

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.
6th Floor Hearing Room
Council Office Building

Commission Members Present:

Paul Bessel, Chair
Sharon Freeman
Wendy Cohen
Larry Lauer
Timothy Lighter
Randy McDonald
Angela Rey
Aryeh Shudofsky
Jonelle Williams

Commission Members Absent:

Joshua Lipsky
Ed Wisneski

Staff:

Bonnie Kirkland, Office of the County Executive
Ed Lattner, Office of the County Attorney
Marie Jean-Paul, County Council
Josh Hamlin, County Council

Guests:

Barbara Braswell
Sharon Cohen
Gail Weiss
Ann Hingston
Lisa Mandel-Trupp

Commission Chair Paul Bessel called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

I. Administrative matters

- A motion was made to change the agenda to reflect a long term strategy. The motion failed, 1-8. The agenda was adopted without amendment, 8-1.
- A motion was made to amend the minutes to the August 24, 2016 meeting to reference to the approval of the minutes “without objection” rather than as “unanimously approved.” The motion failed, 1-5. The minutes for the August 24, 2016 meeting were approved without amendment, 8-1.

Comments by any members of the public about anything within the jurisdiction of the CRC:

The following persons addressed the CRC about the proposed Charter amendment imposing term limits on Councilmembers and the County Executive:

- Sharon Cohen
- Gail Weiss

II. Discussion and vote on possible CRC recommendation on the proposed Charter amendment imposing term limits:

A letter to the Council drafted by Chair Paul Bessel and member Larry Lauer, in response to Councilmembers’ request for CRC input on the term limits issue, was presented for consideration.

- A motion was made to not respond at all to the Councilmembers' request. The motion failed, 1-8.
- A motion was made to approve the draft letter from the CRC declining to take a position on the matter and explaining the reasons for the CRC decision. The motion failed 4-5.
- A motion was made to provide a more succinct response, limited to declining to take a position because the question is on the ballot and will be decided by the voters. The motion passed, 6-1.
- A motion was made to respond with a letter consisting of only the first three paragraphs of the draft letter was made and withdrawn without a vote after discussion.

Staff will draft and circulate a very succinct response to the County Council to be considered at the October meeting.

III. Other Business

IV. Next Meeting

- A motion was made to reschedule the next CRC meeting to October 26, 2016, due to the fact that October 12 is Yom Kippur. The motion failed 1-7.
- A motion was made to reschedule the next CRC meeting to October 5, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

