

presented by Jerry Wolanin  
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## SECTION 4.21 THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide an assurance that prospective holders of this critical position have the highest standards of experience and qualifications.

### Current Version:

The Director of Finance. The Department of Finance shall be administered by a Director of Finance who shall be appointed by the Mayor

### Proposed Version:

The Director of Finance. The Department of Finance shall be administered by a Director of Finance, who shall either be licensed to practice as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Ohio or hold the designation of a Certified Government Financial Manager [CGFM] as awarded by the Association of Government Accountants, and shall be appointed by the Mayor.

### GFW Narrative:

Last summer, I had commented that I would like to see this charter provision strengthened. Apologetically, I must have been absent from the current session meeting where this provision may have been discussed/reviewed. I do strongly believe that this proposed revision be considered during our current term.

**I feel strongly** that the credentialing for this provision be strengthened based both upon my personal professional experience in which I had the opportunity to participate in the audit of the City of Cleveland as a young auditor with Ernst and Young, and based upon the past history of the City of Willoughby Hills.

Accounting requirements and rules for a **governmental entity vary significantly** from those for a **for profit enterprise**. Accordingly, I believe that those individuals holding this position should have **the requisite advanced skill set**.

Additionally, a CPA or CGFM designation should help provide additional assurance to our residents as to the character and competency of the designee as the licensing/issuing authority[ies] require continuing education, as well as their own standards of ethics.

I am sure all will agree that the Director of Finance position is among the most critical positions within the municipality and I would like to help assure our residents that the office is held by an individual who is appropriately qualified [e.g. an individual who would be familiar with bookkeeping or accounting but have no relevant governmental accounting experience].

Our current Director of Finance would not be adversely affected by this Charter change, provided he is to renew his status with the Ohio Accountancy Board after completing some required Continuing Education Requirements in addition to the remittance of licensing renewal fees.