

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2013**  
**6th Floor Conference Room**  
**Council Office Building**

**Commission Members Present:**

Mark Feinroth, Vice-Chair  
Jerry Cave  
Barry Cohen  
Diane Nash Dillon  
Wendell Holloway  
Guled Kassim  
Thomas King  
Albert Pearce  
Shawn Sullivan

**Staff:**

Marc Hansen, County Attorney  
Marie Jean-Paul, County Council Staff  
Amanda Mihill, County Council Staff

**Commission Members Absent**

Molly Mahoney Matthews, Chair  
Cherri Branson

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Commission Vice-Chair Mark Feinroth called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission approved the minutes of the January meeting, with a typographical correction on page 2. Motion made by Jerry Cave and seconded by Guled Kassim. The minutes were approved unanimously among those present.

**II. Open Discussion of Issues**

Diversity on the Commission

Commission member Jerry Cave presented a proposal to increase geographic diversity on the Commission. A copy of Mr. Cave's proposal will be attached to these minutes. Mr. Cave made a motion to recommend to the County Council:

*The goal for the composition of members of the Montgomery County Charter Commission will be to have 10 members coming from 10 different districts in the county. Dividing each of the 5 County school districts in half will create the 10 districts that are geographically compact. The county can take 10 years to reach this preferred not mandatory goal. The Charter Commission President can come from any of the 10 districts.*

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commission member Thomas King made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cave, to recommend to the County Council:

*The goal for the composition of members of the Montgomery County Charter Commission will be to have 10 members coming from 10 different districts in the county. One way would be to divide each of the 5 County school districts in half will create the 10 districts that are geographically compact. The county can take 10 years to reach this preferred not mandatory goal. The Charter Commission President can come from any of the 10 districts.*

Commissioners expressed concerns with the proposal and questioned how the appointment process could be coordinated between the County Executive and County Council to fulfill the diversity goal. Commission members agreed to invite the staff members in the Executive's Office and at the Council responsible for coordinating appointments to boards, committees, and commissions to understand how the process works and whether this proposal is implementable.

Commission members agreed that geographic diversity on the Commission is a worthy goal, but were concerned about the practical effects of Commission election districts. The Commission agreed to form a subcommittee to review this issue, including Charter §509, which establishes the Commission. Subcommittee members include Cheri Branson, Jerry Cave, and Mark Feinroth. Commission members asked Mr. Cave to speak with the County staff responsible for the appointments process, Connie Latham and Linda Lauer.

#### Safety in Schools

Mr. Cave asked the Commission to defer discussion of this item until the next meeting. County Attorney Marc Hansen reminded Commission members that it is inappropriate to legislate through the Charter and that the state has preempted the field of education and limited the County's authority in this area.

#### Council President Term

Commission members agreed to form a subcommittee to study this issue further. Subcommittee members include Barry Cohen, Thomas King, Guled Kassim, and Shawn Sullivan.

#### Executive Term Limits

Commission member Guled Kassim raised the issue of term limits for the County Executive. Commission members agreed to add this issue to the list for further discussion and agreed to form a subcommittee to look at this further. Subcommittee members include Guled Kassim, Mark Feinroth, and Diane Dillon.

### **III. Administrative Items**

Commission members agreed to meet on April 10.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

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