

DRAFT

From: Albany Charter Review Committee

To: Albany City Council

Date: xx xxxx 2012

Re: Fees for copies of public records

Albany's Charter section 3.19 specifies the fee for copies of public records is 10 cents per page. Currently Albany's [administrative fee schedule](#) indicates a charge of \$2.25 per page for documents held on microfilm. In addition, there are charges specified for copies of various multipage documents. It is unclear if these charges equate to 10 cents per page. For example, the charge to receive a copy of an audit report is \$61.00, but it is doubtful that this report is consistently, or ever, 610 pages long.

Consequently the fees Albany charges for copies of some public records do not appear to accord with the provision in Charter section 3.19. The Charter Review Committee suggests three possible approaches in response to the information above.

1. Ignore the discrepancy between the Charter provision and the actual fee schedule.
2. Change the fee schedule to match the Charter provision.
3. Amend the Charter to remove the specification of the public record copy fee.

The Committee does not have a recommendation regarding which of these three approaches to pursue, but did move to inform the Council of this issue and provide these options. The main concern dividing the Committee in trying to settle on which option to recommend was the importance of this issue relative to the time and cost of taking action, particularly in comparison to other city issues, and the relative time and cost difference between the latter two options that would seem to resolve this issue.

Thank you for your attention.