

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**5th Floor Conference Room**  
**Council Office Building**

**Commission Members Present:**

Paul Bessel, Chair  
Wendy Cohen  
Sharon Freeman  
Larry Lauer  
Joshua Lipsky  
Randy McDonald  
Aryeh Shudofsky  
Jonelle Williams  
Ed Wisneski

**Staff:**

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

**Guest:**

Barbara Braswell

**Commission Members Absent:**

Timothy Lighter  
Angela Rey

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

**I. Administrative items:**

- The agenda was adopted without objection.
- The minutes for the February 8, 2017 meeting were approved without objection.

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

None.

**III. Discussion on whether to recommend that Councilmembers should be considered part-time for the purpose of compensation.**

Commissioners revisited the issue of whether to recommend an amendment to Section 107, which provides, in part, that “Membership on the Council shall be considered a full-time position for the purpose of determining compensation.” Section 107 was amended to include the above language in 2006, upon recommendation by the CRC in its 2006 Report. Commissioners considered the findings in the 2006 CRC Report, as well as the most recent (2013) report of the “Compensation Study Committee,” which included recommendations on salaries for Councilmembers, as well as the Executive, State’s Attorney and Sheriff. Both reports described the duties of Councilmembers, and concluded that performance of these duties required at least as much time as full-time employment.

**Action:** The CRC voted 7-1 (one member abstained) against recommending an amendment to Section 107 to provide that membership on the Council shall be considered a part-time position for the purpose of determining compensation.

**IV. Reports from Research Groups:**

- a) **Financial**
- b) **Government Structure**
- c) **Personnel**

None.

**V. Other business:**

The CRC discussed but did not take action on:

- (a) an idea to include in the Charter a provision for openness for all county meetings to supplement the Maryland Open Meetings Act;
- (b) the Charter provision requiring 9 votes (even if there are not 9 members of the Council at a particular time) to override the Charter's cap on raising property taxes; and
- (c) Council redistricting procedures, which will be more fully discussed at the April meeting.

**VI. Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.