



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

-1552-

Delegate Proposal No. 612

Date: July 10, 1995

It is proposed that a constitutional amendment be prepared that does the following:

Provides revised authority for the Municipal Councils as follows --

(1) Municipal Councils: Each municipality shall have a municipal council. (The current set-up of the Saipan and Northern Islands combined Municipal Council shall be retained.)

(2) Members: Each Municipal Council shall have three members, elected at large, for staggered terms of four years. The Schedule on Transitional Matters would take care of the first terms.

3 Compensation: The compensation of council members shall be set by the Council in a manner similar to the method set forth in Article II, Sec. 10.

4 Powers of the Municipal Councils: The Municipal Council shall exercise the legislative power of the municipality.

a) Ordinances: The Municipal Council shall have the authority to adopt ordinances dealing with local matters (dealing with only one municipality). The Municipal Council's power in this area is exclusive.

b) Local taxes and revenues: The Municipal Council shall have the authority to raise and appropriate revenues from local taxes. All revenues raised by a municipality shall remain within the municipality and shall not be subject to appropriation or reprogramming by the Commonwealth Legislature or the Governor.

c) Local licenses: The Municipal Councils shall have the authority to legislate concerning local licenses.

[Note: A municipality may license or tax in an area that is regulated or taxed by the Commonwealth government. An example would be a municipal licensing fee for jet skis.]

d) Override veto: The Municipal Council may override the veto of the Mayor.

e) Regulate local government: The Municipal Council shall have the authority to define the size and structure of local government, including the office of the Mayor. This power shall include the authority to determine what officers of the municipal government shall be elected, appointed, or hired and the appropriate process for each. This includes the authority to require that any and all department heads, members of boards and commissions, or such other officers, agents, and employees as the Municipal Council deems appropriate, shall be subject to confirmation by the Municipal Council.

f) Call public hearings: The Municipal Council may call public hearings for any legislative or public information purpose.

(5) Commonwealth Legislature: The authority of the legislative delegations to adopt local laws shall be abolished.

Submitted by: _____
Delegate DAVID L. BROWN

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AMENDED Art. I, Art. III, Art. II

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED NONE