

## Class Discussion Outline – 10.06.06 Democracy Inaction SSP-100

What is a charter?

- An outline of the form of government; a guideline for how the city will be run; A design of the government that is simple and possible for the people to understand.

What are goals of this charter?

- To provide a framework for governmental proceedings in a particular area; Representative government; Maintains order amongst the people; Represents a legitimate usage of force; A public document meant to help the people better understand their government; More effective/efficient government; Adaptable to emergency situations

What are the main components of this charter?

- Budget; Division of powers; Division of responsibilities/duties; Elections; Terms of office; Taxes; Legislature; Judiciaries; Public projects; Public recreation; Appointment of officials

What are the major revisions to the Charter?

- Throw out the Commissioner style of government; Change salaries; Grant the mayor more power through: pay, appointments, control budgets, power to veto ordinances, 4 year term/full time job

What are the problems with the revisions?

- Maybe too much power to Mayorship;

What are the good parts of the revisions?

- More efficient;

Where's the support for the new system?

- The not-so-rich folks;

Potential in the town to grow, perhaps they're stunted by the current form of commissioner government, perhaps with a more Mayoral based system, the city would be better prepared to grow; What will change within the town mean if the Charter is revised?