



August 19, 2024

Leonard Johnson
[REDACTED]

Re: Proposed Charter Amendment Petition

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is in response to your August 16, 2024 correspondence to the Clerk of Council pertaining to a proposed charter amendment petition. In its current form, the proposed charter amendment petition does not comply with necessary form requirements set forth in the Charter of the City of Cincinnati ("Charter").

Per the Charter, Article II, Section 8(A)(1), petitions must comply with the specified form and general laws of the state. The proposed petition does not include a title of the proposal, which must clearly and without argument describe the proposed charter amendment and appear at the top of each part petition. Charter, Article II, Section 8(A)(1)(d). Also, the pages of the proposed charter amendment petition are not numbered sequentially, as required by the Charter, Article II, Section 8(A)(1)(d). It appears that the page containing the spaces for the petition committee and spaces for signatures numbered 1 through 23 has been duplicated, while the page with spaces for signatures numbered 24 through 55 has been omitted. Finally, the proposed charter amendment petition does not bear the names of at least five qualified electors of the City to serve as the petition committee, as required by Article II, Section 8(A)(2) of the Charter.

Please also note that "[n]o part petition which includes a purported elector's signature or circulator's signature affixed prior to the date of filing a certified copy of the petition with the clerk of council shall be deemed valid." Charter, Article II, Section 8(C)(3). Therefore, any signature(s) that you obtain prior to the submission of a valid petition will be deemed void.

A revised proposed charter amendment petition may be resubmitted to the Clerk of Council at clerkofcouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Smart Woerner".

Emily Smart Woerner
City Solicitor

Copy: Melissa Autry, Clerk of Council