
SACRAMENTO AD-HOC CHARTER COMMISSION

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May 14, 1990

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members, Sacramento City Council
Honorable Members, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Bob Smith, Executive Director

SUBJECT: MAYORAL VETO AND THE POWERS OF THE MAYOR

At the request of several members of both the Board and City Council, the issue of Mayoral powers and the Mayoral veto will be revisited. To aid in this discussion, the following is a brief review of the Commission action in this area since it was last discussed by the joint bodies.

On April 17, the Charter Commission met to discuss the powers of the Mayor. As a result of this meeting, the Commission amended the role of the Mayor in keeping with the views of a majority of the members of your two bodies. Specifically, the Mayor will now sit as a part of the Council of Supervisors and be the Presiding Officer. The Mayor will chair the meetings, but have no direct vote on ordinances or resolutions. In addition, the Commission reconfirmed its earlier decision that the Mayor have veto power over all acts of the Council of Supervisors except actions calling elections, emergency ordinances, and internal actions of the Council of Supervisors. The Commission acted unanimously (15-0) in maintaining the veto power and in having the Mayor sit with the Council.

Regarding having the Mayor sit with the Council, the Commission agreed with the majority views of your two bodies that it is important for the Mayor to be a part of the policy debate with the Council and receive public testimony before making any decision regarding veto. As a result of this change, the Mayor will attend Council meetings and participate in the policy debate.

Regarding veto power, the Commission maintained its view that veto power be included to assure that the Mayor has a strong policy tool to help implement his or her voter approved agenda. The Commission reiterated its unanimous belief that the Mayor, speaking for a majority of all citizens, should have a key role in all policy decisions of the Council of Supervisors, subject to override by the Council of Supervisors of eight votes on most measures and seven votes on budget appropriations.

In addition, the Commission acted to have the Mayor act as the chief coordinator and liaison between management and labor in collective bargaining agreements. The Mayor will not directly take part in the negotiations, but be in charge of communicating the wishes of the elected officials to the management team and aiding in bringing resolutions to labor contracts. This puts the Mayor at the center of the process and should eliminate any fears of Mayoral veto as the Mayor will be part of the entire process.

With these changes, the proposed government closely resembles the council-manager form of government that is presently practiced in both the City and County. The only true substantive change between the current City of Sacramento Mayor and the proposed model is the addition of veto power.



BOB SMITH, Executive Director
Sacramento Ad-Hoc Charter Commission

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