

# Cromwell Charter Revision Commission

## Draft Report

August 10, 2011

Town of Cromwell Board of Selectmen  
41 West Street  
Cromwell, CT 06114

Dear Mr. First Selectman and Board of Selectmen members:

Pursuant to C.G.S 7-191(b), please accept this, including the enclosed copy of the proposed amended Charter, as the Commission's "draft report" to the Board of Selectmen regarding the proposed amendment of the Charter. The enclosed was approved by the Charter Revision Commission at its meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Please note that the Commission's proposed revisions include the following significant points:

1. Establishes a Town Manager and Town Council form of government while preserving the role of the Board of Finance.
2. Continues the budget referendum process for adoption of the annual town budget.
3. Allows for special town meetings in limited circumstances only, supplemental appropriations, emergency appropriations and for approval of certain "special fund" i.e., the dog fund, sidewalk fund, sewer usage and sewer assessment accounts which are not funded with general tax revenues.
4. Provides that the Mayor and Council Members serve without compensation except that they are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred.
5. Eliminates the Police Commission and provides that the Chief of Police is appointed by and may be removed by the Town Manager, with the approval of the Town Council.
6. Removes "just cause" termination language for greater uniformity among department heads, officers and employees, but keeps "cause" requirement for the removal of members of Town boards and commissions.
7. Provides that the Town Manager appoints and may suspend or remove department heads and other officials with the approval of the Town Council, consistent with any collective bargaining agreement and with other laws.

8. Provides that the department heads shall appoint and may suspend or remove department employees with the approval of the Town Manager, consistent with collective bargaining agreements and other applicable laws.

9. Provides for a selection of a Town Manager by an RFQ and RFP process. The Council shall appoint an individual or entity it deems qualified, to perform a search for qualified candidates, which individual or entity shall have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the Town government or with any of its officers.

10. Directs the existing Board of Selectmen to commence the search for the Town Manager.

11. Allows the Mayor and Council Members to call special meetings of the Town Council.

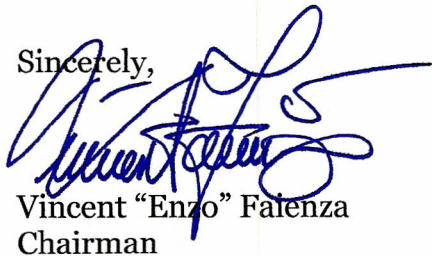
12. Increases the Council quorum requirement to five members but retains the requirement that four affirmative votes are required to pass an ordinance. Other resolutions and votes also require at least four votes for passage.

13. It provides for a Senior and Human Services Director.

14. It combines the functions of the town treasurer and finance director.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Commission we thank you for the opportunity to serve the town and present you with this Charter. The Commission has worked very hard and diligently to get this task completed.

Sincerely,



Vincent "Enzo" Falenza  
Chairman