

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 12, 2012
6th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff:

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

Commission Chair Molly Mahoney Matthews called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Chair Matthews welcomed the Commission's newest members, Jerry Cave and Barry Cohen.

I. Report from Disability Hiring Subcommittee/Discussion

The subcommittee researching the issue of a special hiring authority for people with disabilities updated the Commission on their progress and conclusions. Subcommittee members looked at other jurisdictions and research groups in an effort to understand the costs and benefits of a special hiring authority. Members discovered that while there was some related information at the state and federal level, there was not a lot of research at the local level. The information regarding the federal program indicated that costs of the program were off-set in other ways.

Commission members discussed 3 possible positions that the Commission could take: against a special hiring authority, unqualified support for a special hiring authority, or qualified support with an emphasis on the necessity to careful budgeting and data tracking. The subcommittee will provide written comments for the Commission's review at the October meeting.

II. Open Discussion of Issues

Removal of Councilmembers

Commission members agreed to form a subcommittee to study further the issue of whether the charter should be amended to provide for the removal of a Councilmember for a serious ethics violation. Members of the subcommittee are Barry Cohen, Mark Feinroth, and Guled Kassim.

Popular Election of Council President

Commission members discussed the issue of whether the Council President should be popularly elected to a 4 year term and agreed not to study the issue further.

III. Administrative Items

The Commission approved the minutes of the May 9 meeting. Motion made by Mark Feinroth and seconded by Diane Dillon. The minutes were approved unanimously among those present.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.