

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.
Remote/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

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| <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</p> <p>Commission Member Not Present: Susan Miles (technical difficulties joining the meeting)</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 8:06 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks

Mr. Margolies acknowledged the presence of a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection. The minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting were adopted without objection.

Mr. Margolies reminded members that the Council is seeking applicants to fill the vacancy on the Commission.

II. Review of Charter Amendments Adopted on November 3, 2020, with Effective Dates

The members reviewed Question A of the 2020 general election, which amended Section 305 of the Charter. The amendments to Section 305 will take effect on December 3, 2020.

The members reviewed Question C, regarding the composition of the Council. The amendments take effect on December 3, 2020. However, per Section 513, “Any amendment to this Charter that increases or decreases the number of members of the County Council, or alters the provisions for election of the members of the Council, shall initially apply to the members of the Council elected at the next election after the adoption of the Charter amendment.” Therefore, the altered Council structure will apply beginning in the 2022.

III. Discussion of Work Plan and Topics

The Commission members reviewed the following topics, which they had agreed by consensus to study.

1. Clarification of what happens when two ballot questions approved by the voters are irreconcilable (Section 513);
2. Lengthening the residency requirement, and increasing the age requirement, for the County Executive (Section 203);
3. Grounds for removal of County Executive (Section 206); and
4. Voter recall of Councilmembers or the County Executive (new section(s); or revisions to Sections 118 and 206).

Mr. Hill asked whether the topic of an elected Council President should be added to the list of topics. Mr. Lauer suggested that the topic should be considered by the next Commission. Mr. Margolies noted that the 2014 Commission report addressed the topic in depth, and he asked staff to provide supplemental information prior to the next Commission meeting.

The members considered whether to study residency requirements for at-large Councilmembers, but determined by consensus that it would be premature to consider the topic, given that the Council composition will change in 2022.

Mr. Lattner noted that a Charter amendment providing for the recall of elected officials within the County likely would be unconstitutional under Maryland Constitution, Article XVI (Quadrennial Elections).

Members determined to take up topics of study as a committee of the whole. The first topic for consideration will be the issue of irreconcilable Charter amendments.

IV. Conclusion

Mr. Margolies reminded Members that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Additional information can be found on the official CRC website at
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/crc/>