

Charter City Discussion - Kick-Off Workshop



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A General Law City is governed primarily by State statutes that apply uniformly to all such cities, while a Charter City operates under a voter-adopted charter that functions as a local constitution for municipal affairs.



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The distinction is about the source of governing authority, not the form of government or the services provided.



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But with anything, the devil is in the details; and in this case, State legislation that blurs distinctions between a General Law City and a Charter City by deeming issues “of Statewide concern”.



General Law City

What is a General Law
City?



Currently A General Law City

- Local Decisions within State-defined limits
 - Local Services and Operations
 - Zoning and Land Use Administration
 - Local Fees
 - Day to Day Management
 - Local Ordinance

Areas Where State Law Controls

- Where State Law Controls:
 - Governance Structure
 - Elections
 - Public Contracting
 - Housing Mandates

Charter City

What is a Charter City?



Exploring Becoming A Charter City

- Charter Cities have greater local freedom
 - Governance Procedures
 - Local Elections
 - Public Contracting
 - Personnel and Employment
 - Administrative Flexibility

State Law Still Controls

- Where State Law Controls
 - Housing Law
 - Environmental and Civil Rights Laws
 - Taxes and Fees

Draft Charter



Council Prepared Draft Charter

- The City Council prepared a draft Charter – what does it do?
 - Affirms home rule authority over municipal affairs
 - Maintains the Council-Manager form of government
 - Provides for Council selection of Mayor and Vice Mayor
 - Continues all existing ordinances and policies
 - Includes broad interpretation and severability provisions

Council Prepared Draft Charter

- What it does not do
 - Does not impose new taxes or fees
 - Does not change zoning, density, or land use rules
 - Does not eliminate compliance with State laws regarding "issues of statewide concern"
 - Does not change the Town's form of government

Q&A

General Law or Charter
City Questions

