

ORDINANCE NO.: 73 -2014
INTRODUCED BY: Council, as required by Charter Art. XIV

AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE CHARTER AT ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5 AND ARTICLE XV TO REQUIRE THAT COUNCIL MEETINGS BE RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE UNEDITED TO RESIDENTS AND THE PUBLIC THROUGH MEDIA OUTLETS AND BY OTHER AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee has recommended to place the issue of amending the Charter before the electorate in order to require unedited accessibility of Council meetings through media outlets and other electronic or technological means pursuant to Article IV and Article XV; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Article XIV, Council shall submit these proposed amendments to the electorate: and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution provides that the Council shall submit the amendments to the electors at the next regular municipal election that occurs not less than 60 or more than 120 days from the passage of such ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: There shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, at the regular places of voting in the City during the regular hours of voting on such date as prescribed by general law, the question of the amendment of the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, at Article IV, Section 5 – Meetings and Article XV- Miscellaneous Provisions. so that, as amended, it shall read in pertinent part, as follows:

ARTICLE IV
THE COUNCIL

SECTION 5. Meetings

The Council shall meet at such times as may be prescribed by its rules, regulations, ordinances and bylaws, but it shall hold regular meetings at least twice in each calendar month. **All meetings shall be accessible unedited to residents and the public through media outlets and by other electronic means, as the technology becomes available...**

ARTICLE XV
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 7 BROADCASTS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings of Council shall be accessible to residents and the public unedited through media outlets and other electronic means, as the technology becomes available. Council is authorized to complete contracts for these services using the normal bidding and budgeting processes.

Section 2: The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County be, and it is hereby, directed to provide for the voting upon said Amendments and the ballots for said election shall, at the top thereof, be entitled “Proposed Charter Amendment City of Richmond Heights: and the questions to be submitted on said ballot shall be substantially in the following words:

“Shall Article IV, Section 5, and Article XV, by adding new Section 7, be amended to require that all Council meetings be accessible unedited to residents and the public through media outlets and by other electronic means, as the technology becomes available?”

Section 3: The Clerk of Council is directed to give notice of the above proposed Charter amendments to the electors of the City in accordance with general law, and to certify a copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, Ohio as provided by law.

Section 4: The Director of Finance is authorized and directed to appropriate from the general fund a sum sufficient to pay the cost of publishing said notice referred to in Section 3.

Section 5: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirement, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the City of Richmond Heights for the reason that is necessary to timely submit the proposed Charter Amendments to the Board of Elections for placement upon the ballot for the general election to be held on November 4, 2014, in compliance with the Ohio Constitution and the City Charter, and therefore, shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

Miesha W. Headen, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____
Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche,
President of Council