

**From:** M Kazan [<mailto:mikazan@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 3:10 AM  
**To:** Latimore, Pamela <[Pamela.Latimore@citynmb.com](mailto:Pamela.Latimore@citynmb.com)>; Simmonds, Marva <[Marva.Simmonds@citynmb.com](mailto:Marva.Simmonds@citynmb.com)>; Jackson, Lynnetta <[Lynnetta.Jackson@citynmb.com](mailto:Lynnetta.Jackson@citynmb.com)>  
**Cc:** M Kazan <[mikazan@msn.com](mailto:mikazan@msn.com)>  
**Subject:** Proposed NMB Charter changes - 2015-2016

City Clerk's Office  
City of North Miami Beach  
FL 33162  
USA

January 13th, 2016

Please forward to the Charter Review Committee (2015-2016)

I thank you for your time in participating in our Charter Review for the City of North Miami Beach.

Below are some of my proposals and suggestions:

1 - The title of our Council members should be changed to Commissioners.

**Policy/No Objection**

2 - The city elections should remain in the Month of May. Running up to the May month elections, the months are cooler to campaign; it is before the HURRICANE SEASON and our time is not taken up dodging hurricanes as when it is done in the latter months of the year such as August or November. Saving money is a misnomer. An election cost approximately \$60,000.00. More money is spent behind more frivolous things.

**Already decided.**

At every elections, we have at least 5,000 election signs about the city. For a person to say they did not know an election was happening, is unbelievable. Holding an election in November in an election year, the candidates will be at the bottom of the ballot. In 2011 we had approximately 20 candidates. Voters MAY experience voter's fatigue and probably skip the latter pages. Some voters tell you plain, they only vote presidential. Some claim the local politicians are not what they desire and they will not vote local.

3 - Run Off elections should be terminated. Our records for the last 25 years would show at no time a candidate who came in second in the main elections, won in the run offs.

**Already decided.**

4 - To make amendments to our Charter, the current process should be kept where a Charter Committee made up of residents propose changes and not leave this in the hands of mayor and council to propose changes.

There is a different mind set thinking as a resident vs thinking as an elected official. An elected official thinking becomes more oppressive the longer they stay in office.

**Contrary to Florida Statute 166.031**

5 - When our elected officials and Charter officers take an oath to honor, protect and defend our Charter it should NOT mean swapping our Charter for another city's charter. It should not mean putting this in the hands of the City Attorney or any other Charter officer or city worker, to formulate "their" Charter or mayor and council directing him or her over the phone or otherwise what they want or do not want in the proposed amendments of the Charter. These suggestions should be coming from the residents instead, and not them reading off a cheat sheet what the elected officials and Charter officers want.

**We are following well established practices adopted by all municipalities.**

6 - Council meetings should be held in the evenings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Holding the meetings early in the mornings, is more likely to pass legislation without residents knowledge or input. This helps to stymie corrupt practices. The city residents need to be kept informed of the city's progress periodically. It has an important water plant that is worth over \$2 billion dollars, an annual budget of over \$116 million dollars. If the Charter Officers are complaining it is too much work keeping the taxpayers informed of this 5 square mile city worth billions, it is left up to the mayor and council to stay with the same or get new Charter Officers who are willing to do the required work.

**Already decided.**

If it does come to past of having one meeting per month, I would suggest the compensation packages for the mayor, council and Charter Officers be reduced, since they will be doing less work for the taxpayers. Almost half for the mayor and council.

**Nonsense. Monthly meetings allow Charter officers and staff to be more productive and realize significant savings to the City. 99% of the work gets done outside the camera.**

7 - Mayor's term be four years long

**Already decided.**

8 - Mayor should NOT BE voted to be a strong mayor. This would disenfranchise the other six council members who now have equal powers with the mayor.

**Nobody has ever suggested establishing a "Strong Mayor" form of government. This issue has already been decided.**

9 - Mayor can seek two four year mayoral terms, maximum eight years in office.

**Already decided.**

10 - Council seek two four year term, maximum eight years in office.

**Already decided.**

11 -After, they have to sit out at least **one** year before running for city office again.  
One year is enough. Not two as some may suggest.

**Policy Issue.**

12 - Mayor and Council has to step down from office when seeking another elected office, inside or outside the City.

**Unconstitutional. Governed by State Law.**

13 - All council meetings / workshops / pre council meetings / council conferences should be open and transparent. These should be video taped, audio recorded, and minutes taken by the City Clerk's office. This encourages an open and transparent government. Hush hush type meetings breed corrupt practices one too many times and should be discouraged.

**All City meetings are conducted in full compliance with the Sunshine Law.**

14 - Robert's Rule of Order should be eliminated from our meetings and we adopt what Miami Dade County use.

**Not a Charter issue. Governed by Code Section 2-1.4**

15 - Our minutes should be more in depth. Presently more is left to be desired for our council meeting minutes. (The Planning and Zoning meeting minutes presently should be the standard set for Council minutes to duplicate).

**Not a Charter issue.**

16 - Public Office held in our City should NOT be made into a Profession, hence term limits be kept indefinitely, to no more than two terms. Terms no longer than four years. The US President or FL governor stays NO longer than eight years.

**Already decided.**

17 - Mayor and Council salary should not be increased. Their compensation package MAY, but approved by the voting public. For those who may not know, the Qualifying Fees running for public office hinges on the salary and increases as the salary increases. This eliminates, only, the well-to-do seeking office.

**Policy issue.**

18 - Mayor and Council should not be able to vote by themselves to sell or outsource our water utility services / management team, period. This helps to eliminate corruption and corrupt practices and allows the present service to keep the highest standard it is known for and the services not be reduced in quality and dependability as the present outsourced sanitation department is experiencing. It is a safety issue and we should not be experimenting with people's lives.

**Policy issue.**

19 - Council/Manager type of government remains. This would prevent the City Manager or City Council monopolizing on power. Imagine the City Manager listening to only one or two members on the council directing him or her clandestinely how to run the City. Then why did we vote for the other five or six representatives?

**No change has ever been proposed to "Council-Manager" form of government.**

20 - Mayoral duties should remain at running meetings and whatever is currently in our Charter and NOT BE increased. This helps to reduce corrupt practices.

**No change proposed.**

21 - Should not have a Strong Manager/City Attorney type of government. It increases corrupt practices.

**Already decided.**

22 - Should not have a strong City Manager type government.  
In a small city such as ours, it breeds corrupt practices.

**Already decided.**

23 - Charter officers contract should not be longer than one year and compensation severance package be no greater than 120 days.

**Severance "package" is governed by F.S. 215.425(4)(a)(1). Compensation/Contracts already decided.**

24 - The City Clerk's office, which is in charge of our elections, should remain independent as it currently is. It reduces corrupt practices and defeats corrupt ideas.

**No change proposed.**

25 - All aspects of the Charter dealing with forest and agriculture, should BE KEPT.  
I have seen people having stock of live chickens and other farm animals which is illegal, on their property in our City. We have hundreds of trees in our city that needs our care and attention. Eliminating or watering down this part of the Charter would not be beneficial to our city

**Nothing is being "watered down". City retains all powers granted under Florida law.**

26 - The Proposed Charter items should be presented to the voters individually and not be presented in a block en masse, i.e. if you vote for one item you vote for all.

**Agree. That is our plan.**

Promoting open and transparent government should be priority.

I thank you for your time. May God be with us.

Sincerely,

Mubarak Kazan  
15564 NE 12th Ave  
North Miami Beach  
FL 33162  
USA