

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
February 12, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL ONLY (due to inclement weather) – OVER ZOOM
Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jim Michaels, Chair Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal Dylan Presman Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim Michael Persh Marvin Lynch	Staff Present: Christine Wellons, Office of the County Council Amina Haleem, Office of the County Attorney Dale Tibbits, Office of the County Executive Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council
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Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:03 a.m.

I. Administrative Items:

- a. Adopted the agenda with unanimous consent.
- b. Adopted minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting with unanimous consent.

II. Report on Outreach to Citizen Advisory Boards

- a. Chair Michaels reached out to all five Citizen Advisory Boards.
- b. Chair Michaels had a conference call on January 13, 2025 with two of the Citizen Advisory Boards:
 - i. Mid-County Citizen Advisory Board
 - ii. Upcounty Citizen Advisory Board
- c. The Mid County Citizen Advisory Board invited the Charter Review Commission to attend their March 20 meeting.

III. Funding the Office of the People’s Counsel

- a. Chair Michaels, on behalf of the President of Montgomery County Civic Federation, introduced a memorandum in support of funding and staffing the Office of the People’s Counsel.
- b. Chair Michales requested to see if any of the Charter Review Commissioners wanted to advocate for the Office of the People’s Counsel and offered for a County Executive representative to speak to the Commission on this topic.
- c. Chair Michaels also invited the County Executive to address the Commission at a future meeting regarding any topics he feels the Commission should study.

IV. Discussion of Special Taxing Districts

- a. Commissioner Persh proposed a charter amendment to add Special Taxing Districts to the Charter (Sec 317).
- b. Prince Georges and Anne Arundel County have this in their charters.
 - i. The sections in their charters identify how Special Taxing Districts are created, handled, how revenues are budgeted, as well as their limitations.

- c. Commissioner Persh summarized that the County would benefit from a provision that defines how the County procedurally handles Special Taxing Districts.
- d. Commissioners Denis and Nachtsheim questioned whether the amendment is needed since the County already has Special Taxing Districts.

V. Budget Reserves

- a. Commissioner Nachtsheim argued that placing a budget reserve requirement in the Charter would ensure that the County were protected with budget reserves, regardless of the administration in office.
- b. Commissioners Naftal and Persh, with staff input, will determine the appropriate Council and Executive Finance staff to discuss this issue in more depth at a future meeting.
- c. Commissioner Presman inquired if this is too political of a goal to include in the County Charter.

VI. Solicitation of Public Comments

- a. The Charter Review Commission will issue a press release soliciting comments and/or ideas for topics that the Commission should cover for its next report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.