the City Manager with the approval of the council.

In addition to an elected mayor, term limits should be set for council members.

Santa Rosa is stagnating and becoming a lousy place to live and was doing so before the fires and pandemic. The City Council and city officials came together during those crises and showed impressive leadership indicating perhaps that they can be leaders of vision and are hampered by an outdated form of governing.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Robin North

From: [Marlene Russell](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Citizen input
Date: Monday, August 2, 2021 9:26:32 AM

Hello:

It would seem if we are expanding and becoming more of a true “city”, we need to have an elected mayor.

Also, we should have term limits for the city council.

Marlene Russell