

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 14, 2008 – 8:00 a.m.
6th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building

Commission Members Present:

Nancy Soreng, Chair
Alice Gresham Bullock, Vice-Chair
Michael Cogan
Karen Czapanskiy
Wilbur Friedman
Mollie Habermeier
Robert Shoenberg
Judith Vandegriff
Anne Marie Vassallo
Charles Wolff

Staff:

Justina Ferber, County Council Staff
Marie Jean-Paul, County Council Staff
Marc Hansen, County Attorney's Office
Amanda Mihill, County Council Staff

Commission Chair Nancy Soreng called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

I. Administrative Items

Approved the minutes from the April 9 Commission meeting. Motion made by Anne Marie Vassallo and seconded by Wilbur Friedman. Those in favor: Karen Czapanskiy, Wilbur Friedman, Mollie Habermeier, Robert Schoenberg, Nancy Soreng, Judith Vandegriff, Anne Marie Vassallo, Charles Wolff.

II. Discussion of workplan for May 1, 2010 report

The Commission discussed the workplan as drafted by Chair Soreng and generally supported this plan. A copy of the workplan will be made part of the meeting minutes. Commission members had the following additional comments regarding the workplan.

- The Commission generally agreed to hold a public hearing on Charter issues before the Commission on October 6 and hold the October Commission meeting on October 15. Commission members requested that the news release advertising the public hearing suggest that in addition to focusing on two issues – special taxing districts and the appointment process of the Inspector General – the Commission would take testimony from speakers about other Charter-related issues. Additionally, Commission members generally requested that speakers bring copies of written testimony.
- Regarding the issue of special taxing districts, Commission members generally discussed that there were no outstanding issues for the subcommittee to research,

- but members generally agreed to send a letter to municipalities and Councilmembers requesting comments and/or meetings for the September 10, 2008 meeting. Some Commission members requested information related to whether there have been instances in which communities requested that a special taxing district be created, but the Council rejected the creation of a district.
- Regarding the outstanding issues related to the Inspector General, Commission members discussed that in addition to the questions posed in the 2008 Report, potential follow-up research questions could include:
 - whether to set up additional interviews;
 - information regarding other Inspectors General offices, particularly offices in County and municipal governments;
 - how the way an office receives funding can relate to the independence of an office, possibly seeking input from the County Inspector General;
 - how the Inspector General's access to documents in state agencies (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Park and Planning, Montgomery County Public Schools) would be affected if the appointment process was changed.

The Commission confirmed that their next meeting would be September 10, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.