

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)
January 10, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.
County Office Building – Potomac River Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jim Michaels, Chair Dylan Presman (Virtual) Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal (Virtual) Marvin Lynch Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim Michael Persh Marcela Samuels (Virtual) CeCe Grant (Virtual)	Staff Present: Khandikile Sokoni, Office of the County Council Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council Amina Haleem, Office of the County Attorney (Virtual) Dale Tibbitts, Office of the County Executive
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Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:04 a.m.

I. Administrative Items

- a. Mr. Presman moved approval of the agenda, 2nd by Ms. Samuels, adopted unanimously.
- b. Mr. Presman moved approval of the December 2023 minutes 2nd by Mr. Naftal, adopted unanimously.

II. Study Group Discussion. Heard reports from the various study groups which reports were distributed along with the meeting materials:

- a. Group 1 – Term of Council President (Ms. Brett-Major and Mr. Lynch)
 - i. Two sections – term of Council President and term limits of Council President.
 - ii. Should the office of Council President be a separate office from Councilmember, directly elected by the voters?
 - iii. Subject identified by then Council President Glass as well as then Council Vice-President Friedson.
 - iv. Concern of creating conflict among the County Executive, County President, and County Councilmembers and that the Council President would no longer speak for the Council itself, but for the office of the Council President.
 - v. Discussed the possibility of a two-year term of the Council President’s Office.
- b. Group 2 – Staggered elections of Councilmembers (Mr. Persh and Ms. Grant)
 - i. If implemented, would start in 2026.
 - ii. Staggered every two years for four-year terms.
 1. One option is to have the election of only district members in one election cycle and the election of at-large members at the next election.
 2. Would need to determine which set only got a two-year term to begin the staggering of elections.

- iii. Elections would be held in presidential and gubernatorial election cycles, with a hope to not have a voter turnout problem in either.
 - iv. Need to look at implications regarding other jurisdictions that have staggered elections, as well as how public financing would work in the different election cycles.
 - c. Group 3 – Section 305 – How budgets are adopted and how revenue is raised? (Mr. Pressman and Mr. Persh)
 - i. Should the supermajority requirements for budget aspects be uniform?
 - ii. Supermajority would be 8 of 11 as a two-thirds majority would be two-thirds rounded up to the next whole number.
 - iii. Using a percentage instead of an exact number would allow for a two-thirds vote based on the number of sitting Councilmembers.
 - d. Group 4 – Changes to Section 215 – Appointments – Non-merit personnel (Mr. Persh, Mr. Nachtsheim, and Ms. Samuels). Reviewed the County Executive’s suggestion that the County Council be removed from the appointment process for non-merit appointments.
 - i. To address any timing concerns, should the Council have a quick time limit to approve or deny the appointment? If they do not act within that time frame the appointment is deemed final?
 - ii. There are about 60 positions that would be considered non-merit.
 - iii. County Council Executive Director, Marlene Michaelson, to address the Commission regarding this at the February meeting.
- III. **Discussion of Listening Sessions**
 - a. Carry out two listening sessions, one in-person and the other virtual.
 - b. Before holding listening sessions, the Commission will conduct straw votes (February 14) on the study group issues discussed today.
 - c. No Quorum required for the listening sessions.
- IV. Public comments received will be sent from Staff to the Commission via email.
- V. Mr. Naftal moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Persh

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:38 AM.