

6-20-2012

Honorable Chair, Members and staff of the Charter Review Committee,
for the record Maurice White.

Thank you for considering this suggested amendment to the Carson City Charter.

Suggested amendment is: The Board of Supervisors, Mayor and all senior staff must participate in the same wage and benefit cuts and freezes that are negotiated with bargaining units.

By senior staff I refer to any supervisory, management or contracted position not represented by a bargaining unit.

The purpose of the Charter Review Committee is to recommend amendments of the City Charter to the Board of Supervisors. I feel it is appropriate to recommend this suggestion as an amendment for several reasons. It is the responsibility of the people to work to create a restrictive working environment for our government to operate. Recent actions by our Mayor and Board of Supervisors have made it apparent that our governing body must be restrained. At the State of the City address both Mayor Crowell and Supervisor Aldean stated that they were elected to make decisions and there is no need for the people to vote on the "Nugget Project". During the June 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, members of the Board of Supervisors stated they had no desire to craft a ballot question that would restrict their ability to spend at will a ¼% sales tax increase.

These are just a few examples of the attitude to which we should install heavy barriers. It has been suggested that this issue could be dealt with as an ordinance or policy change. This may well be true. However if it is put through as a successful amendment to the City Charter the tenets of this action could not be violated without first addressing all the people of this state.

This administration has recently taken voluntary wage cuts and I commend them for that. This has not been the common practice in the past nor is there anything requiring them to continue sharing in future cuts and freezes. To my knowledge they did not participate in benefit changes. It seems odd to me that this was done after I submitted this suggestion to this body. This amendment would serve as notice to all parties concerned that city government must manage our money and resources in a manner that benefits the entire community.

I have spent many years watching government executives unfairly profit from mirror wage and benefit increases while not participating in rank and file cuts. I assure you that the boss driving to work in a \$60,000 pickup can afford cuts better than the entry level employee driving an unreliable car. It is my opinion that if management is required to participate in these cuts and freezes they will improve their management of our money and resources.

I want you to notice that benefits are included in this suggestion. This is an area that is continuously manipulated at will by management while administrators are usually insulated from their effects.

It is not my intention to micro manage City staff. Only to set boundaries of operation and to clarify that we all must work together to make our community a place where residents and businesses feel safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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