



October 19, 2018

Madeira Beach Officials Host Second Charter Amendment Q & A Forum

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23rd, officials from the City of Madeira Beach will host a second Question and Answer Forum on proposed changes to the City Charter that will appear on the upcoming Midterm Election ballot. The event will take place at City Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach.

City Manager Jonathan Evans, City Clerk Clara VanBlargan, and City Attorney Ralf Brookes will review each one of the proposed amendments, explain their impact and answer questions from the audience. The proposed changes cover areas involving voting on development, powers of the City Manager, qualifications for the City Clerk and more.

A committee of citizen volunteers spent months hosting public meetings and reviewing the existing Charter. From those discussions, they proposed twenty-nine updates for the Charter to the Madeira Beach City Commission, which approved ten proposed amendments to be placed on the Nov. 6th ballot. Since City staff are prohibited by law from offering their opinion or lobbying in favor or against any of the proposed changes, their answers will focus on explaining the impact of a yes or no vote.

The Charter is a contract between the citizens and their government, which is sworn to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. It serves as the City's constitution and can only change by a vote of the people who exercise their right to vote. For the first time in 10-years this document and its provisions were reviewed, and amendments proposed. Charter amendments are passed by a plurality vote of the electorate, not a supermajority or over 60%, as is required for amending the state constitution.

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.