

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.
4th Floor Capital Crescent Conference Room
Council Office Building

Minutes

<p>Commission Members Present: George Margolies, Chair Christopher Danley Katherine Gugulis David Hill Larry Lauer Perry Paylor Ronald Stubblefield Nichole Thomas Courtney Walker Susan Miles</p> <p>Commission Members Not Present: Laura Goddeeris, Vice Chair</p>	<p>Staff Present: Ed Lattner, Office of the County Attorney Christine Wellons, Office of the County Council</p>
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Commission Chair George Margolies called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks

Mr. Margolies acknowledged the presence of a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection. The minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting were adopted without objection.

II. Discussion about Council Size and Composition

The Commission discussed law review articles and other academic articles regarding the composition of local legislative bodies. The articles included:

1. Gerald Benjamin, AT-LARGE ELECTIONS IN N.Y.S. CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE CHALLENGE OF GROWING POPULATION DIVERSITY, 5 Alb. Gov't L. Rev. 733 (2012).
2. Jeffrey C. O'Neill, EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE COUNTED DOES NOT NECESSARILY COUNT: THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE CHOICE OF A VOTING SYSTEM, 2006 Mich. St. L. Rev. 327 (2006).
3. Scott Hofer, Cong Huang, and Richard Murray, THE TRADE OFFS BETWEEN AT-LARGE AND SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS, University of Houston, Hobby School of Public Affairs (October 2018).

4. Michael Hankinson and Asya Magazinnik, HOW ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS SHAPE THE EFFICIENCY AND EQUITY OF DISTRIBUTIVE POLICY, (September 17, 2019).
5. Samuel Stone and Justin Tucker, VARIATION IN STRUCTURAL HOME RULE: EVIDENCE FROM CALIFORNIA CITY COUNCILS, UC Berkeley, California Journal of Politics and Policy, 8(4) (2016).
6. Carolyn Abott and Asya Magazinnik, THE DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT OF SINGLE-MEMBER AND AT-LARGE VOTING DISTRICTS ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY: NEW TESTS AND EVIDENCE, CSAP Annual American Politics Conference at Yale University (May 29, 2017).

The Commission also discussed comparative data regarding the number of at-large and district members on the councils of other jurisdictions locally and throughout the country, some of which were compiled and provided by Dr. Nichole Thomas.

III. Discussion about Public Forums

The Commission discussed its plans to hold the following “Listening Sessions” to hear from the public regarding views on Council size and composition.

1. Bethesda: Sunday, January 26, 2020, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, Conference Room West-A, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda
2. Burtonsville: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Marilyn J. Praisner Branch Library, Medium Room #2, 14910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville
3. Olney: Saturday, February 22, 2020, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Olney Community Library, Medium Room #2, 3500 Olney-Laytonsville Road, Olney
4. Rockville: Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Council Office Building, 3rd Floor Hearing Room, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville
5. Germantown: Monday, March 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Upcounty Regional Services Center, Conference Room A, 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown

IV. Conclusion

The Chair stated that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020. The topic of the meeting will be redistricting procedures under Charter Section 104, and their implication for placing a question on the 2020 ballot vs the 2022 ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.