

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)**  
**December 13, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**County Office Building – Potomac River Conference Room**  
**100 Maryland Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Rockville, MD 20850**

**Minutes**

<b>Commission Members Present:</b> Jim Michaels, Chair Dylan Presman <b>(Virtual)</b> Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal <b>(Virtual)</b> Marvin Lynch Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim <b>(Virtual)</b> Michael Persh Marcela Samuels <b>(Virtual)</b> CeCe Grant <b>(Virtual)</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b> Khandikile Sokoni, Office of the County Council Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council Erin Ashbarry, Office of the County Attorney Amina Haleem, Office of the County Attorney Dale Tibbitts, Office of the County Executive  <b>Guest Present:</b> Mark Elrich, County Executive
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**Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:00 a.m.**

1. In memoriam remarks regarding the passing of Vice-Chair Karen Cordry by Chair Michaels.
2. Administrative Matters
  - a. Approved Agenda – Motioned by Mr. Presman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Persh
  - b. Minutes – Adopted as revised.
3. Office of the People’s Counsel
  - a. Ms. Brett-Taylor suggests deferring the People’s Counsel until after the State has decided on a current bill regarding a similar issue.
4. County Executive Elrich addressed the Commission on the following issues that he proposes the Charter Review Commission review:
  - a. Adjusting the charter so that Executive appointees below the level of department head and deputies will not need to be confirmed by the Council.
  - b. Term limits for the County Executive continue to match with the County Council.
    - i. Having a two-term limit makes you a lame duck in your second term.
    - ii. The Charter Review Commission should oppose the citizen amendment petition.
  - c. Mixed views on the direct election of the County Council President
    - i. Powers of the Council President may not be compelling enough beyond title and agenda setting to require a direct election.
  - d. The downside of having staggered terms for Councilmembers is that there would be significantly less turnout in years that the County Executive was not up for election.
5. Study Group reports
  - a. Direct election of Council President – Ms. Brett-Taylor and Mr. Lynch
    - i. By the next meeting, have fully drafted direct questions for the entire Commission to discuss.

- ii. Added comments from the County Executive will supplement the discussion before the next meeting.
  - b. Council Election and Structure Issues – Ms. Grant and Mr. Persh
    - i. If the CRC decides to recommend staggered elections; how would the numbers look for each election.
      - 1. District – Gubernatorial Elections
      - 2. At-Large – Presidential Elections
    - ii. Will share data and more concrete research prior to the January meeting.
  - c. Requirements related to Section 305 of the Charter – Budget Issues - Mr. Presman and Mr. Persh.
    - i. Currently in fact-finding stage
    - ii. County Executive comments will be taken into consideration for the study group report which is targeted to be ready by the January meeting.
  - d. Reports should be distributed to the members (if ready) by the Friday (January 5, 2024) prior to the next meeting.
- 6. Listening sessions
  - a. One daytime and one evening if possible.
  - b. One at the County Council office and one at another County building if possible.
  - c. Circulate through Press releases and other channels (Ms. Grant) as possible to enhance possible turnout.
- 7. Whether to add looking at section 215 – County Executive Appointments – to the study groups for the first CRC session.
  - a. Mr. Persh, Mr. Nachtsheim, Ms. Samuels.
  - b. Mr. Tibbitts to provide a full list to the CRC for review.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM – Motioned by Mr. Lynch – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Persh.**