

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Inter-Neighborhood Council

FROM: Jim Webster, South Central rep

SUBJECT: The Study Commission and the INC Charter Written Update

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: None

STRATEGIC PLAN: 7.3 Best Practices, Creativity & Foresight: Utilize best practices, innovative approaches, and constantly anticipate new directions and changes relevant to the governance of the City. Be also adaptable and flexible with an outward focus on the customer and an external understanding of the issues as others may see them.

BACKGROUND: Becky Franks and Barb Cestero on the five-person Study Commission (SC) are editing the Charter draft further. Some of the sections are being moved around and there is also the question over the exact choice of words to be used as descriptors, such as "champion" vs, "advocate."
I (Jim Webster) was present for a meeting Friday April 24th at 11am along with Beth Boyson and Zehra Osman who was also there. Past INC Chair, Emily Talego, was also present. As a result of that meeting, I organized a zoom call with Becky and Barb, along with Zehra Osman, Mark Campanelli and Emily Talego, as she has so much corporate knowledge of INC. The zoom call was well-received and took place Monday evening, April 27th.
The next Study Commission meeting came on Thursday April 30th and Dan Carty, along with Mary Bateson from the Northside attended that meeting. It was suggested that INC really needs to weigh in with the Study Commission to see the recent Charter language being contemplated, so that this does not get away from us. The next Study Commission (SC) Meeting is this Wednesday, May 13th.
The SC has used phrases like, "This council (INC), is an Advisory Board to the City." Is this accurate? We are not like any of the other advisory boards and are separate from the city as far as we are aware. This is why we need to keep close tabs on the final wordsmithing from the SC as we could find INC being mischaracterized and it might take a substantial effort to undo the SC's work. Suggested here is for Dick Bakker and Emily Mason to be in touch with the SC re the Charter document.
Another observation that Mary Bateson brought up from the 4/30 meeting was how will residents in the larger buildings be integrated into the existing neighborhoods? Examples given were the new substantial buildings

that have gone up in the neighborhood of the old Medical Arts building. The mindset of the new residents in the high-rises is thought to present some future potential differences than how those residents living in the single-family homes that have made up that neighborhood for many decades may feel. This could very well be a "work in progress."

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: None

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Report compiled on: May 8, 2026