Date: January 12, 2016

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Charter Revision Commission Summary Report Prior to April 12, 2016, Ballot Proposals

Sioux Falls, South Dakota: Since September 2015, the Sioux Calls Charter Revision Commission ("Commission") has conducted a series of five public meetings to assist them in preparing a report of proposed revisions to the City's Charter. The Commission is prepared to deliver the proposed revisions to City election authorities for placement on the upcoming April 12, 2016, ballot.

During the course of the public meetings, the Commission reviewed and discussed each section of the City Charter. The agenda for each public meeting alerted the public which particular sections would be discussed for that meeting. Each of the public meetings was televised on CityLink and archived for public access. The Commission invited guests to explain the workings of the Charter provisions under review. Current Charter sections were also compared to other versions of the Model City Charter as promulgated by the National Civic League, from which the City Charter is based. The historical significance of various sections was also discussed. Possible Charter revision proposals were discussed with City departments, City Council members, Commission members, and citizens. After extensive review and discussion, the Commission affirmatively voted to advance six proposed measures which, following delivery and filing with the City Council and City Clerk, will be presented to the public for further consideration and, ultimately, to be voted on by city voters.

Two related proposals would address the term limits for the elected offices of Mayor and other City Council members. The current Charter sets the term limit as two consecutive full or partial terms, regardless of duration of the partial term. The proposals would allow an elected municipal official to serve up to one-half, or 50 percent, of a partial term, then be eligible to serve consecutively an additional two full terms.

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A third proposal would eliminate obsolete language referencing a mayor's participation in the former City pension system, which is no longer open to new employees after June 30, 2013. City employees hired after that date now participate in the City's retirement system through the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS). Any future mayors would be eligible to participate in that same City retirement system through SDRS.

A fourth proposal would address the required update every 20 years to the Code of Ordinances of the City. The current Charter language references specific updates in 1972 and 1992. The Code was also updated in 2012. The proposal would simply reflect that an update is required every 20 years, without citing specific dates.

A fifth proposal would require the advice and consent of the City Council for the mayoral appointments of all 12 City Department Directors. The current language exempts the requirement of the advice and consent of the City Council for any appointed Director who has authority over less than five percent of the City employees or five percent of the City budget.

A sixth proposal would add sexual orientation to the list of prohibited classifications in the appointment or removal from any City employment position or appointive administrative office. The proposal would also replace the word "handicap" with "disability" to use more modern terminology.

Each of these proposed revisions will be presented in the form of Charter Amendments to city voters for their consideration in the upcoming City election. City voters have previously approved revisions to the City Charter in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014. The City's Charter is the broad governing document for the conduct of local municipal government in Sioux Falls.

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