February 1, 2006

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Residents of Merrimack:

It is with great pride and respect that the Merrimack Charter Commission formally conveys its Final Report and Charter to the Board of Selectmen as required by New Hampshire State Law. The Commission is pleased to report that the review conducted by the State Agencies as required by law contained no objections to the Charter. The Charter is ready in all respects for inclusion on the Town Warrant and for action by the voters of Merrimack.

The Charter was developed under the provisions of RSA 49-B, which "...provides a vehicle whereby a municipality may adopt a form of government that best addresses local needs." The culmination of the Commission's work has produced a Charter that provides a form of government that is Merrimack's own. The Charter provides for more openness and citizen access through the requirements for public notice and hearings, and the initiative and referendum processes. The Charter keeps spending in the hands of the voters through the continuation of the deliberative session and all-day ballot voting on appropriations. The governing board is changed from a Board of Selectmen with five members to a Town Council with seven members to increase representation and to meet the demands of modern government and the increase in the Town's population. Finally, the Charter gives more definition to the roles for administrators and elected officials.

The Commission thanks the Board and the Town administration for their cooperation and support. We especially wish to thank the residents for their commitment to this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____   _____   _____
Thomas J. Mahon   Heather Anderson   Fran L'Heureux
Chair   Vice Chair   Secretary

_____   _____   _____
Peter L. Batula   Robert Kelley   Finlay Rothhaus

_____   _____   _____
Timothy Tenhave   Lon S. Woods   David G. Yakuboff, Sr.