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CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

October 6, 2010

Tampa Tribune Editorial Board
The Tampa Tribune
200 S. Parker St.
Tampa, FL 33606

Re: County Mayor Veto Referendum

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Hillsborough County Charter Review Board voted to ask me to write a letter in response to the September 23, 2010 editorial regarding the County Mayor Veto Referendum. The editorial states, "The real goal here is to handicap county mayor supporters, who would not only have to get enough signatures to put the county mayor plan before voters, but also enough to get the veto measure back on the ballot". That simply was not the case.

The Charter Review Board began discussion of the mayor veto provision after they were advised that the portion of the provision giving the mayor veto power over the budget was inconsistent with state law and most likely invalid. Some members expressed a concern about having a potentially invalid provision in the County Charter. Another reason expressed by Charter Review Board members to propose the repeal was that it was confusing to have a reference in the Charter to a county mayor although there is no county mayor. A further concern was that the mayor plan that was proposed in 2006, to which this veto power would have applied, was a nonpartisan mayor. The mayor plan that was proposed in 2010 was a partisan mayor. Some Charter Review Board members felt that voters may not want a partisan mayor to have such veto power. For all of these reasons, the Charter Review Board voted to place the referendum on the ballot so that the voters could decide whether or not to keep this provision in the County Charter.

Sincerely,

Mitchell L. Thrower III, Chairman, Hillsborough
County Charter Review Board

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County Mayor Veto Referendum Letter to Tampa Tribune EB.doc

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