

ORDINANCE NO.: 65-2014
INTRODUCED BY: Council, as required by Charter Art. XIV

**AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE
CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS THE QUESTION OF
AMENDING THE CHARTER, AT ARTICLE XV, BY ADDING
SECTION 8 TO REQUIRE THAT ALL REFERENCES TO
GENDER IN EVERY SECTION OF THE CHARTER AND IN ANY
LEGISLATION OR CODIFIED ORDINANCES SHALL
INCLUDE, AND BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN, BOTH
GENDERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee has recommended to place the issue of amending the Charter before the electorate in order to require that all references to officeholders and/or employees throughout the entire document shall be gender-neutral and include both male and female persons; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Article XIV, Council shall submit these proposed amendments to the electorate: and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution provides that the Council shall submit the amendments to the electors at the next regular municipal election that occurs not less than 60 or more than 120 days from the passage of such ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: There shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, at the regular places of voting in the City during the regular hours of voting on such date as prescribed by general law, the question of the amendment of the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, at Article XV – Miscellaneous Provisions- to add Section 8 – Gender Neutrality , so that, as amended it shall read in pertinent part as follows:

ARTICLE XV
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 8 GENDER NEUTRALITY

Whenever and wherever reference is made to the gender of persons in this Charter, the language shall be construed and interpreted to include both male and female genders, and all Legislation; Amendments to the Codified Ordinances or to this Charter shall contain gender neutral language.

Section 2: The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County be, and it is hereby, directed to provide for the voting upon said Amendments and the ballots for said election shall, at the top thereof, be entitled "Proposed Charter Amendment City of Richmond Heights: and the questions to be submitted on said ballot shall be substantially in the following words:

"Shall Article XV – Miscellaneous Provisions, be amended by adding Section 8 to require that all references to gender the charter be interpreted and construed to include both genders, and shall all Legislation and Amendments to the Codified Ordinances or to the Charter contain gender neutral language?"

Section 3: The Clerk of Council is directed to give notice of the above proposed Charter amendments to the electors of the City in accordance with general law, and to certify a copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, Ohio as provided by law.

Section 4: The Director of Finance is authorized and directed to appropriate from the general fund a sum sufficient to pay the cost of publishing said notice referred to in Section 3.

Section 5: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirement, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the City of Richmond Heights for the reason that is necessary to timely submit the proposed Charter Amendments to the Board of Elections for placement upon the ballot for the general election to be held on November 4, 2014, in compliance with the Ohio Constitution and the City Charter, and therefore, shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

Miesha W. Headen, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche,
President of Council