

**From:** [Charter City Toronto](#)  
**To:** [Ward 1 Office](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [Pearson, Maria](#); [Ferguson, Lloyd](#); [VanderBeek, Arlene](#); [Whitehead, Terry](#)  
**Cc:** [Ward 8 Office](#); [McRae, Angela](#)  
**Subject:** Governance Committee Review of Charter City Proposals  
**Date:** April 19, 2021 2:58:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Charter City Proposal.pdf](#)  
[Charter City Overview.pdf](#)

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Members of the Governance Review Sub-Committee  
City of Hamilton

Dear Members:

We at Charter City Toronto are grateful to the members of Hamilton City Council for referring our project to your committee for study. I'm writing today to offer assistance in your work in any way you may find useful. In particular, we stand ready to answer any questions you might have about our project and also to put you in touch with other experts in this field who you may wish to hear from.

If you heard my presentation at the General Issues Committee on April 7, you will know something of our proposals. In short, we believe the time is long past for cities to be fully and constitutionally recognized as a level of government in their own right and for cities to be given both the authority and the resources they need to do their every more complex job. We believe the negotiation and adoption of City Charters by Ontario's big cities is a mechanism that can pull together a lot of different strands in the process of empowering cities, giving them more coherent form and additional momentum.

Our group started as a Toronto organization in the wake of the cuts to Toronto council by the current provincial government in 2018. Through our work, we have come to understand that issues of provincial oversight and interference and the feeling that cities don't have the tools to succeed are not unique to our city. Indeed, many people in all large cities across Ontario aspire for their governments to exercise more autonomy, control more revenue sources and take on final decision-making authority across a spectrum of local jurisdictions.

For your convenience, I'm attaching to this e-mail the 2-page overview of our project that you will have received in your package for the April 14 full council meeting as well as as our full proposal. We stress that this proposal is intended to be a conversation-starter, not the final word on what a City Charter would look like, contain or achieve. Nor is it intended to suggest that a City Charter for any one Ontario city need be a carbon copy of another's. We hope it will get you thinking about the possibilities. There is a shorter and easier to digest form of our proposal online at [www.chartercitytoronto.ca/the-charter-city-proposal.html](http://www.chartercitytoronto.ca/the-charter-city-proposal.html)

I look forward to hearing from you anytime by return e-mail or at the phone number below.

Many thanks,

Doug Earl  
Charter City Toronto  
416 858 5531

cc: Angela MacRae, Legislative Coordinator; Tim Grant, Charter City Toronto; Hamilton City Councillor John Paul Danko