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TAB SECTION: A

X ACTION REQUIRED:

DATE OF MEETING: 1 /16/13

PREPARED BY: Murphy

DATE MATERIAL  
PREPARED: 1/03/13

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AGENDA ITEM: Review and Revise Charter Purpose, Objectives, and Functions

ENCLOSURES: *Draft Charter*

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**ISSUE:** The draft charter was reviewed at the October meeting and generally found to be non-representative of the purpose and functions of this group. It was determined that Advocacy covers a much broader swath than just Legislation and that suggestions for advocacy efforts could come from Planning Council members, or a public “hot line” or web link on the Planning Council website where people could submit their concerns.

While reviewing the draft charter, committee members should consider whether the committee purpose is broad enough to follow the mandates. It was suggested that this committee might more accurately be called the “Public Policy” Committee. Should we change the name and modify the charter from that perspective?

The January meeting objective is to clarify and finalize the draft charter so that it accurately reflects the aims of this committee. Additionally, objectives need to be articulated so that there is a framework for the group to plan its meetings and products around.

Considerations based on previous comments:

- Advocacy can extend to local levels as much as at the state legislative arena.
- Would we want to branch out into judicial advocacy? Legal constraints might preclude us from initiating actions, but we can partner with and support organizations that have legal counsel. A letter of support from the Council might be more visible to the court than to other bodies.
- Letters to editors and opinion pieces can also shape public policy and this group has defined parameters on how this should be done without creating conflict for the Council. Should this be included in the charter?

1) For matters that coincide with the timing of the quarterly meetings of the CMHPC and the Advocacy Committee, the Council should craft and send statements to the press and/or the media which accurately and fairly express the position(s) of the Council on the matters in question

2) For matters whose timing does not conveniently coincide with the quarterly meetings of the CMHPC and Advocacy Committee, the Council should be prepared to approach and appoint key individual member(s) of the Council who, with the help and guidance of the CMHPC Executive Officer, would carefully craft and send statements to the press and/or the media which incorporate important talking points, also prepared and approved by the Council, but would expressly state his/her position as his/her own, and not the position of the Council.