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**The Boston Globe**

# Candidates urge Turner to step down



Councilor Chuck Turner continues to insist on his innocence despite being convicted after a federal bribery investigation. The council has set a Dec. 1 hearing on his possible expulsion. (David L. Ryan/Globe Staff)

By **Matt Rocheleau**  
Globe Correspondent / November 5, 2010

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Both candidates vying to fill a vacant Boston City Council seat in a special election this month said they believe that Councilor Chuck Turner, who was convicted of accepting a \$1,000 bribe from an FBI informant, should resign.

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Photos: Chuck Turner through the years

If he does not quit, candidates Jim Hennigan and Matt O'Malley said, they would support his expulsion from the council in a meeting set for Dec. 1.

Sitting council members have not responded to questions about Turner's status.

Turner was convicted in federal court a week ago on four felony counts, one count of attempted extortion for allegedly accepting a bribe in 2007 and three counts of lying to the FBI, after a dramatic 13-day trial.

After Turner's 2008 arrest, the council adopted a rule requiring a hearing if a member is convicted of a felony related to his or her official duties. Any punishment resulting from the hearing requires a two-

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thirds vote, or nine members. The council rules do not specify, however, when the hearing must take place or what action the council can take.

In phone conversations Wednesday,

Hennigan and O'Malley said they feel that expelling Turner would be the best disciplinary action for the council, and each agreed with the timing of the meeting that could determine Turner's fate.

Turner, who represents District 7, has asked the council's president to postpone the meeting until after his Jan. 25 sentencing.

If Turner is sentenced to probation, he could complete his term, which runs through next year; if imprisoned, state law would force him out of office.

"I do feel that Councilor Turner should resign for the sake of his neighborhood, his community, and the council," Hennigan said, adding, "I would vote to remove Councilor Turner."

Hennigan, a 56-year-old insurance salesman, emphasized that Turner is "very dedicated to his community, neighborhood, and district . . . [but] it's at the point now where it's not about one person."

"This is a very serious event," he said. "And, it's a very serious offense."

O'Malley, a 31-year-old political consultant, said: "I think that Councilor Turner should resign from the post. He's been found guilty of very serious crimes that violated the public's trust."

He added, "Unless something unexpected happened at the [Dec. 1] hearing, I would vote to expel Councilor Turner. . . . I think it would be in the best interest of the city and District 7. . . . We must expect the best from our elected public officials. It would certainly be a tough vote, but that's part of the job."

Hennigan and O'Malley square off in a Nov. 16 special election for the District 6 City Council seat vacated by John Tobin, who resigned in July after nine years on the council to work for Northeastern University. District 6 spans West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and parts of Mission Hill and Roslindale.

Turner has asserted his innocence and has received support from constituents. He has said he will not appeal his criminal conviction, nor will he resign.

He continues to attend to his regular duties on the council, but has said he would not run for reelection in District 7, which includes Roxbury, Lower Roxbury, and parts of Fenway, the South End, and Dorchester.

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