

*Complete Text of the*

**Open  
Government  
Amendment**

*to the*

**Pittsburgh  
City Charter**

# Contents

<b>Proposed Ballot Question</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Text Key</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Preamble</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>New Article 6</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>601.</b> Public right to inspect records .....	<b>2</b>
<b>602.</b> Online access to public records .....	<b>2</b>
<b>603.</b> Online conduct of public business & provision of forms .....	<b>2</b>
<b>604.</b> Standards for public information .....	<b>2</b>
<b>605.</b> Information and communication technologies .....	<b>4</b>
<b>606.</b> Treatment of nondisclosable information .....	<b>5</b>
<b>607.</b> Notice .....	<b>6</b>
<b>608.</b> Public meetings, hearings, proceedings, etc. ....	<b>7</b>
<b>609.</b> Timely access to public information .....	<b>8</b>
<b>610.</b> Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>9</b>
<b>611.</b> Organization and operation of the Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>9</b>
<b>612.</b> Conflict of Interest Provision of the Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>11</b>
<b>613.</b> Governmental interrelations with the Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>12</b>
<b>614.</b> Other permissible Citizen Advisory Panel activities .....	<b>15</b>
<b>615.</b> City logistical support for the Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>15</b>
<b>616.</b> Implementation of the Citizen Advisory Panel .....	<b>16</b>
<b>617.</b> Quorum requirement for comment, hearings, & presentations .....	<b>17</b>
<b>618.</b> Disclosure of activities.....	<b>17</b>
<b>619.</b> City open government policies & regulations .....	<b>17</b>
<b>620.</b> Minimum basis for City open government policies & regs .....	<b>17</b>
<b>621.</b> Jurisdiction and enforcement .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Article 1: Home Rule Powers – Definitions</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Article 3: Legislative Branch</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Current Article 6: <del>COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS</del></b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b><i>Severability and Conflicts</i></b> .....	<b>21</b>

## Preamble

**W**hereas, Article 6, Community Advisory Boards, was effectively rendered null and void on December 31, 2000, when City Council officially dissolved the Community Advisory Boards citywide; and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the City of Pittsburgh need and desire increased access to public records, to publicly available information concerning the City and their neighborhoods, and to information about what their government is planning to do, before it does it; and

**Whereas**, the people deserve a better opportunity to join and participate proactively in the decision making process of their community, to provide information and express their concerns to their public officials, and to more fully explain to their government what they want it to do; and

**Whereas**, the City has an obligation to provide those who may be affected by its actions with ample opportunity to have a say; the City needs a government structured to better ensure it works with and for all people and not just an elite few; and the City can benefit from having a dedicated body for citizen involvement which can provide an enhanced conduit for communication between the people and their government; and

**Whereas**, technological advances occurring since the City Charter was first drafted and enacted in 1974 now enable opportunities for enhanced public access to records and information, for more meaningful and effective involvement in monitoring and reviewing government actions, and for more productively providing comment and information to the government, in ways unimagined three decades ago; now

**T**herefore, Article 6, Community Advisory Boards, is repealed in its entirety and is replaced with Article 6, Open Government, moving Section 810 of the Charter to become Section 601 and adding Sections 602-620; and

**Further**, Article 1, Home Rule Powers - Definitions, is amended to add definitions applicable to the amended Article 6; and Article 3, Legislative Branch, Sections 318 and 320 are amended to provide corrections and clarifications relevant to Article 6, as amended:

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

records, etc.; and related to non-City activities and matters which require public permitting or involve public spaces, property, or services, the City shall adopt, implement, and maintain a unified standard of mark up, indexing, and tracking for its internal use and for providing public access and notification. The City may either adopt state or federal standards or adopt its own standards if of comparable or greater capability or if demonstrably more appropriate for City operations without reducing the ability for public notification and archiving. Such standards shall apply to all City units of government and agencies and shall be updated as appropriate to incorporate and accommodate new technologies and practices.

**b.** Where a document contains text, a digital version containing searchable, electronically readable text shall be provided. Where a physical or digital record contains non-textual elements, including but not limited to visual images, audio, video, programmatic or other inclusions, extraneous markings, hand written notes, etc., the publicly accessible digital file shall also include an accurate textual description of them, including the full content of any notes, with other contextual references as appropriate.

**c.** Each digital record or copy made available to the public shall have a cover sheet or other inclusion or attachment which contains a notation indicating whether the complete set of documents in which the original is/was stored is available online and whether known related documents are available online or exist elsewhere. Such notation shall, at the minimum, reasonably identify the associated and related documents which are not yet online, either listing each such document individually or generally describing the offline documents by category or group and giving either their exact or approximate number. A disclaimer of accuracy shall explain how a person may verify the availability of other documents not yet online and how they may access them.

**d.** Each City unit of government and agency shall conduct and keep current an inventory of its publicly accessible information and records. The City shall develop and maintain an index and mapping of its database of publicly accessible information and online records in a format(s) that shall be useful to and usable by the City and the general public.

**e.** The City shall use best practices to verifiably certify that each digital file placed online is a true and correct copy of the original, including any digitally converted text and non-textual portions with textual descriptions added or attached:

**1.** Where the original of a record is a digital record, a publicly accessible copy shall be made and verified consistent with the original and certified as such at the time of its creation.

**2.** Where a physical original or a certified or accepted true and correct physical copy of a physical record exists, when a digital copy is made or if a digital copy already exists, a certified digital visual image shall also be created of such scale and resolution as to: provide the best possible rendition which is prudent and feasible; yield all relevant detail and faithfully represent the original in its form and content; and offer an alternative means for verifying any text. A reasonable, timely effort shall also be made to verify and certify the digital copy's consistency with its physical original. Digital files that are not yet certified shall contain or have attached a specific notation to that effect, referring the reader to the corresponding digital image file and the original.

**3.** A readily available and usable means shall be provided for any user of any digital file, whether certified or not, to identify whether its content has changed, been altered, or become corrupted.

modification, distribution, and the creation of derivative works unencumbered by patents or other limitations.

d. In the letting of any franchise to use public property or public rights-of-way for communications or distribution of information, either of which include the provision of broadcast or narrowcast audiovisual channels, individual programs on demand, or their equivalent as such future technologies may provide, the City shall require that a minimum of one channel each for government activities, public access programming, and noncommercial, educational programming shall be made available at no charge to the City for the use of and administration by the City or its designated agent as part of the franchise agreement; that access to them shall be provided to members of the public as part of all product or service levels, tiers, or packages offered by the franchisee; and for those provided individual programs on-demand, that the programming on the City channels shall also be offered on-demand at no additional fee.

### **606. Treatment of nondisclosable information**

a. For purposes of public access, if a record contains both disclosable and nondisclosable information, the nondisclosable information shall be deleted and the remaining record shall be disclosed unless the two are so inextricably intertwined that it is not feasible to separate them or release of the disclosable information would compromise or impinge upon the nondisclosable portion of the record.

b. Where information is held to be nondisclosable and is submitted for use as part of a decision making process which is open to public oversight or participation, the submitter shall identify the specific parts that are nondisclosable. The decision making body is responsible for final determination of the following, which shall be disclosed and made available online to the degree that it does not jeopardize national security or public safety or violate the nondisclosure:

1. the existence of the information which is held to be nondisclosable; its title, owner, and preparer; the type, general character, and nature of the information; the specific reasons for nondisclosure, including the name(s) of any third party(ies) requesting, requiring, or otherwise responsible for the nondisclosure and their involvement or relationship to the information and/or to the other parties involved; and all information contained in it that is disclosable;

2. whether it was generated using accepted standards and practices; if so, which; if not, what method or process was used; if the specifics of the method are held to be nondisclosable, then such substantiation or verification as may exist of the efficacy of the method employed; if none, that there is none;

3. how the information is related to the decisionable matter;

4. how the information is normally used in other instances and how it is to be used or is being used for the decision process;

5. the specific findings which are based or are to be based upon it, either all or in part; how those findings are affected by the information and the degree to which they are;

6. the degree to which the nondisclosable information and the findings based upon it each play(ed) a role in the decision process and its outcome, including but not limited to whether it is in the

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

b. The City shall also establish additional notification processes using such media as may be appropriate and in significant use, including but not limited to email lists to which members of the public may subscribe without fee.

c. The City shall establish and offer a process of individualized notification about City matters which are currently active or pending, including legislative and administrative decisions or actions, regardless of whether public notice of such is otherwise required by law or regulation.

1. Such process should enable interested parties to select and register various criteria to be matched and applied to indices provided under Sec. 604(a) for information that is publicly inspectable under Sec. 601.

2. The registrants shall be provided timely notice when the selected criteria are met; such notification shall occur at the time that the information is indexed, unless otherwise provided by the City's information policy.

3. The City shall make reasonable accommodations for those requiring alternative means of notification.

4. In such instances where the cost of individualized notification to a person or organization is not insignificant, the City may charge a fee to cover the cost, as long as provision is also made for reduced or adjusted fees based upon ability to pay and for an in forma pauperis waiver for those who cannot afford to pay.

d. Notification of matters that are to go before Council shall be given prior to introduction; for administrative and all other matters, notice shall be in adequate time to enable those notified to appropriately act or respond before a decision or subsequent actions may occur.

e. Placement of online public notice under Sec. 607(a) and a reasonable attempt to provide notice under Sec. 607 (b) and (c) shall have occurred in order for the City to have fulfilled requirements of public notification, regardless of the origin or specific limits of such requirement.

f. Having successfully posted public notice under Sec. 607(a) and exercised due diligence in providing individual notice under Sec. 607 (b) and (c), the City shall not be held responsible for the end delivery of any such notices, except where proof of delivery may otherwise be required by law.

### **608. Public meetings, hearings, proceedings, etc.**

a. All meetings, hearings, proceedings, and other official activities of City Council, the administration, units of government, agencies, and other entities under the jurisdiction of the Charter which by law are to be open to the public shall be available to and accessible by the public for remote viewing, listening, and monitoring via webcast at the time held and for later review and such other means as may be appropriate.

b. In such instance where the submission of public comment, questions, etc. is applicable under Sec. 608(a), reasonable provision shall be made for direct participation online, including but not limited to interactive communications integrated as part of an original webcast and/or via such other telecommuni-

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

means of presentation as may best enable the public and officials to experience and better understand relevant information, such as 3D computer modeling, interactive capabilities, or such other technologies as may become available, shall be encouraged and may be required.

d. Where at any time a substantive change is made to a proposed or planned administrative matter to which public comment and notice is applicable and the decision for which the city is a participating party, the public comment process shall be reopened and its commensurate scheduling applied.

### **610. Citizen Advisory Panel**

There is established a Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP), as the City's primary public involvement body with the purpose of providing members of the public with an opportunity to organize themselves to better monitor government activities, to investigate and make recommendations on the needs of the people, and to otherwise serve as a conduit for enhancing communication between the people and their government and vice versa.

### **611. Organization and operation of the Citizen Advisory Panel**

The CAP shall adopt its own bylaws. Before being voted upon for final approval, the CAP bylaws and all subsequent amendment proposals shall be referred for review to the City Solicitor, who shall, within 10 days, provide comment and recommendations. The bylaws shall comply with the provisions herein and may address other matters not included.

a. Membership shall be open to residents, property owners, city taxpayers of record, business owners and/or operators, and people whose interests otherwise come under the City jurisdiction, except where a conflict of interest exists as provided under Sec. 612. Members must be real, natural persons who shall participate as individuals and not as a representative of any organization. The CAP may create different membership classifications or categories as may be appropriate.

b. Members of the CAP shall be able to vote as follows:

1. Unless provided otherwise under Sec. 611(b) or 612, city residents shall be able to participate in votes upon bylaws, officers, and all issues and matters before the CAP; non-resident property owners shall be able to participate in votes concerning issues affecting or related to properties within the City, non-resident city taxpayers of record shall be able to participate in votes concerning the City's taxing, spending, budget, and revenue related issues, and non-resident business owners and/or operators shall be able to participate in votes concerning or related to businesses and business operations within the City; all members may participate in votes concerning public safety issues; and members voting on contractual matters involving the CAP must be of legal age.

2. To assure that those who are voting to make decisions have at least some minimum level of involvement, the CAP bylaws may establish minimum attendance and/or participation requirements for individuals to acquire and retain membership, position, or voting rights, provided an allowance is made for waivers for exceptional circumstances and the criteria are in compliance with a nondiscrimination clause in its bylaws.

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

implied, by 20% of those present and voting unless a different minimum vote is set in the CAP bylaws. Reports must not contain legally libelous or slanderous material; the CAP Chair, majority of the CAP Board, Council, or Council president may request the City Solicitor review and rule on any questionable material, and the Solicitor shall do so within 10 days. All majority and minority reports shall be posted on the CAP website; shall be made available in print at libraries and community centers; shall be filed with the City Clerk; and shall be provided to Council and the administration.

k. The CAP bylaws shall include an anti-discrimination clause and conflict of interest provisions as related to its operations. The CAP bylaws may also establish procedures for enforcing various requirements which apply within the CAP, provided there is a process for appeal.

l. The parliamentary reference for CAP meetings and organizational procedures not addressed by its bylaws and rules shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised or its successor, or another widely recognized authority on parliamentary procedure if so designated in the CAP bylaws.

### **612. Conflict of Interest Provision of the Citizen Advisory Panel**

a. For purposes of participation in the CAP, a conflict of interest shall in general exist when a person receives, stands to receive, is seeking, or plans to seek monetary or material gain (other than the general services provided all residents and assistance for educational purposes or low income) from any action, operation, or program of the City its agencies, authorities, or units of government or that are under the direction, administration, or determination thereof. In addition, a conflict of interest shall exist where an advantage may be gained for a business interest by disadvantaging a competitive interest.

b. The CAP shall implement a Conflict of Interest Provision regulating funding or donations to the CAP and regulating participation in the CAP by: the elected officials, board or commission members, and employees of the City, its agencies, and its units of government; officers, board members and employees of nonprofit organizations in receipt or pending receipt of funding from the City in excess of \$1000 per annum or such other amount as may be set in the CAP bylaws; consultants, contractors, suppliers, vendors, and individuals doing business with the City or seeking contracts and employment with the City; litigants with material claims against the City; individuals employed by or holding an elected or appointed office within a political party; registered lobbyists; persons or agents of interests receiving real estate subsidies, tax abatements, tax incremental financing, forgivenesses, or other monetary or material gain as applicable under Sec. 612(a) for their interests in real estate property, except for owner occupied residential properties; individuals having arrangements or associations with the City which may be deemed to constitute a significant financial conflict of interest; and the employees and immediate family members of any of the aforesaid. None of the aforesaid may join or participate in the CAP until and unless allowed by a Conflict of Interest Provision enacted by the CAP as part of its bylaws or as provided in Sec. 611(b)(4).

c. A CAP Conflict of Interest Provision shall address: the status of the parties under Sec. 612(b); prohibitions of membership and restrictions on participation and funding; responsibility to disclose; situations when there may be participation without vote; the criteria and process for granting waivers; avoiding conflicts of interest in the acceptance of funding or donations; the handling of conflicts of interest which may arise with individual votes or issues for members not otherwise barred from membership; and

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

4. At the time the CAP reports and comments are given, the CAP representative or delegation may reserve those which are directed at specific legislation to be given by the CAP representative or delegation when the bill is taken up by Council on its agenda.

c. Except during closed executive sessions, a representative of the CAP shall participate with full and equal voice but not vote when Council meets, sitting with Council or, during Council general meetings, at a table to the front and/or side of Council or in a comparably convenient, mutually agreeable location.

1. The person representing the CAP may change between or during a meeting as authorized by the CAP.

2. The meeting chair shall be informed of the substitution being made.

3. Substitutions must not be disruptive in nature nor substantially impede the conduct of the meeting or its business.

d. The CAP shall be able to make organized presentations to Council and the administration which may involve one or more people and various presentation media.

1. The CAP may request and shall be given sufficient time, subject to availability, to make presentations during Council's regular, committee, post agenda, or special meetings, and should such time not be available, Sec. 613(d)(2) shall apply.

2. Council shall, upon the CAP's request, schedule post agenda or special meetings as needed to accommodate CAP presentations and/or discussion with Council, with the scheduling of such meetings to be within a reasonable time and at a germane location, and Council shall not vote beforehand upon matters to which the requested presentation or discussion is relevant.

3. At the request of the CAP, the mayor and appropriate members of the administration shall be in attendance for CAP presentations and reports to and/or discussion with the administration, including when such are to be made jointly with Council; should such attendance be impossible, the mayor shall mutually arrange with the CAP to expeditiously schedule such presentation, reports, and/or discussion, which shall take place before administrative decisions and/or actions on related matters may occur.

e. The CAP may propose legislation and introduce bills to Council and the CAP's representative or a delegation designated by the CAP shall be given opportunity to explain and respond to questions or concerns about its proposal or introduction when taken up by Council. Council shall explain the reasons for its action on such bill or resolution to the CAP.

f. The CAP shall be able to request meetings with and/or presentations by the administration or members of Council to discuss or to have explained to the CAP certain identified issues of concern which may affect the City, its residents, and taxpayers.

1. The subject of the requested presentation or meeting shall be clearly defined.

2. The meeting/presentation shall be scheduled and occur at a mutually agreed place and time, which, if so requested by the CAP, shall be before actions may occur upon or concerning matters relevant to the presentation or meeting.

n. To facilitate quicker resolution of conflicts, avoid unresolved disputes, and reduce reliance upon the courts, the CAP and the City may negotiate and maintain a mutually agreed upon process for the resolution of conflicts and disputes, while reserving to all parties the rights and remedies provided by state and federal law.

**614. Other permissible Citizen Advisory Panel activities**

a. The CAP shall be able to make presentations to groups and members of the public; to hold investigative hearings and hearings for public comment; and to use all lawful means to investigate issues.

b. The CAP shall be able to engage in activities for the purpose of outreach, membership recruitment, public education, and such other actions and activities as may benefit the CAP, the City of Pittsburgh, its residents, property owners, taxpayers, etc.

**615. City logistical support for the Citizen Advisory Panel**

a. The City shall provide staff and material support for: copying of CAP meeting materials (agendas, reports, minutes, etc.); copying and distribution of materials from the CAP for Council, the administration, and public posting; maintenance of the CAP membership roster, as needed; and, as requested, placement of meeting notices and ads for meetings and CAP public events.

b. At the request of the CAP and subject to availability, the City shall provide event and meeting space in reasonably central locations which are easily accessible from all parts of the city and for satellite meetings at city facilities in neighborhoods and shall provide display and public presentation equipment, chairs, tables, and other accommodations as are reasonable and appropriate.

c. The City shall provide sufficient office space for the CAP in a reasonably central location which is conveniently accessible to the public and served by transit; with appropriate utilities; with full telecommunications capabilities, including but not limited to broadband Internet connectivity or its successor; and with a compliment of office equipment and furnishings generally standard among fully functional offices.

d. The City shall upon request from the CAP provide advertising of CAP meetings and events, to include a display ad in the local news section of daily newspapers published in the City and appropriate neighborhood publications, in addition to standard legal notices; the City shall include mutually agreed upon information about the CAP and how people can get involved with it in tax billings and in general publications of the City, its agencies, and units of government; and the City shall provide for sending notices and reminders by email (and other popular technologies for notification) for CAP meetings, events, and activities to those indicating a desire to receive them.

e. The City shall provide a website and such computer and web services as may be needed (including but not limited to: email, calendaring, groupware, bulletin board, webcasting, listserv, etc.); mapping, data, communication, and information services for CAP purposes; and such other applicable technologies and services as become available and are needed.

**617. Quorum requirement for comment, hearings, and presentations**

Whenever Council or the governing or decision making body of a City unit of government or agency receives direct or remote, live public testimony, comment, or presentations given by individuals, groups, organizations, or the CAP, a quorum of such receiving body shall be present and should a quorum cease to exist at anytime, the presiding official shall recess the proceeding until a quorum shall be present.

**618. Disclosure of activities**

All City elected officials and such appointees or hired personnel whose city duties include setting public policy, approvals, purchasing decisions, or making purchasing recommendations in excess of \$5,000 shall publish their calendar of the preceding day on the City's website identifying the time, duration, and nature of their meetings and communications, the name and the associations and employer of the person(s) involved, except where such may be exempted under Sec. 601 or where the disclosure could subject a party involved to retaliation for having reported a matter.

**619. City open government policies and regulations**

The City shall establish, implement, and maintain policies and regulations covering its information, remote participation, notification, and such matters, processes, and procedures as are necessary to assure open government.

a. Such policies and regulations shall address:

1. abuses and reasonable protections therefrom, improper or disruptive conduct, disciplinary actions, appeals, etc. with relation to Article 6;

2. presentation of verifiable identity for acquisition of some or all public information, for public comment, for individualized notification, or for other forms of public participation; whether, when, and how such may apply; and such associated matters as user registration and sign-in for online access;

3. information for commercial use and purposes; information not online that is generated upon request; and applicable fees, if any;

4. implementation of the provisions of this article, to be done as expeditiously and effectively as reasonably possible;

5. such other issues not addressed herein that may arise.

b. Such policies and regulations shall further provide that:

1. No fees shall be charged for publicly accessible, online information which is to be used for individual and noncommercial purposes nor for general participation, monitoring, and proactive citizen involvement in the City's governance, unless otherwise provided herein;

2. Should the City information base be made available by contract to providers of fee based information services including but not limited to information mining, evaluation, notification, searches, etc., such providers shall be required to provide in forma pauperis waivers and/or pro bono services for groups and individuals who cannot afford their fees.

**620. Minimum basis for City open government policies and regulations**

The Pennsylvania Sunshine Law, the US Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended by public law No. 104-231, 110 Stat. 3048), the American with Disabilities Act, and other state and fed-

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

where any non-textual visual image, photo, or graphic content is numerically encoded such that it can be accurately recreated and reproduced in at least a comparable, corresponding appearance to its original use in the document; where any non-textual audio and/or video portion is numerically encoded such that the original can be accurately regenerated; and where any programmatic scripting, animation, or other type of document inclusions can be readily operated, run, or replicated.

“Digital file format” means the particular arrangement or encoding schema of data in a digital format which is storable and usable, operable, or readable by specific computer programs; usually identified by unique or nearly unique letter extensions or suffixes.

“Online” means having or giving direct access, available from remote locations, through means of networked telecommunication in general usage which is widely and openly accessible to and by the public, including but not limited to the Internet and any such successor which may be developed.

“Webcast” or “webcasting” means the online presentation of the audio and visual record of an event both in real time as it is occurring and on-demand after its occurrence, and, if applicable, with the real time webcast having an ability for interactive participation by the recipient.

### Article 3: Legislative Branch

*Article 3, Sections 318 and 320(a) are amended as follows to render them consistent with Article 6 as amended, additions being underlined and deletions with a line through them:*

#### **318. TIME AND NOTICE REQUIRED BETWEEN INTRODUCTION AND FINAL PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION**

Council shall not take final action on any legislation until a minimum of seven days has elapsed from the date of its introduction, unless council finds and declares that an urgent reason exists requiring earlier final action and, at such time, identifies said reason and explains its justification. Council shall give public notice of the introduction of legislation within twenty-four hours after it is introduced. Notice shall consist of posting the proposed legislation or its title with an accurate abstract in a conspicuous public place readily observable by citizens entering the building occupied by Council; posting the proposed legislation, or its title with an accurate abstract and a link to its complete text, in the notices section of the City website; having a link to the position in the notices section from a brief and succinct descriptive reference that is prominently visible upon accessing the main webpage; entering the bill into the process for individualized notification as established under Sec. 607(c); and also by posting in the office of the city clerk. A substantive amendment of legislation before Council shall, for the purposes of public notice and comment, be equivalent to a new introduction.

#### **320. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Council shall grant a public hearing to residents of the City:

- a. On pending legislation, if they deliver a petition requesting a public hearing to the city clerk no later than three days, after notice of the introduction of the proposed legislation or after a substantive amendment, signed by at least twenty-five ~~qualified electors who reside in the City~~ residents of age 18

## Proposed Open Government Amendment to the Pittsburgh City Charter (6/16/09)

- ~~b. to review and advise council and the mayor on the social and physical plans for the district;~~
- ~~e. to review and advise council and the mayor on the distribution of city services to the district;~~
- ~~d. to meet annually with the mayor and council to discuss problems, needs and public affairs of the districts;~~
- ~~e. to mandate, by a majority vote of all its members, a meeting within two weeks with the appropriate head of a major administrative unit of the City to discuss a specific district problem. Council may, by ordinance, give additional powers and duties to community advisory boards. Each community advisory board shall hold public meetings, after reasonable public notice within the district, not less than four times each year to afford an opportunity to district residents to make known their views and needs.~~

### ~~606. PROCEDURES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS~~

~~Council shall, by general ordinance, prescribe procedures for the exercise of the powers and duties of community advisory boards.~~

### ~~607. FUNDS AND EXPENSES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS~~

~~Community advisory boards shall receive no grants from city tax funds and community advisory board members shall serve without compensation. Community advisory boards may, however, accept donations and grants from any other source.~~

### ~~608. REVISION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS~~

~~Council may, upon receipt of a petition with signatures as required in section 602, amend the appropriate ordinance to revise the organization and procedures of a community advisory board. District boundaries shall be revised only as provided by section 601.~~

### ~~609. DISSOLUTION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS~~

~~Council may, by ordinance, dissolve all community advisory boards as of the end of any fiscal year. A particular community advisory board shall be dissolved only by a petition signed by the same number of qualified electors residing in the community advisory board district required by section 602 and an ordinance adopted after a public hearing by council with public notice to that community advisory board district.~~

### **Severability and Conflicts**

*In the event this amendment cannot take effect in its entirety because of the judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction holding invalid any provision, the remaining provisions of the amendment shall be given full force and effect as completely as if the provision held invalid were not included. Any Pittsburgh City Charter provision, Council resolution, City ordinance, or any policy, rule, regulation, or provision governing any City unit of government or agency, or any part or parts thereof, which may be conflicting with the provisions of this Amendment is hereby repealed in so far as the same may affect or may be affected by this Amendment.*