

Charter Review Commission

Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Webex

July 10, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Charter Review Commission Members Participating in Webex Meeting Present: Richard Butler, Judith Center, James Howard, Deeba Jafri, Elgin Klugh, Stu Kohn, Fred Leong, Margaret Ann Nolan, Dawn Popp, Paul Skalny, Yolanda Sonnier (Chairperson), and Carolan Stansky

Staff Present: Lynne Rosen, Legislative Analyst and Gary Kuc, County Solicitor

Ms. Sonnier opened the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that the meeting today is focused on Council Resolution 94-2020 (CR94-2020). Ms. Sonnier reviewed the status of the Commission recommendations. The Council voted to adopt a Resolution that reduces from five years to three years the term of members of boards and commission that will be on the ballot in November. The Council is still considering Council Resolution 93-2020 that would change the dates for redistricting and CR94-2020.

Mr. Kuc discussed that the Council has not yet acted on the Resolution to change the dates for redistricting. The Council passed the Resolution reducing the number of years of service for members of boards and Commissions and the Resolution adding new anti-discrimination protections to Section 709(a) of the Charter.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that the changes to Section 709(a) were not a Commission recommendation because the Commission concluded the protections were in the County Code. She reviewed the reason for meeting today is to discuss the composition of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission. The Council tabled CR94-2020. She reviewed that the Council will discuss CR94-2020 at a Council Work Session next Monday. If the Commission has a position on this issue, Ms. Sonnier can present it at the Work Session. Ms. Sonnier reviewed the Commission recommendation regarding the structure and appointment of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission in the Final Report of the Commission. She reviewed the options discussed by the Councilmembers during the July 8, 2020 Work Session. Ms. Sonnier requested the thoughts of Commission members on CR94-2020 and the proposed amendments to the Resolution.

The Commission members discussed CR94-2020 and the proposed amendments.

Mr. Kuc reviewed CR94-2020 and the three proposed amendments to the Resolution, the status of the Resolution and the three amendments, and that text in double brackets indicates deletions from existing law, text in small capitals indicates additions to existing law, a strike out

indicates material deleted by amendment, and underlining indicates material added by amendment.

The Commission members discussed the purpose of the meeting today, the recommendation of the Commission in its Final Report, and if a new recommendation should be made at the meeting today.

Ms. Sonnier discussed the purpose of the meeting is to give the Commission the opportunity to weigh in on potential amendments. She discussed that the Council is looking at the following issues: 1) does the Council wants to keep central committees in the appointment process for the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission and to what extent if any should they be involved in the process; and 2) how to address the disparity that unaffiliated voters are not represented on the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission specified in the Charter.

Mr. Kuc discussed the need for four votes to move away from the current system for appointing members of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission. The Councilmembers also have before them Council Resolution 93-2020 relating to changing dates for the redistricting process. The Council is looking at Amendment No. 2 and Amendment No. 3 to CR 93-2020 and a hybrid system for making appointments.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that the Councilmembers are also looking at exclusions for appointment to the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission, for example, candidates for elective office and prior holders of elected office.

Mr. Kuc discussed the subset of disqualifiers for appointment in Amendment No. 2.

The members discussed that Amendment No. 3 is closest to the intent of the Commission recommendation.

The members discussed issues of proportionality relating to the composition of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission and how to represent individuals affiliated with political parties and unaffiliated individuals.

The members discussed the role of the Commission regarding the adoption of any recommendations today beyond the recommendation that has already been adopted by the Commission in the Final Report. The members discussed that Amendment No. 3 is most aligned with the Commission recommendation.

The members discussed the unanimity requirement in CR94-2020 that requires the Councilmembers to all agree on each member to be appointed to the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission.

Mr. Kuc discussed that each of the three amendments to CR94-2020 strike the unanimity requirement.

Ms. Sonnier polled the members regarding if Amendment No. 3 to CR94-2020 aligns with the recommendation in the Final Report of the Commission and if there are any other comments to be made.

Ms. Sonnier discussed that she will attend the virtual Council Work Session on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. and report that the Commission stands by its recommendation in the Final Report and that Amendment No. 3 to CR94-2020 is closest to the Commission recommendation. Ms. Sonnier discussed that the members will receive another email with Minutes of the meeting today attached requesting approval of the Minutes. The Minutes will be posted after approval by the Commission.

Ms. Sonnier adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.