

SECTION \_\_: RESIDENT ASSEMBLY

1. PURPOSE.

- a. In order to expand access to city government and include voices not typically heard in decisionmaking, the city council has the authority to establish and maintain a Resident Assembly.

2. POWERS.

- a. Notwithstanding any other section of this charter, the city council may, by ordinance, delegate the following powers to the Resident Assembly:
  - i. The power to issue recommendations on questions posed by the city council. and to specify deadlines by which the city council or city manager must publicly respond to the recommendations by hearing or other means
    - 1. For any recommendation or proposal passed by the assembly by
      - a. a simple majority of members present and voting, the council shall hold a public hearing on the matter not later than three months after notice is filed with the clerk of the council.
      - b. two-thirds of the members present and voting, the council shall hold a public hearing on the matter not later than three months after notice is filed with the clerk of the council. The council shall then take a vote on the matter not later than one month after the public hearing.
  - ii. The power to determine whether a resident initiative petition commenced under Section \_\_\_ should be submitted to the city council or voters as provided in Section \_\_\_ notwithstanding the petition's failure to meet that Section's procedural requirements.
  - iii. .  
Option -
  - iv. Any other power that can be exercised by the city council ~~or school committee.~~
  - v.
- b.

### 3. MANDATORY SPECIFICATIONS.

a. Any Resident Assembly created pursuant to this section must have the following characteristics:

#### i. SELECTION

1. Membership on the Resident Assembly must be open to all citizen and non-citizen residents of Cambridge over the age of 16.
2. The procedures for selecting membership must include a random lottery such that the Resident Assembly is proportionally representative of the city's population.
3. Membership on the Resident Assembly must be voluntary, and members must be permitted to resign for any reason.
4. No fewer than 50 people may serve on the Resident Assembly at any given time.

#### ii. RESOURCES

1. The Resident Assembly must receive sufficient resources to exercise its powers effectively, including financial resources, staff support, and space for deliberation.
2. To ensure that participation is not a financial burden, assembly members must be offered a stipend that is sufficient to compensate members for their time and for reasonable costs incurred by participation, including transportation to the meeting, dependent care, or similar expenses.

### 4. DISCRETIONARY SPECIFICATIONS.

a. Subject to the other provisions of this section, the city council has discretion to define, by ordinance, other powers and specifications of the Resident Assembly, including:

- i. The time and place of the Resident Assembly's deliberation.
- ii. Issues or questions upon which the Resident Assembly must deliberate.
- iii. The procedures by which the Resident Assembly deliberates.
- iv. The length of term for members of the Resident Assembly.
- v. The method by which members of the Resident Assembly may be replaced.

Transition Provision