

RESOLUTION

Keef
Golombek
Kearns

JAN 10 2012

Sponsors: Mr. Golombek & Mr. Kearns

Subject: Renewing Efforts to Give Voters the Option of Nonpartisan Elections

Whereas: On July 8th, 2008, this Honorable Body unanimously passed a resolution entitled "Holding Nonpartisan Elections for All City Offices," (No 132, C.C.P. December 11, 2007); and

Whereas: In passing that resolution, the Common Council committed its support to "having the issue of holding nonpartisan elections placed on the General election ballot in 2008 for the public to decide and [thereby directed] the Law Department to undertake the necessary steps to have this issue placed on the ballot"; and

Whereas: This resolution was subsequently forwarded to the Mayor's Office and, on July 18th, 2008, was approved by Mayor Byron Brown; and

Whereas: 41 of the 50 largest cities in the United States with an elected Mayor use nonpartisan elections, including Los Angeles, Houston, Detroit, Boston and Seattle; and

Whereas: Ensuring that voters are given the choice of holding nonpartisan elections is a complicated and arduous endeavor which involves, amongst other things, significant legal research, strict compliance with a variety of legal deadlines, the preparation of a local law, and the preparation of a question to appear on the ballot; and

Whereas: Although some time has passed since this resolution was approved, the conditions which necessitated its passage in July of 2008 continue to exist today.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

That this Honorable Body requests, in advance of the next regular meeting of the Common Council to be held on October 22, 2009, that the Law Department file an update with the City Clerk on the progress that they have made in undertaking the necessary steps to have the issue of holding nonpartisan elections for all city offices placed on the ballot for the next General election.

Joseph Golombek Jr.

JOSEPH GOLOMBEK, JR.
North District Council Member

Michael P. Kearns

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
South District Council Member

cc

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