



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Melissa Charter Commission Appointed and Charter Development Underway

Melissa, TX – At their meeting held on October 12, 2010, the Melissa City Council approved a resolution declaring the population of the City to have surpassed the 5,000 mark which allows the City to pursue the declaration of Home Rule. As a result of this declaration on December 14, 2010, the City Council appointed a Charter Commission charged with developing the City of Melissa Charter to be placed on the ballot for Melissa residents to vote on this November. The Charter Commission is co-chaired by City Council member Dan Trott and Melissa resident and business owner Steve Rodriguez. The other members of the commission are: Julie Anderson, Kevin Blevins, Gina Cunningham, Steven Huth, Cindy Kasson, Omar Landrum, Eddie Malinowski, Betty Walthall, and Nicco Warren.

“It is an honor to serve on the Charter Commission,” stated Co-chairman Steve Rodriguez. “This Charter will be the foundation from which the City of Melissa will operate for many years to come. It will be the ‘Constitution’ of the City of Melissa. The Melissa City Council did a good job in selecting the members of this committee. The group is knowledgeable, hard working, and genuinely dedicated to the well being of our city. The future of the city is in good hands.”

The Charter for all practical purposes serves as a Municipal Constitution that is written and adopted by the citizens of the Home Rule city via an election. The Charter defines and limits the powers, duties and responsibility of local government based on local preferences and desires. It defines the form of local government and establishes organizational provisions. The Charter Commission determines the necessary controls over their city government such as elections, referendums, initiatives and recall, and definition of the procedures to amend the Charter. Essentially, the City Charter describes and defines local government based on local preferences and controls as opposed to general laws which have been written by the Texas legislature.

The Commission has met twice already and has already been very productive. Residents can follow the progress of the Charter Commission by visiting the City of Melissa Website and clicking on the button on the home page “Learn more about the City of Melissa Charter Commission”. This will take you to a special web page that allows residents to learn more about the Charter process and the differences between Home Rule and General Law.

All meeting agendas, approved minutes and working drafts of the Charter will be available for review on this site as well. Those that are interested can sign up for a new service called e-notify that will e-mail you anytime the Charter Webpage is updated. Visit http://www.cityofmelissa.com/charter_commission and click on the button to sign up today.

Charter Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at the Melissa City Hall at 7:00 p.m. about once a month. For upcoming meeting dates please check the City of Melissa Calendar of Events on the website at www.cityofmelissa.com. Additionally if anyone has any questions about the charter development process they can email the Charter Commission at charterchair@cityofmelissa.com.

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