

EXHIBIT NO. 1

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3-13-10

~~23~~
~~3-9-10~~

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION to submit election reform matters to a citizen commission

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the City Council of Alexandria by ordinance, pursuant to Va. Code § 24.2-222.1 (1950 as amended), amended Section 2-2-1 of the Code of the City of Alexandria to provide for the election of the mayor and council members at the November general election date beginning in 2012.

Section 2. That it was the general sentiment of Council, as expressed by certain members of council that the agreed upon change in election dates would be succeeded by additional changes to be contemplated at a later date by Council.

Section 3. That in March, 2007, Mayor William D. Euille, at the direction of Council, appointed a bipartisan commission of Alexandria citizens [hereinafter referred to as "the Hobson Commission"] to examine possible election reform matters and bring forth recommendations on what changes, if any, to make to our system of electing local officials.

Section 4. That the Hobson Commission consisted exclusively of the following Alexandria residents: Richard Hobson, Becky Davies, Robert Calhoun, Christopher Campagna, Lynnwood Campbell, William Cleveland, Iris Henley, Anna Leider, and Joyce Woodson.

Section 5. That City Council undertook to place proposed charter amendments related to Alexandria's municipal elections in the City's 2010 legislative package to comprehensively effect change to the elections process but was unable to reach consensus by a supermajority as required by the City's state delegation.

Section 6. That Councilwoman Hughes has expressed concern that the issues regarding the City's elections are too politically charged and would be best left in the hands of the people to decide by referendum, a measure that she would put forward for Council consideration in 2010.

Section 7. That City Council hereby directs the Mayor to reactivate the Hobson Commission, comprised solely of previous Commission Members for the explicit task of fashioning further election reform matters to be later submitted to the voters of the City of Alexandria and that the same, as delineated in Section 8 of this resolution, will be binding upon the City Council.

Section 8. That City Council hereby directs the Hobson Commission to fashion proposals and language for referendum questions to be submitted to the voters of the City of Alexandria on the following matters: (1) whether Alexandria's next municipal election will be in November 2011 or November 2012; (2) whether the terms for City Council and Mayor shall be staggered or continue to be voted in a single block under our current system of election; and (3)

whether the terms of office for Mayor and Members of City Council shall be changed from three to four years.

Section 9. That the Hobson Commission shall have the authority to fashion additional referendum questions related to Alexandria's municipal election process that Council may adopt to be placed before the voters of the City.

Section 10. That the Hobson Commission shall solicit public input and comment before deciding on the language for the referendum questions to be placed before the voters of the City.

Section 12. That the Hobson Commission shall bring forward for ratification the referendum questions to be placed before the voters of the City during the June 22, 2010 legislative meeting of City Council.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Introduction: 3/9/2010
First Reading:
Publication:
Public Hearing:
Second Reading:
Final Passage

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Councilwoman Hughes
changes

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Section 7. That City Council hereby directs the Mayor to reactivate the Hobson Commission, comprised solely of previous Commission Members for the explicit task of fashioning further election reform matters to be later submitted to the voters of the City of Alexandria and that the same, as delineated in Section 8 of this resolution, *will be binding upon the City Council to accept and submit to corporation of court pursuant to the Charter of the City of Alexandria Section 3.13.*

Section 8. That City Council hereby directs the Hobson Commission to fashion proposals and language for referendum questions to be submitted to the voters of the City of Alexandria on the following matters: (1) whether Alexandria's next municipal election will be in November **2011** or November **2012**; (2) whether the terms for City Council and Mayor shall be staggered or continue to be voted in a single block under our current system of election; and (3)

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Section 10. That the Hobson Commission shall solicit public input and comment before deciding on the language for the referendum questions to be placed before the voters of the City.

Section 11. That the City Council, pursuant to Section 15.2-201 of the Code of Virginia, in November or December 2010 submit to one or members of the General Assembly representing Alexandria for introduction as a bill in the succeeding session of the General Assembly.

Section 12. That the Hobson Commission shall bring forward for ratification the referendum questions to be placed before the voters of the City during the June 22, 2010 legislative meeting of City Council.

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Relevant Law for Referendum and Charter Changes

Charter of the City of Alexandria Sec. 3.13

Submission of ordinances or issues to the qualified voters of the city.

The council shall have authority to submit by **resolution directed to the corporation court** of the City of Alexandria or the judge thereof in vacation, any proposed ordinance, question or issue to the qualified voters of the city for an **advisory referendum** thereon. Upon the receipt of such resolution, the corporation court of the City of Alexandria or the judge thereof in vacation shall order an **election to be held thereon not less than thirty nor more than sixty days after the receipt of such resolution**. The election shall be conducted and the result thereof ascertained and determined in the manner provided by the general law of the Commonwealth for the conduct of referendum elections, and by the regular election officials of the city.

Code of the City of Alexandria

Sec. 2-2-1 November election of mayor and councilmen.

The mayor and council shall be elected at the November general election date **every third year** beginning in 2012. The terms of office for those so elected shall commence on January 1 immediately following said election.

Va. Code

§ 15.2-201. Charter elections; subsequent procedure; procedure when bill not introduced or fails to pass in General Assembly

A locality may provide for holding an election to be conducted as provided in § 24.2-681 et seq. of Title 24.2 to determine if the voters of the locality desire that it request the General Assembly to grant to the locality a new charter or to amend its existing charter. At least ten days prior to the holding of such election, the text or an informative summary of the new charter or amendment desired shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality.

If a majority of the voters voting in such election vote in favor of such request, the locality shall transmit two certified copies of the results of such election together with the publisher's affidavit and the new charter or the amendments to the existing charter, to one or more members of the General Assembly representing such locality for introduction as a bill in the succeeding session of the General Assembly.

If a bill incorporating such charter or amendments is not introduced at the succeeding session of the General Assembly, the approval of the voters for such charter or amendments shall be void. If, at such session, members of the General Assembly fail to enact or pass by indefinitely and do not carry over such a bill incorporating such charter or amendments, the charter or amendments shall again be presented to the voters for their approval or submitted to a public hearing pursuant to § 15.2-202 before reintroduction in the General Assembly.

Va. Code

§ 15.2-202. Public hearing in lieu of election; procedure when bill not introduced or fails to pass in General Assembly

In lieu of the election provided for in § 15.2-201, a locality requesting the General Assembly to grant to it a new charter or to amend its existing charter may hold a public hearing with respect thereto, at which citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard to determine if the citizens of the locality desire that the locality request the General Assembly to grant to it a new charter, or to amend its existing charter. At least ten days' notice of the time and place of such hearing and the text or an informative summary of the new charter or amendment desired shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality. Such public hearing may be adjourned from time to time, and upon the completion thereof, the locality may request, in the manner provided in § 15.2-201, the General Assembly to grant the new charter or amend the existing charter and the provisions of § 15.2-201 shall be applicable thereto.

If a bill incorporating such charter or amendments is not introduced at the succeeding session of the General Assembly, the authority of the locality to request such charter or amendments by reason of such public hearing shall thereafter be void. If at such session members of the General Assembly fail to enact and do not carry over or pass by indefinitely a bill incorporating such charter or amendments, the charter or amendments may again be submitted to a public hearing in lieu of an election as provided hereinabove before reintroduction in the General Assembly.

The locality requesting a new or amended charter shall provide with such request a publisher's affidavit showing that the public hearing was advertised and a certified copy of the governing body's minutes showing the action taken at the advertised public hearing.

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