

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
Bill Foster, Chair  
Council Member, District 3

May 24, 2006

Pinellas County Charter Review Commission  
c/o Elithea Stanfield, Assistant County Administrator  
315 Court Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Re: Resolutions

Dear Chairman Bomstein and Members of the Charter Review Commission:

The St. Petersburg City Council passed the enclosed resolutions unanimously during our May 18, 2006 meeting and directed they be sent to all members of the Charter Review Commission.

These resolutions express our concerns on the issues of the Dual Vote question; the removal of elected officials from future Charter Review Commissions; and the three Annexation questions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office for clarification.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster, Chair  
St. Petersburg City Council

cc: Mayor Baker  
Mark Winn, Chief Assistant City Attorney

Enclosures

NO. 2006-294

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, OPPOSING A PROPOSAL OF THE PINELLAS CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE DUAL VOTE REFERENDUM REQUIREMENT FOR A CHANGE OF ANY FUNCTION, SERVICE, POWER OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF A MUNICIPALITY, SPECIAL DISTRICT OR THE COUNTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission has tentatively approved a proposal to amend Section 6.04 of the County Charter to remove the requirement that both the voters of an affected municipality or special district and the voters of the county must approve by majority vote (dual referendum) any amendment to the charter that would transfer any function, service, power, or regulatory authority of a municipality, special district, or the county; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would remove the power of the citizens of cities to choose which services they choose to have provided at a local level and at the county level; and

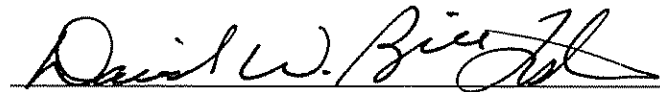
WHEREAS, cities currently have the power to contract with the county to provide any services the county has the ability to provide; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, the proposed amendment would erode the authority of the municipalities and special districts of Pinellas County by permitting the usurpation of their municipal functions and regulatory authorities and the purposes of the special districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that this Council is opposed to the proposed amendment to the County Charter that would remove the requirement that the voters of the affected municipality or special district and the voters of the county must both approve any amendment to the charter that would transfer any function, service, power, or regulatory authority of a municipality, special district, or the county

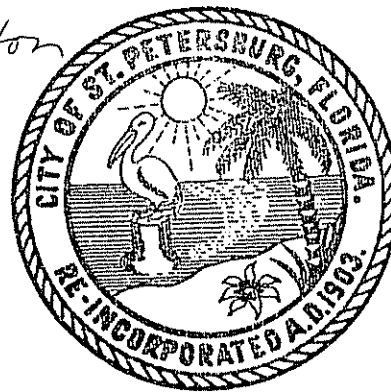
This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 18th day of May, 2006.



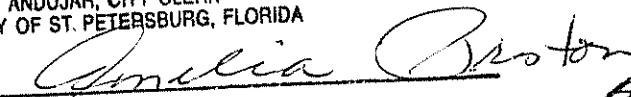
Chair-Councilmember  
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST:   
Deputy City Clerk



I, EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL AS IT APPEARS IN THE OFFICIAL FILES OF THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY THIS 22nd DAY OF May A.D. 2006

EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

BY 



NO. 2006-295

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, URGING  
MEMBERS OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION TO OPPOSE  
THE EXCLUSION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS  
FROM FUTURE CHARTER REVIEW  
COMMISSIONS; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission has discussed the issue of the composition of future Charter Review Commissions; and

WHEREAS, the County Charter specifies that certain elected officials shall serve on the Charter Review Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission has tentatively proposed an amendment that would remove all elected officials from future Charter Review Commissions; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials work closely on a daily basis on issues affected by the Pinellas County Charter and as such bring knowledge and experience to the "lay" membership that can assist in explaining the need, or the reasons why there is no need, for certain proposed changes to the Charter.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that this Council is opposed to removing the provision from the current Pinellas County Charter which provides that elected members serve on future Pinellas County Charter Review Commissions.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 18th day of May, 2006.



Chair-Councilmember  
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST:   
Deputy City Clerk



## CERTIFICATION

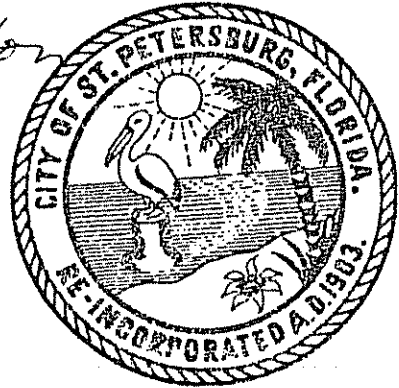
I, EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as it appears in the official files of the City Clerk of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, Witness my hand and seal of the City this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May A.D.,2006.

EVA ANDUJAR, City Clerk  
City of St. Petersburg, Florida

By

*Amelia Preston*

Deputy City Clerk



NO. 2006-296

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA REQUESTING  
THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY CHARTER  
REVIEW COMMISSION REJECT ALL OF THE  
PROPOSED CHARTER PROVISIONS RELATING  
TO ANNEXATION POLICY; AND PROVIDING  
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission has tentatively proposed certain Charter amendments relating to annexation policy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendments make annexation more difficult and help to preserve the status quo of inefficient city/county jurisdictional boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendments would conflict with statewide annexation law creating a precedent for a hodgepodge of inconsistent and conflicting annexation laws across the state; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 50% coterminous rule for non-referendum referendum annexations, hereafter referred to as "property owner referendums," is overly simplistic and arbitrary and further restricts a city's ability to annex; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 66% parcel and acreage consent requirement for property owner referendums is overly burdensome and arbitrary and completely without justification; and,

WHEREAS, property owner referendums are a vote of the property owners and should have no greater requirement for a majority than an annexation referendum of registered voters (simple majority); and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 60/30 day revocable written consent requirement for property owner referendums creates an opportunity for consenting property owners to be harassed and threatened by opposing property owners up to and including at the annexation public hearing(s); and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 60/30 day revocable written consent requirement would essentially allow property owners to change their "vote" after the election; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed 60/30 day revocable written consent requirement will introduce a tremendous amount of chaos and conflict in a system that is currently sound and effective; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal limiting subsequent annexation referenda to seven years is overly long and unnecessarily restricts the rights of residents to have a choice regarding annexation; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed notice requirements for all referendum types is unprecedented and far exceeds any notice requirement for any other type of election or referendum regardless of the subject; and,

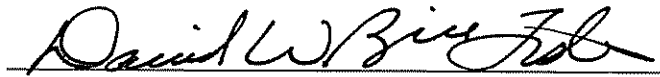
WHEREAS, the proposed notice requirement is overly burdensome, adds unnecessary cost to the process and is no more than an additional step that complicates the process and increases opportunities for conflict and litigation; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed incentive limitation language creates confusion and is already addressed by existing laws.

NOW THEREFORE the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg requests that the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission reject all of the proposed charter and legislative proposals related to annexation policy.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 18th day of May, 2006.



Chair-Councilmember  
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST:   
Deputy City Clerk



## CERTIFICATION

I, EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as it appears in the official files of the City Clerk of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, Witness my hand and seal of the City this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May A.D.,2006.

EVA ANDUJAR, City Clerk  
City of St. Petersburg, Florida

By *Amelia Preston*  
Deputy City Clerk

