

> ----- Original Message -----

> Subject: Southbridge Charter

> From: "Moore, Richard (SEN)" <Richard.Moore@state.ma.us>

> Date: Tue, July 27, 2010 7:39 am

> To: "msmanna@getinvolvedinyourtown.com"

> <msmanna@getinvolvedinyourtown.com>

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> Dear Monique:

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> In response to your recent email, Southbridge went through the Charter process established by home rule provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution, in 1974. The Southbridge Charter explicitly states that they have a "Town Council," and will be known as, "The Town of Southbridge." While the term "Council" is typically used for city forms of government as established by the General Laws, to be termed as a city, the word "council" in the charter must always be preceded by "city." However, the council still stands apart from the town meeting form of government, so Southbridge is in fact, legally speaking, a city. Also granting it a legal city status is the fact that its budgeting process is set out in statute. Southbridge is among 11 cities that still operate under the "town" moniker. Franklin and Watertown are other examples that operate under a city government, but are labeled as "town" in their Charter. I hope this information is helpful.

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> Senator Richard T. Moore