

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.
5th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff:

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

Guest:

Barbara Braswell

Commission Members Absent:

Angela Rey
Ed Wisneski

Commission Chair Paul M. Bessel called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

I. Administrative items:

- The agenda was adopted without objection.
- The minutes for the April 19, 2017 meeting were approved without objection.

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

None.

III. Continuation of discussion on possible amendments to

- 1) the composition of the Council under Section 102, Composition and Election;
- 2) the Council districts under Section 103, Council Districts; and
- 3) the manner in which members of the Redistricting Commission are selected under Section 104, Redistricting Procedure.

Commissioners discussed different models for the composition of the Council, including all district (no at-large) membership, fewer at-large members than currently, and all district members elected by countywide vote. Staff was asked to write one or more suggestions for changes in the Council structure and in the composition of the Redistricting Commission.

A group of commissioners agreed that to research and produce an annotated bibliography of books and articles on the subject of redistricting, so the CRC members and the public can have as much information on this topic as possible.

The members of this group are: Paul M. Bessel, Sharon Freeman, Wendy Cohen, Larry Lauer, and Jonelle Williams.

Commissioners discussed holding a public hearing specifically focused on Council composition and Redistricting Commission composition issues. Staff will identify available dates for a public hearing in September 2017.

IV. Reports from Research Groups:

a) **Financial**

b) **Government Structure**

c) **Personnel**

None.

V. Other business:

The Chair announced that there is a vacancy on the CRC – a person identified by the Council Executive. The Chair has contacted the staff person from the County Executive's office who handles such matters to request that a replacement be appointed to the CRC as soon as possible.

Because of renovation in the Council Office Building, the June 14 meeting will be held in the 6th floor conference room.

VI. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.