

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.
Remote/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

<p>Commission Members Present: George Margolies, Chair Laura Goddeeris, Vice Chair Christopher Danley Katherine Gugulis David Hill Larry Lauer Perry Paylor Ronald Stubblefield Nichole Thomas Susan Miles</p> <p>Commission Members Not Present: Courtney Walker</p>	<p>Staff Present: Ed Lattner, Office of the County Attorney Christine Wellons, Office of the County Council Marie Jean-Paul, Office of the County Council</p>
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Commission Chair George Margolies called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks

Mr. Margolies acknowledged the presence of a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection. The minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting were adopted with a correction.

II. Discussion of Additional Items for Study

Members discussed the following additional items for potential study:

- Removal of Councilmembers or the County Executive by voter recall (suggested by Mr. Danley);
- Requiring the Council to hold a public hearing before placing an item on the ballot by resolution (suggested by Mr. Lauer); and
- Clarification under Section 513 of what happens when two ballot questions cancel each other out (suggested by Ms. Goddeeris).

III. Identification of Topics for Study

Members determined by consensus to study:

1. Clarification under Section 513 of what happens when two ballot questions approved by the voters are irreconcilable;
2. Lengthening the residency requirement, and increasing the age requirement, for the County Executive;
3. Grounds for removal of County Executive; and
4. Voter recall of Councilmembers or the County Executive.

Members also discussed that they would revisit the list of topics after the November 3rd election. Mr. Hill mentioned the possible addition of the topic of electing the Council President.

Ms. Gugulis suggested that Section 111 should be amended to require 90 days advance public notice of legislation. Mr. Paylor, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Margolies did not agree that the item should be studied, although Mr. Hill stated that he would support looking into the time period for public comment regarding potential Charter amendments. Mr. Danley and Ms. Goddeeris supported looking at the issue of public notice for legislation and Charter amendments. There was no consensus on adding the topic to the list.

Mr. Margolies stated that at the next meeting, the Commission will reiterate the four selected topics, see if any topics need to be added, and tackle a work plan about how to address the topics.

Mr. Margolies informed the Commission that the Council is advertising for positions on the Redistricting Commission, with an application due date of October 26. Mr. Margolies also noted that Baltimore City will vote on whether to create a Charter Review Commission for the City.

The next meeting will be on November 18 at 8 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.