

## MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE 2006

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe briefly your qualifications for being a member of the Memphis City Charter Commission. *(Please answer in the space below, but you may also attach a resume or other description to provide us with additional detail.)*

**My qualifications for being a member of the Charter Commission:**

1. I am a concerned citizen of Memphis, TN
2. I have expertise in business management for the past 30 years
3. I love our city and expect it to become one of the most sought after places to live
4. I am a people person and can relate to all ethnicities
5. I am a retired teamster, so I cherish the value of working together as a team, meaning "Together, Everyone Achieves More"
6. I am a family oriented person, and I believe if we can improve upon many facets of our local government, families can embrace our cities and persuade their family members to participate in making our city a better place to live.
7. I am a Volunteer for Friends of the Orpheum as a community service
8. I do take the time to find out how others feel about our communities and things we can do, as citizens, to find out what is going on and what can be done to improve our way of life.

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2. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?

In November, 2004, a few things were brought to my attention regarding a 12-year pension plan implemented in the city government that was known only by a few people. However, I had just retired with a 30-year pension plan and I could see, very well, how the city is losing much, too much money over a 30 year period by paying 3 individuals full retirements after 12 years, when it could have been 1 individual for 30 years. However, the reasons for doing such a thing was beyond my comprehension, so I thought, the charter review and recommendations would be the perfect thing to do so citizens will be aware of what is actually in the charter and how it can be perfected.

I just believe if ALL of the officials (elected and appointed) decided that we are going to have a great city and county government that will be exceptional with no exceptions, and we all put forth our best efforts to make it happen, I know that God will grant us the serenity to change the things we can and accept the things we cannot change.

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3. Some of the charter changes you'll consider will require detailed knowledge of how city government works today and how it might work better. How would you propose that the Charter Commission educate itself about these things?

The Charter Commission is a book, itself, of detailed knowledge of the city. It only takes innovative and creative minds to read it, dissect it, understand it, challenge it, seek out sources of help, make recommendations, and present its recommendations to the voting citizens for approval. I also believe that we will also have to interact with the present government officials to see how some facets of government operate and how we can improve upon the measure.

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4. How will you personally prepare yourself for the Charter Commission's work? What kinds of information will you seek on your own about the government and where will you get this information?

I am retired now, so I will personally set aside any necessary time to work with the commission until we can say, "Mission Accomplished." I would like to first review the charter and find out what kind of information is contained therein. Then I would like to work with the commission, collectively, to set up an agenda as to how we will pursue the matter of finding out pertinent information to aid us in our plight to make recommendations.

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5. The Charter Commission will make some important decisions about the city government. What will you do to make sure you've reached the best possible answers?

I will work with the commission, faithfully, to recommend important decisions about the city government. Having the right attitude, and the right motives in mind, we are only about presenting things in the best interest of the city and the citizens, so we will, most definitely, make sure that we are presenting exceptional ideas that will work because all decisions made will affect all of us.

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6. City governments face new issues and challenges all the time. What major issue might the city government face in the future that's different from those it faces now? How could the City Charter help the government deal effectively with this issue?

No one knows what the future holds, however, the decisions we make today will determine our tomorrow. Nothing remains the same forever and change is inevitable, so the thing for us to do as leaders is to work today, prepare for tomorrow, and have the right attitude from day to day doing the right things today, expecting a greater tomorrow, and work at it rather than worry.

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7. Are there opportunities in this charter-revision process for encouraging greater collaboration between the city and other governments, such as Shelby County or the school systems? If so, what are the two best opportunities?

The charter-revision process has not yet been implemented among the charter commission members, but when it is, I am sure we will encourage all areas of our government to come and reason together so that we can improve upon our government and the school system as well because EDUCATION is the KEY. We will need to be educated in the operations of the government of the city and the school system. Obtaining more knowledge is always in order.

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The Charter Commission may make decisions that affect the roles of mayor and city council. In general, what do you think are the most effective roles that the mayor should play? What are the most effective roles of the city council?

First, we will have to be educated about the roles of the mayor and the city council. If this information is contained in the charter, we will review it and recommend changes. This will be done with Integrity and intellect in the best interest of all involved as it relates to a prosperous government.

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8. The Charter Commission may make decisions affecting how public money is budgeted and spent. In general, how do you think the city should manage its finances so that taxpayers' money is spent most effectively, most efficiently and with the greatest degree of accountability?

The Charter Commission will make recommendations. All voting citizens will have the opportunity to vote on all recommendations. Again, the charter commission must be abreast of the system used in budgeting and finances in order to make rational decisions of how effectively money is managed and spent.

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At present, there are seven district council members and six members in two "super-districts." If you could create any system you wanted for electing council members, what would it be? Why would you favor this system?

I have not thought of any system to elect council members. When the charter commission comes together to discuss our agenda, I am sure, if a new system needs to be implemented, we will definitely include this scenario.