

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**Remote - Microsoft Teams Meeting**  
**Minutes**

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| <b>Commission Members Present:</b><br>George Margolies, Chair<br>Laura Goddeeris, Vice Chair<br>Perry Paylor<br>Christopher Danley<br>Katherine Gugulis<br>David Hill<br>Larry Lauer<br>Ronald Stubblefield<br>Susan Miles | <b>Staff Present:</b><br>Ed Lattner, Office of the County Attorney<br>Christine Wellons, Office of the<br>County Council<br>Marie Jean-Paul, Office of the County<br>Council<br>Amanda Mihill, Office of the County Council |
| <b>Commission Members Not Present:</b><br>Nichole Thomas<br>Courtney Walker  |   |

Commission Chair George Margolies called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**I.      Opening Remarks**

Mr. Margolies acknowledged the presence of a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection. The minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting were adopted without objection.

**II.     Motions - Proposed Amendments Re: Council Size and Composition**

Mr. Margolies invited motions regarding proposed amendments to Council size and composition (currently 4 at-large and 5 district members) for inclusion in the Commission's 2020 report.

Ms. Gugulis moved to recommend that the Council be composed of 9 district members. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion. Mr. Hill moved to recommend no changes to the Council's size and composition. Mr. Paylor seconded the motion.

The Commission members discussed the motions on the table. Regarding the proposal for 9 district Council members, Commission members made the following points:

- During public listening sessions, many community members expressed that they feel under-represented by current Council structure;
- The County has experienced exponential population growth over the last decade, and the Council structure should be updated to reflect this growth;

- The option to move to a 9 district member Council should be put on the ballot for the voters to decide;
- A majority of benefits flow to one region of the County (“downcounty”), and this imbalance could be corrected by having 9 districts; and
- Other jurisdictions, including Howard County, have district members only.

Regarding the proposal that no changes be made to the Council’s size and composition, Commission members made the following points:

- Recently elected at-large members should be given the opportunity to do their jobs;
- It is important to have at-large members to bring a Countywide perspective to issues before the Council;
- Prince George’s County determined that its district-only membership led to parochialism and recently switched to a mix of at-large and district members; Frederick County also has adopted a mix of at-large and district members;
- Voters currently get to vote for majority of the County Council; with 9 district seats and zero at-large, a voter would have only one member on the council; and
- The size of the district won’t necessarily make the constituents better served; the constituents would be served by additional staff assigned to Councilmembers.

The Commission voted against the motion to recommend 9 district members. Voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Gugulis, Mr. Lauer, Mr. Danley, and Ms. Miles. Voting against the motion were Mr. Margolies, Ms. Goddeeris, Mr. Hill, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Stubblefield. Ms. Walker and Ms. Thomas were absent.

The Commission voted in favor of the motion to recommend no changes to the existing Council size and structure. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Margolies, Ms. Goddeeris, Mr. Hill, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Stubblefield. Voting against the motion were Ms. Gugulis, Mr. Lauer, Mr. Danley, and Ms. Miles. Ms. Walker and Ms. Thomas were absent.

Mr. Margolies stated that he would draft the Commission’s report to the Council. He stated that he would circulate a draft within approximately 10 days and invite edits. Mr. Lauer agreed to draft a minority statement to append to the report.

### **III. Conclusion**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.