

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)
October 11, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.
County Office Building – Potomac River Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Minutes

<p>Commission Members Present: Jim Michaels, Chair Karen Cordry, Vice-Chair Dylan Presman Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal (Virtual) Marvin Lynch Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim Michael Persh Marcela Samuels</p> <p>Commission Members Absent: Cece Grant (Attempted to attend virtually)</p>	<p>Staff Present: Khandikile Sokoni, Office of the County Council Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council Erin Ashbarry, Office of the County Attorney Dale Tibbitts, Office of the County Executive</p>
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Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:05 a.m.

1. Heard remarks by Council President Glass:
 - a. It is important to keep an open discussion and working relationship with the County Council.
 - b. Potential Charter issues relevant to the County Council:
 - i. Should the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) be more integrated with Council functions and executive director leadership?
 1. Mr. Presman raised the concern should OLO and Office of Management and Budget functions be separate so that they are not influenced by the Legislative or Executive branches?
 - ii. Issues regarding the budget process and revenue generation. How does the County go about generating more revenue?
 - iii. Previous requests from Councilmembers:
 1. Direct vote of Council President for 4-year term instead of County Council appointing on a yearly basis.
 - a. This issue was never officially voted on by the County Council.
 - b. Council President Glass noted that it would allow for some continuity year-to-year regarding the functioning of the office, but he did not recommend strengthening the powers of the President.
 2. Adding two districts to the Council (adopted).
 3. Changing the at large makeup – have residency requirements for the at large members (defeated).
 - c. Vice-Chair Cordry brought up the example of the Office of People’s Counsel existing but not being funded.

- i. Council President Glass strongly cautioned the CRC from weighing in on policy topics.
 - ii. Council President Glass defined policy topics as anything you would see in the budget and/or legislative debate.
 - d. Chair Michaels asked if the CRC should look at the conflicting ballot measures debate which was brought up and rejected last time.
 - i. Council President Glass believes that the better issue to focus on is the threshold for an amendment to get onto the ballot.
 - ii. This threshold is part of the Maryland State Constitution so a change would likely have to first happen at the State level.
- 2. Approval of Agenda – motioned by Mr. Persh
- 3. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2023
 - a. Mr. Lynch requested a change in point 3A – changing the word “abides” to “derives.”
 - b. This change was approved unanimously.
- 4. Potential Charter issues for the CRC to deliberate.
 - a. Chair Michaels – Should the Council President be selected by direct election or appointed by the Council?
 - b. Mr. Lynch – Look into the process regarding how the Council determines its salary and if this should still be the process.
 - c. Mr. Persh – Should the voting requirements to approve budget levels remain as they currently are?
 - d. Ms. Samuels – Look into the rate of taxation within the County.
 - e. Vice-Chair Cordry – Funding of the Office of the People’s Counsel.
 - f. Mr. Nachtsheim – Wants to look at the permissions the Charter gives the County Executive regarding property taxes.
 - g. Mr. Naftal – Look at Section 310, Surplus of Reserve Fund. Does the Charter require the County to operate with sufficient reserve funds? (Jeff Natal)

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Presman, seconded by Vice-Chair Cordry.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM