Transition to Cityhood

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• Get Organized
• Acquire State Boundary Commission (SBC) Authorization
• Potential Referendum and Elections
• Complete Charter for Proposed City
• Complete Election for Charter Endorsement
Get Organized

• Who will champion this effort?
• What are the differences?
• Why do you want to Become a City?
• Political Alternatives to City Status
Who is the Champion?

• Citizen Based
  – Advantages – Grassroots; Community Ownership
  – Disadvantages – Unfamiliar with Internal Operation of Government

• Council Based
  – Advantages -Familiar with Issues Causing Separation
  – Disadvantages – Public Perception of Politically Motivated Council
What are the Differences?

• Voted Charter vs. General Law Village Act
• One Set of Elected Officials
• One Taxing Assessing Entity
• Single Voting Entity
• City is Primary Form of Government
• City has all Operational Responsibilities — (i.e. Assessing, Elections, etc.)
Why Become a City

• Resolution of Issues – (i.e. Sharing of Road Millages)
• Political Control Disputes – (i.e. Who is in the Decision Making Position)
• Dedication (or Priority) of Township Resources to “Village” Needs – (i.e. Infrastructure Improvements)
• City Controls Local Millage Levies (i.e. No Township Taxes to Proposed City Residents)
• Other Issues
Political Alternatives to City Status

• Intergovernmental Agreements 0 (i.e. P.A. 425)
• Sharing of Resources (i.e. Group Purchasing)
• Forming of “Special” Authorities – (i.e. Recreation)
• Resolve Political Differences with Governing Bodies
• Economies Will Force Future Cooperation Between Governments Regardless of Status
Questions ?
Acquire SBC Authorization

The First Steps in gaining City Status is
- Identify the boundaries of the Proposed City – (i.e. Islands of land to be Incorporated into Proposed City; Squaring off boundaries, etc.)
- Sufficiency Approval by SBC
- Develop Petitions for all voters and land owners of Proposed City for support
- Wording of Petition must be Approved by the SBC
- Circulate Petitions to gather all required Signatures
- SBC Reviews Petitions; if warranted to proceed
- SBC holds Public Hearing in the Community on Transition Process
- SBC updates and/or agrees with Proposed City Boundaries
- SBC Oversees 45 Day Referendum Petitions Period
- SBC Reviews any Referendum Petitions to determine if election is warranted
- SBC Reviews Referendum Election Results and either Authorizes the Process to Move Forward or Rejects the Original Petitions for City Status

It is STRONGLY recommended to Obtain Professional Consul on this process to avoid any costly missed steps

A Public Education Program must be initiated and developed for this step and the entire process to gain support for the City Status transition.
Acquire SBC Authorization

1. Citizens Discussions Held
2. Circulate Petitions w/ Wording OK
3. Circulate Petitions
4. SBC Rules If Sufficient
5. SBC holds Public Hearing
6. SBC sets Boundaries
7. 45 Day Referendum Period
8. Referendum Election if Needed

If Yes Vote Process Moves Forward to Elect Charter Commission
Questions ?
Complete Charter for Proposed City

- Establish Charter Commission by Election
  - Petition Circulation of interested Citizens
  - Placement on Ballot
  - Election Completed
  - Elected Nine (9) member Charter Commission Commences

- Complete Charter
  - Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk
  - Identify Source of Funds for Support Costs
  - Review Existing Charters
  - Review P.A. (Public Act) for Charter Process
  - Consider Outside Consultant/Contract with Knowledge of Charter Process/Contents
  - Identify Basic Form of Government for Proposed City

- Charter Approved by the Governor through the Attorney General’s Office.
  - Need time to incorporate any revisions from the Attorney General’s Office and re-submit for Approval. This is usually a 90 Day cycle.
Key Charter Elements

- Required Contents
  - Item One
  - 2
  - 2

- There is a lot of latitude in what is included beyond the required contents. However, too much detail may restrict future needs of Proposed City

- Charter must be Approved by the Governor through the Attorney General’s Office before Election endorsement by the City
Questions ?
Complete Election for Charter Endorsement

- Hold Election of Charter
- Proposed City Council members election is also included
- Include all registered voters in the proposed city limits.
- Charter must pass within Two Years from SBC Authorization or the Process needs to Start Over Again.
- If Approved, File Charter with **Great Seal**
- Announcement of City Status
- City Operates from New Charter
Questions ?