

**SIXTH DECENNIAL  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
REPORT ON THE CHARTER**

**May 31, 2022**

*Members*

Andrea Mansfield, Chair  
Torrey Snow, Vice Chair  
Steven Waddy  
Thomas Fleckenstein  
Larry Telford  
David Kauffman (from October 4, 2021 to April 2, 2022)  
Patric Enright (from April 18, 2022 to June 1, 2022)  
Ashley Hangliter

*Report Written By:*

Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney

## **Introduction**

Section 1203 of the Anne Arundel County Charter requires the Anne Arundel County Council to appoint a Charter Revision Commission (“CRC”) at or before its first annual legislative session following the publication of each decennial census of the population of the United States “for the purpose of making a comprehensive study of County government and the updating of its Charter where necessary”. The Commission is also required to “report to the Council their findings and recommendations, together with drafts of any recommended revisions of the Charter, within twelve months after their appointment.”

Resolution No. 50-21 of the Anne Arundel County Council, adopted on October 4, 2021, appointed the following individuals to serve as the Charter Revision Commission: Steven Waddy, Thomas Fleckenstein, Torrey Snow, Andrea Mansfield, Larry Telford, David Kauffman, and Ashley Hanglitter. The Resolution directed the CRC to issue a report of its findings and recommendations on redistricting by December 31, 2021. This Commission submitted a preliminary statement on redistricting on December 28, 2021, and a final report with recommendations on redistricting on January 10, 2022. The Commission voted to appoint Andrea Mansfield as its Chair, and Torrey Snow as its Vice Chair. Subsequent to his appointment and the issuance of the redistricting report, Mr. Kauffman moved out of the County, and, by Resolution No. 8-22, adopted on April 18, 2022, the Council appointed Patric Enright to serve on the Commission in his stead.

The Council adopted Resolution No. 54-21 on October 18, 2021, which requested that the Commission include 16 issues on its agenda “for in-depth study and to make recommendations”. During 8 meetings, including meetings on January 24, 2022, and May 10, 2022, at which public testimony was received, the Commission has reviewed the entire County Charter, with particular attention to the 16 issues identified by the Council Resolution. The approved minutes of the Commission’s meetings are attached as Appendix B. This report includes the Commission’s position on each of the 16 issues and drafts of recommended Charter amendments.

## **Summary of Meetings**

To ensure it adequately discussed the issues raised in Resolution No. 54-21 and the articles of the County Charter, the Commission developed a work plan that identified matters to be discussed over a series of meetings. A copy of the work plan is attached to this Report.

At its January 10, 2022 meeting, the Commission gave final approval to its Redistricting Report and began discussing Charter matters. The Commission was briefed on the County Charter and pertinent documents it would need to assist with discussions. The Commission discussed process, its work plan, and a timeline for completing work.

A public hearing was held on January 24, 2022, to hear from members of the public on important Charter matters. Members of the Administration also spoke about Charter issues of

importance, and Commission members shared other specific issues they would like to be discussed. The Commission then began discussing specific issues identified in Resolution No. 54-21, and whether they were within its purview. Items identified for discussion were slotted into the work plan schedule to coincide with the appropriate article within the Charter.

At its February 14 meeting, the Commission discussed Articles I, II, and III dealing with the County Council and Legislative Branch and Charter items identified for these sections, including council member compensation, increasing councilmanic districts and term of office, and clarifications to emergency ordinances. The Commission also heard from the County Auditor, briefly discussed public campaign financing and requested materials to assist with preparation for its next meeting. A racial equity analysis of the Charter was requested of the County's Director of Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion.

The Commission discussed Articles IV, V, and VI at its February 28 meeting dealing with the County Executive, The Executive Branch, and Special Boards, Commissions and Committees. The County's Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion Director and Human Relations Officer attended the meeting to respond to questions regarding racial equity in the Charter. The Commission discussed matters of racial equity and gender parity as it relates to certain boards and commissions. It also discussed altering the timeframe in which the Commission is appointed to ensure it has sufficient time to complete its work. Lastly, the Commission unanimously approved a motion to request that the Council extend its reporting deadline from March 31 to June 1 to provide time to complete its work. The Council adopted Resolution No. 5-22 on March 15, 2022 to extend the deadline.

The March 14 meeting began with a presentation from the Fire Chief regarding responsibilities and the relationship between the volunteer fire companies and the Anne Arundel County Fire Department. This discussion was tabled to provide an opportunity for representatives of the volunteer fire companies to appear and speak. The Commission then discussed Articles VII, VIII, and IX of the Charter dealing with Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures, the Merit System, and Centralized Purchasing, including creating a dedicated fire tax, the Council increasing the budget and proposing bond initiatives, and allowing councilmanic districts to be eligible for grants under the Community Benefit Program. Imposing a local income tax cap was discussed, but tabled until the next meeting when all members would be present.

At the April 20 meeting, the Commission resumed its discussion of the relationship between the Fire Chief and volunteer fire companies and the imposition of a local income tax cap. It discussed the last two Articles of the Charter, X and XII, dealing with miscellaneous provisions and the termination and amendment of the Charter, and talked through proposed language changes and clarifications proposed by the Office of Law. Lastly, the Commission agreed to hold a public hearing on May 10 and a final meeting on May 31 to approve its final report.

During the public hearing on May 10, the Commission heard from representatives of volunteer fire companies to provide additional information on the relationship of the Fire Chief and volunteer fire companies and to specifically request that the Fire Advisory Board be reinstated in the Charter. The Commission then discussed the draft final report and agreed to provide any

suggested changes or clarifications to the Office of Law through the Chair. To provide adequate time for public comment, the Commission agreed to provide a two week public comment period ending May 25.

May 31 was the final meeting of the Commission. The final report was discussed and approved during this meeting.

### **Comments and Recommendations on Issues Presented in Resolution No. 54-21**

**Issue 1: Examine the benefits of increasing the number of Councilmanic districts. (Charter Sections 201 and 206.)**

**Recommendation: No change.**

This Commission reviewed data from other Maryland counties that included total population, number of councilmanic districts, and population in each councilmanic district, and compared it to the same data for Anne Arundel County. A copy of the chart prepared and provided by the Office of Law is attached to this Report. During its deliberations, the Commission discussed additional staffing needs should the number of councilmanic districts be increased, and the need for corresponding Code changes. In a 5 to 1 vote (one member was absent), this Commission concluded that, when compared to other Maryland jurisdictions, the number of citizens in each district is as good as, if not better than, the number of citizens in other counties' councilmanic districts. Therefore, the Commission concludes there does not appear to be an urgent need for change to the number of councilmanic districts at this time.

**Issue 2: Examine allowing members of the County Council to serve in office for three full consecutive four-year terms. (Charter Section 203.)**

**Recommendation: Change, but note pension implications.**

The Commission reviewed this issue and determined in a 5 to 1 vote (one member was absent) that three full consecutive terms should be permitted and would be consistent with other jurisdictions. Of the Charter counties, Baltimore, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Talbot, and Wicomico have no term limits. Howard and Montgomery County have limits of three full terms or two full terms and part of a third term. Frederick County has a three term limit. The only other Charter County with a two term limit is Prince George's County. All terms for the Charter counties are 4 years.

The Commission did note, however, that increasing term limits may result in implications for the pension system and eligibility for retiree health benefits. Councilmembers are participants in the Employees' Retirement Plan. (See County Code, §§ 5-3-101, *et seq.*) A Councilmember whose first term begins after December 1, 2014, vests in the plan upon completion of actual plus transferred service totaling 10 years. (County Code § 5-3-301(a)(3)). A Councilmember who serves

two 4-year terms and does not have transferred service would not vest in the plan after completion of those two terms. Upon leaving County service at the end of the second term, the Councilmember would receive the Councilmember's contributions into the plan (County Code § 5-3-301(e)(1)), and would not be entitled to a retirement benefit or retiree health benefits.

If Councilmembers become eligible to serve three 4-year terms, then a Councilmember who serves all three terms (or at least 10 years over three terms) would be eligible to retire under the plan and to receive a pension benefit upon retirement, and may be entitled to retiree health benefits as described in § 6-1-308 of the County Code. The Commission takes no position on this pension and benefit eligibility, but it wanted to bring it to the attention of the Council for its consideration.

Suggested language to change Charter Section 203 is attached as part of Appendix A.

**Issue 3: Evaluate salaries and retirement benefits for members of the County Council. (Charter Section 204.) (See § 2-2-101, 2-2-102, and 3-9-101 of the County Code.)**

**Issue 4: Examine whether the role of members of the County Council should be considered full-time and if the salaries of members of the County Council should be increased to reflect actual hours worked. (No corresponding Charter Section.)**

**Issue 5: Evaluate, if members of the County Council were full-time, whether they should be allowed to maintain secondary employment. (No corresponding Charter Section, but see Charter Section 204, Article 35 of the State Constitution, and §§ 7-5-102 through 7-5-104 of the County Code.)**

**Recommendation: No change other than a modification of Charter Section 204 to replace the outdated reference to the dollar amount of Councilmember salaries with a statement that compensation shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the Salary Standard Commission adopted by ordinance of the Council.**

The Commission considered these issues and specifically discussed whether it was appropriate for these matters to be addressed in the Charter when a separate Salary Standard Commission has been created in the County Code. One member expressed a desire for further discussion and that consideration be given for members to be considered full-time. A majority of the members of the Commission felt these matters were outside the scope of a review of the Charter. For the reasons enumerated below, the Commission voted 6 to 1 to not make specific changes to these sections, other than removing the outdated reference to a dollar amount and specifying salaries shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the Salary Standard Commission adopted by ordinance of the County Council.

Charter Section 204, as adopted in 1964, set the initial compensation for the members of the County Council at \$2,100 per year. It is interesting to note that, at that time, compensation for the

General Assembly was \$1,800 per year, and for Baltimore County Councilmembers was \$3,000 per year. Initiatives to increase salaries for members of those two bodies had been defeated in 1962.

The State later enacted §10-302 of the Local Government Article of the State Code, which provides for the establishment by ordinance of a commission to recommend compensation and allowances for the members of a county legislative body. If such a commission is created, then it is required to submit a recommendation for salary and allowances to the County Council within 15 days after the beginning of the fourth year of a term. The Council may accept, reject, or reduce the commission's recommendation, but it may not increase any recommendation. The compensation or allowances may not be less than provided for in the county's Charter. The Salary Standard Commission was created by County ordinance (see § 3-9-101 of the County Code), and fulfills the function of recommending salary and allowance changes for Councilmembers as contemplated under State law. The Commission does recommend that the outdated reference to \$2,100 per annum be replaced with more general language recognizing that the salary shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the Salary Standard Commission that are adopted by the County Council. The suggested language is included in Appendix A.

It should be noted that there is no provision in the Charter that discusses whether being a Councilmember is a full-time position. However, the Charter Board of Anne Arundel County did state that "members of the Council will not devote full time to their duties". Charter for Anne Arundel County (Proposed Draft 1963). It noted the approximate 30-day annual session in May, as well as the monthly meetings, both described in Charter Section 208. That being said, the Salary Standard Commission may take into consideration the demands of the position and the number of hours that are required to fulfill the function of the position into consideration in making its salary and allowance recommendations.

Currently, the Charter does not generally address the ability of Councilmembers to hold secondary employment, regardless of their status as full-time or part-time. The State Constitution, Article 35 prevents a councilmember from holding "more than one "office of profit". Md. Const. Decl. of Rts. Art. 35. An "office of profit" generally requires an oath, and involves an exercise of some portion of the sovereignty of the state. Similarly, the Charter prohibits a Councilmember from "holding any other office, position, or employment for compensation or profit of or under the County government, or any State or Federal government office, except for service with a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces." Sec. 202(b) of the Charter.

Otherwise, secondary employment is an ethics issue. See §§ 7-5-102 through 7-5-104 of the County Code. These provisions of the County's ethics law describe employment relationships that are prohibited. These are based on the secondary employer's relationship with the employee and the County and not the full- or part-time nature of employment. The Commission does not feel that secondary employment of Councilmembers is an issue that needs to be further addressed in the Charter.

**Issue 6:** Evaluate allowing the County Council to increase or amend items in the budget. (Charter Section 709 (can decrease but not increase budget items); see also Charter Section 812 (must fund arbitration awards), § 5-102(c) of the Education Article of the State Code (may restore County Executive’s cuts to the budget requested by the Board of Education), and Maryland Constitution, Article 2, § 17 and Article 3, § 52(c) of the State Constitution (similar provisions of the State budget process).)

**Issue 7:** Evaluate allowing the County Council to introduce bond initiatives to be placed on the ballot. (No corresponding Charter Section, but see Charter Section 705 as to formulation of the capital budget and capital program, and Charter Sections 719 through 721 as to County-issued bonds.)

**Recommendation:** No change.

The Commission reviewed these issues and concluded in at 5 to 0 vote (two members were absent) that the budget should continue to be a collaborative effort. Therefore, it recommends no changes to the Charter.

The County has what is known as an “executive budget system”. The County Executive proposes the budget, and the County Council may amend the budget by decreasing proposed items, but it cannot increase any items with two exceptions. First, Section 812 of the Charter requires the County to fund binding arbitration awards for law enforcement and uniformed firefighter bargaining units. Thus, if the County Executive fails to do so, the Council could amend the budget to comply with this requirement.

Second, under State law, if the County Executive proposes a budget that does not include the full funding requested by the Board of Education, the Council may fully fund those requests to the extent not funded by the County Executive. The Council may not increase the budget of the Board of Education beyond those funding requests. (See § 5-102(c) of the Education Article of the State Code).

The Commission reviewed information about the budget systems in other Maryland Charter counties, as well as the State. Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Wicomico Counties have similar provisions to Anne Arundel County and do not permit their Councils to increase budget items recommended by their County Executives. Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Talbot Counties allow budget item increases by their Councils.

The State has a similar executive budget system. Currently, the General Assembly may increase items in the budget proposed by the Governor only if they relate to the General Assembly or the judiciary. They can decrease any item in the proposed budget. Beginning in fiscal 2024, the General Assembly may also increase items proposed for the executive branch so long as the total appropriation for the executive branch does not exceed the total appropriation for the executive

branch that has been proposed by the Governor. (Maryland Constitution, Article 3, § 52(6), as amended by 2020 Maryland Laws Ch. 645 (Senate Bill 1028).).

The framers of the County Charter “felt it essential to prohibit the County Council from increasing any item in the current expense or capital budget submitted to the legislative body for action. It would ludicrous for the County Executive to spend more than . . . originally estimated was the most . . . needed to do the job.” Charter for Anne Arundel County (Proposed Draft 1963). After reviewing the historic information and the information related to the State and other counties, the Commission concludes that there should be no change to this aspect of the budget process.

Issue 7 appears to be related to Issue 6 in that it seems to seek exploration of allowing the County Council to add projects to the budget that would require the issuance of County bonds. Charter Section 705 describes the multi-step process required to formulate the capital budget and capital program, which includes review and recommendations by the Office of Planning and Zoning and the Planning Advisory Board. Charter Sections 719 through 721 relate to County-issued bonds, including a borrowing limitation of 10% of the assessable base of the County. The capital budget and program is part of the budget presented to the Council, and the Council may cut funds from proposed capital projects. The Commission feels that the collaborative executive budget system should continue as it applies to the capital budget and bond funded projects.

**Issue 8: Examine the benefit of allowing Councilmanic districts to be eligible for grants under the Community Benefit Program. (No corresponding Charter Section.)**

**Recommendation: No change.**

There is no Charter provision relating to grants under the Community Benefit Program. This program is authorized and described under § 4-11-109 of the County Code. Its purpose is “assisting incorporated nonprofit community associations and other incorporated nonprofit organizations to upgrade or improve their subdivisions or communities”. The community associations and other organizations must be active in certain defined areas of the County. The Commission concluded by 5 to 0 vote (two members were absent) that this was not a Charter issue, but that any change to the program to expand its scope or to include Council input could be achieved through legislation.

**Issue 9: Evaluate placing a limit on the local income tax rate in Anne Arundel County. (No corresponding Charter Section.)**

**Recommendation: No change.**

This issue generated considerable discussion amongst Commission members. Some members suggested an income tax limit should be included in the Charter similar to the Charter limitation on the property tax. Others suggested that State law already establishes a maximum local income tax rate and that, if a limitation is to be set, it should be done through the County Code so as to not limit the County Executive’s budgetary authority and the Council’s ability to take action on these matters.



Section 10-106 of the Maryland Tax-General Article sets minimum and maximum rates for a county income tax imposed on an individual's Maryland taxable income. The minimum rate is 2.25%, and the maximum rate is 3.20%. The County rate as set in § 4-4-101 of the County Code is 2.81%.<sup>1</sup> When compared to other Maryland jurisdictions, the County has the third lowest income tax rate in the State. Talbot and Worcester Counties have the lowest rates, 2.40% and 2.25%, respectively, and all other jurisdictions have rates of 3% or greater.

In a 4 to 3 vote, the Commission recommends against including a limit on the local income tax rate in the County Charter.

**Issue 10: Examine the powers of the Fire Chief to oversee and regulate riding members of volunteer fire companies in Anne Arundel County. (Charter Sections 545 and 547.)**

**Issue 11: Evaluate Section 547 of the Charter as it applies to volunteer fire companies and any entities under which they operate.**

**Recommendation: No changes.**

The Commission spent significant time gathering information on and evaluating these two issues. They heard from the Fire Chief and from representatives of the County Volunteer Firefighters' Association. They reviewed § 12-1-203 of the County Code that provides that the County shall reimburse a volunteer fire company for operational expenses consistent with a budget adopted by the company and approved by the County if the company has executed a reciprocity agreement. That section also provides that the agreement shall delineate the County's authority in matters concerning command and control, staffing, operational readiness, and dispute resolution. The Commission also reviewed the reciprocity agreement forms that are utilized by the County.

The major area of discussion was this sentence in Section 547: "Nothing herein shall permit the Fire Chief to participate in the corporate affairs of any volunteer fire company." Specifically, the Commission looked at the issue of what constitutes "corporate affairs" of a volunteer company. This sentence was included in the original Charter adopted for the County. Before the Charter was adopted, there was no County Fire Department, and all fire suppression services were provided by 23 volunteer fire companies.

The Commission heard further comment from representatives of volunteer fire companies during its public hearing on May 10. Representatives were requesting a Fire Advisory Board be reinstated in the Charter specifying certain membership and responsibilities to address their concerns. The Fire Advisory Board was included in Section 546 of the Charter, however, that Board

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<sup>1</sup> Effective January 5, 2022, a change to § 10-106 of the Tax-General Article of the State Code permits counties to apply their tax rates on a bracket basis. Pending County Bill 47-22 would apply a rate of 2.70% to income between \$1 and \$50,000, and 2.81% to income over \$50,000.

was abolished through Bill No. 71-95 under the authority set forth in Section 502 of the Charter. The Fire Advisory Board was thereafter reconstituted in §§ 12-1-401, et seq. of the Code.

Considering a Fire Advisory Board and reciprocity agreements currently exist, the Commission recommends these mechanisms be examined for potential changes to address matters of concern for both the County and volunteer fire companies. Therefore, the Commission concludes by a vote of 6 to 0 (one member was absent) that the matters raised by Issues 10 and 11 are best addressed through legislation or operating agreements, or both, and not in the Charter.

**Issue 12: Evaluate the benefit of authorizing a local fire tax for funding the Fire Department. (No corresponding Charter Section, but see Charter Section 718.)**

**Recommendation: No change.**

There is no Charter provision relating to a “fire tax”. However, the Commission was directed to and considered the comments of the framers of the Charter relating to Section 718 of the Charter, “Composition and limitation upon county funds and levies; special taxes; bond obligation”. The framers of the Charter indicated that this was the section that was the most researched, discussed, and deliberated. The framers passionately and steadfastly concluded that “all County revenues should be paid into and appropriated out of one fund” and that tax revenues should not be dedicated at their source:

Such dedication of such tax limits inhibits and destroys the concept of the budget process. The budget function is one of planning, of looking ahead at the financial requirements of the coming year and the years ahead. It is the assigning of dollar signs to programs of work and the balancing of competing demands for money. If there is no work to be done, there is obviously no need for money. The basis for the budget is first, therefore, to determine what work is to be done how much work is to be done, when it is to be done, how it is to be done and by whom. In Anne Arundel County the enactment of special tax laws and the dedication of State received funds has completely destroyed the budget making process as it is known in modern municipal government. A dedication of receipts fo[r] specific functions from the State in advance of receipts therefor and the establishment of special taxes for specific purposes do not take into consideration the work program needs of that particular function.

Bennett Crain, Jr., Notes to the Proposed Home Rule Charter of Anne Arundel County (1963).

This statement of policy resulted in an identification of permissible special funds, such as utility assessments, special taxing district assessments, funds held by the County as trustee, and bond proceeds, and the further instruction that all other revenues and receipts of the County be paid into and appropriated out of a general fund “which shall be the primary fund for the financing of current expenses for the conduct of County business.” (Charter Section 718(b)).

Based on this history, the Commission concludes by a vote of 6 to 0 (one member was absent) that no Charter change should be made to allow a fire tax.

**Issue 13: Examine allowing the use of an emergency ordinance to address a situation that needs immediate action. (Charter Sections 208(d) and 307(i)).**

**Issue 14: Evaluate Sections 208 and 307 as they apply to emergency ordinances and what could be done to improve the procedures for passing emergency ordinances. (Charter Sections 208(d) and 307(i)).**

**Recommendation: Suggesting change to Charter Section 307(i) to eliminate confusion between the two types of emergency ordinance currently described in Charter Sections 208(d) and 307(i).**

Sections 208(d) and 307(i) of the County Charter describe two types of “emergency ordinances” that can be passed by the Council. There has been confusion, and the Commission considered the background of these two provisions.

Section 10-206(a)(2) of the Local Government Article of the State Code provides that:

A County Council may pass any ordinance, resolution, or bylaw not inconsistent with State law that may aid in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of the County.

Md. Code Ann., Local Gov’t § 10-206. This is referred to as the police power, the general welfare clause, or the general grant of power. Tyma v. Montgomery County, 253 Md. 151 (2002); Montgomery Citizens League v. Greenhalgh, 253 Md. 151 (1969).

Based on this grant of power to legislate, Article III of County Charter sets forth a legislative process. Generally, ordinances require at least four affirmative votes and become effective 45 days after they become law. An ordinance becomes law when signed by the County Executive. See Charter Sec. 307(j).

Subsection 307(i) of the Charter sets forth an exception to the general rule, providing that an ordinance “declared by the County Council to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare” takes effect from the date it becomes law. As per Sec. 307(f), such an emergency ordinance requires the affirmative vote of at least five members of the County Council.

Subsection 307(i) distinguishes the emergency ordinances addressed in Sec. 307 from emergency ordinances defined in Sec. 208(d) of the Charter. The emergency ordinances defined in Charter Sec. 208(d) are required to deal with “**an actual acute emergency** necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare” (emphasis added) and which

necessitate an emergency legislative session. An example would be an ordinance affirming the County Executive's declaration of a civil emergency under Article 1, Title 6 of the County Code.

While the language is similar, it is clear that Sec. 307 is addressing "emergency" ordinances that may be needed to be expedited but that are not required to deal with acute emergencies. The two types of emergency ordinances are distinguished by the degree of the emergency at issue. The framers of the Charter recognized that, while not rising to the level of an actual acute emergency, there may be instances in which it would not be feasible, prudent, or desirable to delay the enactment of an ordinance for the 45 days after it becomes law. The procedure set forth in Sec. 307(f) and the effective date provided for in Sec. 307(i) are intended to provide that flexibility. As stated by the Charter Board of Anne Arundel County in 1963 in the "Proposed Charter for Anne Arundel County" as to the distinction between the emergencies addressed in Sec. 307(i):

This section defines the two types of emergency ordinances. The term "emergency ordinance", more particularly defined in Section 208(d), is derived from Article III, Section 15 of the State Constitution and the term "an acute emergency" has been defined by the Court of Appeals in the case of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission v. Buckley, 197 Md. 203, 78A.(2d) [sic] 638 [to] mean that there must be an actual acute emergency to render the ordinance valid. . . . The second class or type of emergency ordinance is an ordinance passed at the annual legislative session or on monthly legislative session-day which is "declared" by the County Council to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare. This language was derived from Article XVI, Section 2 of the State Constitution ["The Referendum"].

Charter for Anne Arundel County (Proposed Draft 1963).

The only real practical effect of enacting an emergency ordinance under Sec. 307 is this more immediate effective date. The safeguard against abuse is the requirement of more than a mere majority of affirmative votes.

By a vote of 6 to 0 (one member was absent), the Commission recommends changes to Section 307(i) of the Charter to better distinguish the two types of emergency ordinance. The suggested change is included in Appendix A.

**Issue 15: Evaluate the need to update or amend Title 6 of Article 1 [of the County Code] pertaining to civil emergencies. (No corresponding Charter Section.)**

**Recommendation: No change.**

The Commission considered this issue, which involves provisions in the County Code and not the County Charter. Given issues 13 and 14 addressing emergency ordinances and "actual acute emergencies", it was not clear why this issue was included for the Commission's consideration. The Commission discussed the matter, and one member expressed interest in

examining this issue more closely. However, by a vote of 6 to 1, the Commission concludes that it is not within the scope of the Charter and recommends no change.

**Issue 16: Consider making the language of the Charter more gender neutral. (Various Charter provisions, including Charter Section 302.)**

**Recommendation: Make change to affected Charter Sections.**

The Commission reviewed the Charter as a whole, and agreed that references to “he”, “him”, and “his” should be modified. The Law Office is exploring a way in which to make these global changes without having to include all affected Charter Sections in the legislation.

The Commission also looked at Section 302 of the Charter, which relates to the “Chairman” of the County Council, and recommends that “Chairman” be changed to “Chair”. Suggested language to make this change is attached as part of Appendix A.

### **Other Comments and Recommendations**

There were several other issues that the Commission reviewed on its own, and it decided to make recommendations as follows.

**Charter Section 307(h):** By a unanimous vote, the Commission recommends that the outdated reference to posting bills on a bulletin board when introduced be amended to allow posting on the County’s website. Suggested language is included in Appendix A.

**Charter Section 311(c):** The Auditor appeared before the Commission and discussed Charter Section 311, which outlines the Auditor’s duties. One of the issues raised by the Auditor was the scope of the “additional duties” that may be assigned by the Council under Charter Section 311(c). The Auditor felt that these duties should be related to the finances and financial affairs of the County. Based on that discussion, the Commission agreed and recommends (by a vote of 6 to 0, with one member absent) that Charter Section 311(c) be modified. The suggested language is included in Appendix A.

**Charter Section 1203:** This section addresses appointment of the Charter Review Commission, and ties the timing of the appointment to the publication of the decennial census data. An issue arose with respect to the 2020 census because the data was late in being released due to the COVID pandemic and other issues. As such, the Commission was seated later than usual, and this resulted in issues of timing in considering redistricting of the County’s councilmanic districts as it related to candidate filing deadlines. Therefore, by a unanimous vote, the Commission recommends that Charter Section 1203 be amended to tie the appointment of the Commission to the census itself and not to the release of the results of the census. Suggested language is included in Appendix A and would result in the Commission being appointed on or before the first day of the Council’s annual legislative (generally May 1) in a census year. By a vote 6 to 0 (one member

was absent), the Commission also recommends that the Commission be referred to as the “Redistricting and Charter Revision Commission”.

It should be noted that the Commission also considered whether there should be two separate commissions appointed for redistricting and Charter revision. The Commission looked at other County Charters that provide for the appointment of two separate commissions, and concluded that there should no recommendation to change that provision of the Charter.

**Public Campaign Finance:** The Commission discussed a local system of public campaign finance as permitted by § 13-505 of the Election Law Article of the State Code. The Commission noted that a Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter to require the establishment of such a system (Resolution No. 1-22) was recently defeated, and, therefore, the Commission decided not to recommend it at this time.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Analysis:** The Charter dates back to 1964, and is largely in the same form today. The County has changed considerably since that time, and the Charter should reflect those changes. A first step is recommended in Issue 16 to make the Charter gender neutral. However, barriers may exist that prevent individuals from fully participating in County government processes. The Commission is not making specific recommendations in this area, but it requests that County officials keep these items in mind when making appointments and considering and deciding other matters.

### **Conclusion**

The CRC has appreciated the opportunity to consider and recommend changes to the County’s Charter. The CRC would like to sincerely thank County and Council staff that assisted and participated in this process. All of you played a meaningful and significant role in this process which was critical to the CRC completing its work.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES**

## APPENDIX A

### ARTICLE II. THE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Sec. 203. Term of office.

Each member of the County Council shall hold office for a term of four years commencing on the first Monday in December following election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall enter upon the duties of the office immediately upon qualification and serve until a successor shall qualify. No person elected or appointed to the office of County Councilmember shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself in the office if he or she has served in the office for ~~two~~ THREE full consecutive four-year terms at or after ~~January 1, 1994~~ 2026.

#### Sec. 204. Compensation.

Each member of the County Council shall be paid ~~for the performance of his duties as provided in this Charter the sum of Twenty-one Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) per annum. Such salary shall be~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SALARY STANDARD COMMISSION ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL in full compensation for all services required by law or by this Charter to be performed by the members of the County Council. No member of the County Council shall be entitled to any other allowance of any kind, except ~~that~~, subject to approval of the Council, ~~he may be allowed his~~ actual necessary expenses incurred in representing the County beyond the geographical boundaries thereof.

### ARTICLE III. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

#### Sec. 302. Officers.

(a) **Presiding Officer.** The County Council at its regular meeting or session in December of each year shall elect from its membership a ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR and a Vice ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR. The ~~Chairmen~~ CHAIR, or, in ~~his~~ THE CHAIR'S absence, the Vice ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR, shall preside at all meetings and legislative sessions. In the event of the death, resignation, or disqualification of the ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR, the Vice ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR shall serve as ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR until a new ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR is elected as provided in this section. On all questions before the County Council the ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR and Vice ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR shall have and may exercise the vote to which each is entitled as a Councilmember. In the event of the absence of both the ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR and Vice ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR, the members present, shall select one of their member to act as ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR pro tem, who, while so acting shall have all the authority and voting rights of the ~~Chairman~~ CHAIR.



**Sec. 307. Legislative Procedure.**

(h) **Publication of County Laws.** On the introduction of any bill, a copy thereof and notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be posted by the Administrative Officer to the County Council as soon as practicable ~~[[on an official bulletin board to be set up by the County Council in a public place]]~~ ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE, and ~~[[additional]]~~ PRINTED copies of the bill shall be made available to the public and to the press. Every copy of each bill shall bear the name of the member of the Council introducing it and the date it was introduced for the consideration of the Council; and no bill, unless it be an emergency bill, shall be passed before the seventh calendar day after such date. ~~[[Upon the passage of any bill by the County Council, it]]~~ EACH BILL shall receive such publication as may from time to time be required by law.

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(i) **Effective Date of Ordinances.** Except as provided in Section 710 of this Charter for the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance and ordinances levying taxes or assessments to support the budget, and except for any ordinance related to transfers of appropriations under Charter Section 711, supplementary appropriations under Charter Section 712, and amendments of the capital budget under Charter Section 716, any ordinance enacted by the County Council shall take effect forty-five days after it becomes law, unless declared to be effective on a later date. Ordinances related to transfers of appropriations under Charter Section 711, supplementary appropriations under Charter Section 712, and amendments of the capital budget under Charter Section 716 shall take effect from the date they become law. If an ordinance is an emergency ordinance as defined in Section 208(d) IT SHALL TAKE EFFECT FROM THE DATE IT BECOMES LAW. ~~[[or if]]~~ THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY DECLARE an ordinance passed at an annual legislative session or a monthly legislative session-day ~~[[be declared by the County Council]]~~ to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare, AND it shall take effect from the date it becomes law. An emergency ordinance UNDER SUBSECTION 208(E) OR THIS SUBSECTION shall not levy taxes, create revenue, or grant a franchise or special privilege, or abolish or create any office or change any salary, term or duty of any officer or create any vested right or interest or create or expand any Capital Project, or increase the funding thereof (except in cases where the increase in funding is required solely to meet cost escalation and does not affect the scope of the project as originally budgeted).

**Sec. 311. Duties of the County Auditor.**

(c) **County Council – power to assign additional duties.** The County Council shall have the power to implement the provisions of this section and to assign additional functions, duties and personnel to the County Auditor ~~[[not inconsistent with those provided herein]]~~ RELATED TO THE FINANCES AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY. The County Council to the extent permitted by law may by resolution authorize the County Auditor to examine and audit the books and records of persons or firms contracting with the County when in its judgment such action is needed to protect the interests of the County. All actions of the County Council pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the executive veto.

**ARTICLE XII.**

**Sec. 1203. Decennial Charter Revision Commission.**

[[At or before]] ON the first DAY OF THE annual legislative session of the County Council [[after the publication]] IN THE YEAR of each decennial census of the population of the United States, the County Council shall appoint by resolution a Charter Revision Commission for the purpose of making a comprehensive study of the County government and the updating of its Charter where necessary, including the matter of the revision of the councilmanic districts of the County. The Commission shall be composed of a number of representative citizens of the County equal to the number of councilmanic districts in the County, with each member of the County Council making one appointment, who shall report to the Council their findings and recommendations, together with drafts of any recommended revisions of the Charter, within twelve months after their appointment. The Charter Revision Commission shall receive from the County an appropriation sufficient to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

**APPENDIX B:**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 10  
January 10, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Thomas Fleckenstein  
Andrea Mansfield  
David Kauffman  
Larry Talford  
Torrey Snow

Ashley Hangliter was absent.

Also present were:

Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Mark Burt, Planning Administrator, Research and GIS Section, Office of Planning and Zoning  
Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Linda Schuett, Legislative Counsel to the County Council

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and began with a summary of the maps that had been requested at the December 28, 2021 meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Mansfield noted that the summary of Mr. Kauffman's comments regarding the Crofton area needed to be edited. Mr. Kauffman agreed and it was decided that edits should be made in the final copy.

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the minutes of December 28, 2021 were approved, including the agreed upon changes.

### **PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON REDISTRICTING RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINAL REPORT**

Ms. Mansfield gave an overview of the redistricting work that had been done to date and shared her views on the proposed redistricting report.

Mr. Waddy thanked Ms. Blair Klasmeier for her work.

On motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Snow, the Sixth Decennial Charter Revision Commission Redistricting Final Report was approved unanimously by all members present.

## **CHARTER INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION**

Ms. Mansfield stated that the Commission needed to begin their Charter work next. She reminded the Commission that has been information shared to help with this portion of the work.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier gave a brief overview of the County Charter and highlighted the importance of reviewing the background materials that had been shared.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier then reviewed the Commission's proposed work plan and highlighted several areas of the Charter that might need to be considered.

Ms. Mansfield agreed that understanding how other Charter counties operate would help.

Mr. Telford requested a summary of local income and property tax rates for other counties.

Mr. Snow asked for an estimate of the time and effort needed to implement some of the individual changes to the Charter.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained the legislative process of amending the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman pointed out the process was the same as it is with redistricting, where the Commission would make recommendations to the Council and the Council would ultimately decide which issues to take up legislatively.

Ms. Mansfield asked to confirm when the Commission would need to make final recommendations to the Council.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier referred to Resolution No. 50-21 that asks for a report at the end of March.

Mr. Snow questioned the deadline for their report and asked if the shorter timeframe was to allow the Council time to get questions on the ballot in November.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier stated that, although the Council was asking for a report in March, under the Charter the Commission has up to a year to complete their work.

Mr. Fleckenstein explained why he believed the timeline was shorter.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained how the delay in receiving Census information cut the timeline short in 2021. She also pointed out how other counties handle redistricting and charter reviews, and that the Commission could recommend other items in addition to what the Council asked.

Mr. Kauffman asked the Commission to consider a timeline where the Commission's final report would could be given in October, while still working on certain prioritized items and getting recommendations to the Council in time for the November ballot. He expressed concerns about the current timeline.

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Ms. Mansfield agreed that while there is a lot of work to be done, the Commission can still commit to looking at the items the Council requested in the short term.

Ms. Schuett shared her perspective two Charter issues.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained how the Charter may not reflect the actual organization of the County because of some inconsistencies between the Charter and the Code.

Mr. Waddy asked if the Commission had been asked to look at the overall organization of the County.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier stated that the only department the Commission has been asked to look at is the Fire Department.

Ms. Mansfield asked if there were other items that other departments or the County Executive will want the Commission to study.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier stated that the executive branch will likely have issues they would like considered.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his continued concerns with the time needed versus the time given to do the work.

Ms. Mansfield proposed a work plan and schedule for completing the work and asked for feedback from the other Commission members.

Mr. Fleckenstein agreed with the basic structure proposed and suggested prioritizing items based on what is most urgent and needs to be considered for the November ballot.

Ms. Mansfield reminded the Commission of the importance of learning a bit more before deciding what should be prioritized.

Mr. Kauffman agreed that prioritizing items was a good idea but that he wanted to be clear that some items may become of equal importance but due to time may just not make it to the November ballot.

Ms. Schuett asked if the Office of Law could help with prioritizing items.

Ms. Blaire Klasmeier stated that she will share any background on issues if it is available.

Mr. Fleckenstein questioned how long an issue might sit if it does not make it to November ballot.

Ms. Blaire Klasmeier explained what happens to Charter amendment resolutions with each election cycle.

Mr. Waddy agreed with the proposed schedule and shared his desire to work at a good pace while avoiding politics. He suggested using small groups to work on particular issues.

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Ms. Mansfield agreed with doing good work as a Commission and asked Mr. Waddy to explain further his idea for small groups.

Mr. Waddy described how he saw small groups being used to help the process. He shared his wishes to evaluate how emergency powers are used.

Ms. Mansfield then asked if the Commission felt ready to meet virtually on January 24, 2022 and hold an initial public hearing. She stated that any new items would be factored into the schedule and discussion at the February 14, 2022 meeting. She reminded the Commission to focus effort on what needs to be changed in the Charter.

Mr. Telford asked if the February and March meetings would be virtual and when the meetings would be held.

Ms. Mansfield stated they would meet on February 14 and 28 and March 14 and 28, 2022.

Ms. Corby confirmed the dates the Commission had agreed to meet and asked if the meetings would be virtual.

Ms. Mansfield proposed that meetings through February be virtual.

There were no objections to meeting virtually through February.

Ms. Mansfield reminded the Commission of all the ways they would hear from the public during the entire process.

Ms. Mansfield asked how the public would receive notice of the public hearings and there was some discussion on how this would be handled.

Mr. Waddy asked for a review of the agreed upon timeline.

Ms. Mansfield reviewed the plan for the next few meetings and how each meeting would be organized in order to allow the Commission to move forward.

Mr. Waddy asked what would happen after April.

Ms. Mansfield explained how they might reassess the timelines during meetings. She reminded the Commission how well they worked during the first phase and encouraged the same approach during the second phase.

Mr. Snow echoed Ms. Mansfield and expressed his confidence in the schedule.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Waddy asked how the public would see meeting materials.

Ms. Corby stated that meeting materials would be posted to the public website set up for the Charter Revision Commission.

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Ms. Blair Klasmeier added that she would gather background information that might help before each meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Minutes – Meeting # 11

January 24, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.

Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Thomas Fleckenstein  
Andrea Mansfield  
David Kauffman  
Larry Talford  
Torrey Snow  
Ashley Hanglitter

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Mark Burt, Planning Administrator, Research and GIS Section, Office of Planning and Zoning  
Matt Power, Chief Administrative Officer  
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, the minutes of January 10, 2022 were approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Administrative Officer stated there were six submissions of written public testimony received for the public hearing, which were shared with the Commission and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Invitation to Audience:

Kurt Svendsen, Arnold  
Gail Viamonte, Crofton

There was no one else present who wished to speak, and the public hearing was concluded.

**CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Mansfield explained the purpose of the Commission and what the Charter consists of.

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Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained Resolution No. 54-21 and the requested items from the Council. The Commission asked clarifying questions, which Ms. Blair Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Power shared the seven amendments the public voted for, and offered the support of the Administration.

Mr. Baron spoke on collaborating the different departments and the means to get the Commission what it needs.

Ms. Mansfield explained that all requests go through Ms. Corby and that there will be a request recap at the end of each meeting.

Mr. Waddy agreed with having Ms. Corby as the contact point.

Mr. Telford asked for examples of where the Charter is antiquated with gender and what the “he” would be changed to.

Mr. Power gave an example and said that the change would be up to the Commission.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier offered an example for what could be used.

Mr. Snow reiterated his desire for a slower timeframe and stated the Commission was moving way to fast.

Ms. Corby offered her resource services.

Ms. Mansfield thanked the Administration and opened the discussion to what the Commission would like to work on in the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman recommended a timeline for the Commission to be assembled to avoid a rushed pace. He asked if the convening of the Commission was in the Charter or was it a practice.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier stated it was in the Charter that the Commission be formed once the census data was received.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his concerns on the amount of money required to campaign for government positions.

Mr. Baron explained Resolution No. 1-22 as a creation of a public financing system.

There was further discussion about campaign finance requirements.

Mr. Snow reviewed the requests of the Council, stating issues 3-5 and issue 15 should be removed from the recommendation list.

Ms. Mansfield agreed and shared her view of issue 4, the Council positions being considered part time or full time.

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Mr. Waddy shared his view of the Council's positions being full time jobs and expressed his desire for extra discussions outside the regular Commission meetings in order to keep the fast timeframe.

Mr. Fleckenstein agreed that issues 3 and 5 be removed, and that issue 4 be discussed further. He asked to review the Salary Standard Commission's report, and gave his opinion on the part time positions of the Council.

Ms. Corby explained issue 15.

Mr. Snow stated issue 15 is related to issues 13 and 14, so would not be needed. He asked why the Commission would look at the part time issue if the Salary Standard Commission was adequate.

Mr. Waddy shared his perspective of the Salary Standard Commission and civil emergencies.

There was further discussion regarding the Council's part time positions and the Salary Standard Commission.

On motion by Ms. Mansfield, seconded by Mr. Snow, issues 3, 4, 5, and 15 were removed from discussion by the following vote:

Aye – Ms. Mansfield, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford, Mr. Kauffman, Mr. Fleckenstein,  
Ms. Hanglitter  
Nay – Mr. Waddy

Ms. Hanglitter asked to start requests for the items to be discussed.

Ms. Mansfield suggested requesting the items at this meeting and adding items to the list of discussion points, specifically the convening of the Charter Commission and having two separate commissions, one for redistricting and one for Charter revisions.

Mr. Telford asked if two separate commissions would cause problems with staffing.

Ms. Corby and Ms. Blair Klasmeier responded.

Mr. Kauffman asked what the reasoning for the Charter Commission was if the Council could make the amendments for the changes they desire. He also asked if the 4 year timeframe was adequate.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained the need for citizens to review the changes.

Mr. Fleckenstein shared his view on having a second commission for redistricting and suggested addressing the timeline.

Mr. Waddy supports a separate redistricting commission.

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Mr. Telford agreed.

There was agreement to discuss a separate redistricting commission at a future meeting.

Ms. Mansfield clarified the items for discussion.

Mr. Waddy asked for information on the role of independent legal counsels for different boards and commissions.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Snow asked for clarification on the connection between the boards and commissions and the Charter.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier explained how boards and commissions are created and kept.

Ms. Mansfield expressed her desire to review what is needed for the next meetings.

Ms. Hanglitter asked for agreements between the Fire Department and Volunteers, any State laws passed regarding gender neutrality, history on the Councilmanic districts, and the term limits for the other charter counties and the state.

Mr. Kauffman requested information on the Fire Department/Volunteers issue.

Mr. Snow asked for historical background on how the tax caps and tax limits discussions have happened over the past years.

Ms. Mansfield asked how many districts and the population of nearby counties, and the jurisdictions they have, either two or three council terms. She asked for additional research on the budget and bond initiatives.

Mr. Telford asked for clarification on the pension benefits if the Council goes to three terms and if the Charter could legally be amended to exempt the Council from the County's defined benefit plans. He asked if the pension options could be limited if the Council moves to three terms.

Ms. Blair Klasmeier answered and clarified what the Commission needs for the next meeting.

Ms. Mansfield clarified who would need to present at the next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Telford, seconded by Mr. Snow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Macaulay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 12  
February 14, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Andrea Mansfield  
David Kauffman  
Larry Talford  
Torrey Snow  
Ashley Hangliter

Thomas Fleckenstein was absent.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Michelle Bohlayer, Auditor

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the minutes of January 24, 2022 were approved.

**CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article I and Article II of the County Charter.

Mr. Kauffman clarified the Council compensation amount.

Ms. Corby explained the compensation and how it was set.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his desire for the Charter to be clearer when explaining the compensation.

Ms. Mansfield agreed.

Ms. Klasmeier suggested making the language general.

Ms. Hangliter shared her agreement with using general language.

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Mr. Snow questioned the value of discussing this item and suggested focusing on the agenda.

Ms. Mansfield conveyed her desire to clarify the section, not discuss the compensation amounts.

Mr. Snow asked if changing the language would cause conflict and if the Council would need to introduce legislation for the changes.

Ms. Klasmeier responded.

Ms. Mansfield clarified that a super majority would still be needed.

Ms. Corby shared insight on allowances in the Code.

Ms. Mansfield added the clarification of compensation to the future discussion list.

Mr. Waddy asked for clarification on the vacancy language.

Ms. Klasmeier explained vacancies that have happened in the Council.

Ms. Mansfield opened the discussion on increasing the number of Councilmanic districts.

Ms. Klasmeier shared a chart showing different county sizes and districting.

Mr. Snow asked for clarification on the population size of the counties.

Mr. Kauffman shared that there were two separate discussions regarding increasing the Councilmanic districts.

Mr. Telford stated his belief that seven districts were enough.

Ms. Hanglitter asked what would be needed if the districts were increased.

Ms. Corby explained the need of extra staffing and the changes to be made to the Code.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed.

Ms. Mansfield asked for the Commission's feeling on expanding the number of districts.

Mr. Kauffman answered that seven was enough.

Mr. Snow agreed.

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the motion to retain the seven councilmanic districts and seven councilmembers was passed by the following vote:

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Aye – Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Hanglitter, Mr. Kauffman, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford  
Nay – Mr. Waddy  
Absent – Mr. Fleckenstein

Ms. Mansfield opened the discussion for County Councilmembers to serve three full consecutive four-year terms.

Ms. Klasmeier reviewed the terms of other counties.

Mr. Telford shared his agreement on increasing the terms and asked how the increase would affect the benefits of the councilmembers.

Ms. Klasmeier explained the vesting plan for councilmembers.

There was further discussion concerning the pension plans of councilmembers.

On motion by Mr. Telford, seconded by Mr. Snow, the Commission supports expanding the terms from two to three consecutive terms, where pension benefits are triggered in the third term, by the following vote:

Aye – Ms. Mansfield, Ms. Hanglitter, Mr. Kauffman, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford  
Nay – Mr. Waddy  
Absent – Mr. Fleckenstein

Ms. Mansfield spoke on the public comments received before the meeting.

Ms. Corby explained Article III of the County Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier explained where to find information on emergency ordinances in the Charter, and what acute and civil emergency ordinances are.

Mr. Waddy asked what types of authority the Council uses during an emergency.

Ms. Klasmeier clarified.

Mr. Kauffman suggested changing the term “Chairman” to “Chair” throughout the whole Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier stated that is being looked into.

Mr. Kauffman requested the language of Section 307(h) be reviewed.

Ms. Corby pointed out a change she would like to see in Section 307(h).

Mr. Snow asked if legislatives were allowed to use an emergency ordinance to address a situation that needs immediate action.

Ms. Corby confirmed.



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Mr. Snow expressed his desire to look at number fourteen in Resolution No. 54-21 instead of number thirteen.

Ms. Corby stated that both items work together and need to be clarified.

Ms. Klasmeier offered to create language to clarify the section.

Mr. Snow asked if the Commission needs to work on the language of the section or if there needs to be a change to the law itself.

Ms. Corby explained that the law works, but needs better explanation language.

Ms. Mansfield asked Ms. Klasmeier to create the language and have it ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Snow asked Ms. Bohlayer if there was anything hindering the auditors from doing their jobs.

Ms. Bohlayer gave an overview of how the Audit Department works and explained different challenges they face.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any trends across the state regarding the types of audits being done.

Ms. Bohlayer answered.

There was further discussion between the Commission and Ms. Bohlayer regarding the Audit Department.

Ms. Mansfield explained the public testimony that was received prior to the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Mansfield spoke on a system for public campaign financing.

Mr. Snow stated that the legislation failed, so the Commission should not look at it.

Mr. Kauffman shared his view of campaign financing.

Mr. Waddy suggested adding the item to the discussion for the future Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Kauffman asked for background on the Fire Department.

Ms. Mansfield reviewed the timeline and agenda for future meetings.

Mr. Waddy asked for a racial equity analysis of the Charter from Pete Hill.

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Ms. Klasmeier and Ms. Corby clarified the request with Mr. Waddy.

Mr. Snow stated he will not be present at the next meeting, February 28, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Snow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 13  
February 28, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Andrea Mansfield  
David Kauffman  
Larry Telford  
Ashley Hanglitter  
Thomas Fleckenstein

Torrey Snow was absent.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs  
Pete Hill, Equity, Diversion, Inclusion Director  
Asha Smith, Human Relations Officer

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Waddy asked for clarification to be added regarding the vacancies for the School Board and Ms. Klasmeier's response. On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Telford, the minutes of February 14, 2022 were approved.

### **CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Mansfield gave a review of the Articles to be discussed.

Mr. Waddy requested an analysis of the charter section and asked whether or not the impact of the provisions have racial equity across the county or if they receive the same amount of scrutiny under the Executive Branch. He also asked if there were charter provisions that need to be changed to make employee's jobs easier, and shared his desire for boards and commissions to be paid.

Mr. Baron responded to future boards and commissions being included in the Charter and what that would entail.

Mr. Hill shared his regret of not having enough time to complete a proper analysis. He asked for data, specificity, and time from the Commission in order to give the best information.

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Mr. Waddy offered his thanks.

Ms. Mansfield stated there will need to be a discussion regarding the timeline for the analysis. She suggested that Mr. Waddy share his requests with Ms. Corby to help figure out what is needed and how long it will take to complete.

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article IV and Article V of the County Charter.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any historical perspectives on Resolution No. 34-92 concerning the reorganization of responsibilities.

Ms. Klasmeier responded and spoke on the Department of Education, Library, Social Services, and Health Department.

Mr. Waddy asked if there were any requirements for funding regarding the different departments in terms of population or usage.

Mr. Baron answered.

Mr. Fleckenstein asked if there was a discussion to have an advisory board for the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Klasmeier stated she was not aware of that discussion.

Mr. Waddy asked about gender parity for the Recreation Advisory Board and if gender parity is allowed in the Charter.

Mr. Baron responded to the Recreation Advisory Board question.

Ms. Mansfield shared her view of adding it to the Charter.

Mr. Waddy added that paying citizens to be on boards and commissions may help with gender parity.

Mr. Fleckenstein asked how advisory board appointments are made.

Mr. Baron gave a general explanation.

Ms. Klasmeier spoke on specificity.

Ms. Corby explained the boards already in the Charter and who appoints the members.

Mr. Kauffman suggested researching what is already in place before changing the appointment process, and that diversity should be looked at in every aspect of the Charter, not just the boards and commissions.

Ms. Mansfield agreed.

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Mr. Waddy asked for clarification as to why the County Executive and County Council have authority over certain boards and commissions.

Ms. Klasmeier explained how the boards and commissions were created.

Mr. Kauffman expressed his desire for Ms. Smith to work on the equal opportunity and human relations part of the Charter.

Mr. Waddy shared his desire to add equal opportunity to every board and commission.

Ms. Mansfield requested that the subject be added to the list for more information. She asked if Mr. Hill and Ms. Smith's positions should be added to the Charter.

Mr. Baron explained the positions.

Ms. Mansfield asked the Commission if the positions should be formalized into the Charter during this review.

Mr. Waddy and Mr. Fleckenstein agreed.

Mr. Telford shared his reluctance to adding the positions to the Charter and asked for more information as to why they should be added.

Ms. Mansfield agreed to further discussion.

Mr. Baron spoke on the balance between putting items in the Charter versus how much to leave in the Code.

Mr. Waddy explained that Ms. Smith and Mr. Hill have the expertise in diversity and he spoke on compensation for the board and commission members.

Mr. Telford asked if there were non-profits working outside of the County and if they could be privatized with the Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier responded.

Ms. Corby gave a review of Article VI of the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman asked about the Human Relations Commission being in the Charter.

Ms. Corby and Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Baron explained the history of the Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Kauffman asked if now is the time to apply a Charter amendment for the Human Relations Commission Code language or if there is a reason why the language should not be in the Charter.

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Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Kauffman suggested putting the language into the Charter.

Mr. Baron spoke on adding the student voter.

Ms. Corby explained the Veterans Affair Commission and the difference in timeframe to change the Code versus the Charter.

Mr. Waddy asked if there would be inclusion of the entire language each time something is added to the Charter.

Mr. Kauffman explained why that would not happen.

Mr. Waddy gave an example on how flexibility in the Charter would help.

Ms. Mansfield shared her concern to adding specifics to the Charter.

Mr. Waddy suggested reviewing other commissions.

Ms. Mansfield questioned if the needed language was already in the Code.

Ms. Hanglitter expressed her views of where the specifics should be.

Mr. Kauffman spoke on how the departments had not asked the Commission to make changes to the language and that this would be a monumental task if the Commission takes it on.

Mr. Telford asked if there were any public testimony for the three articles.

Ms. Mansfield stated there were none.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Mansfield asked about the items Ms. Klasmeier was researching.

Ms. Klasmeier stated she would have them ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Kauffman spoke on when future Charter Revision Commissions should begin working and suggested May 1<sup>st</sup> as the member's appointment date.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed and gave information on the census and timing.

Mr. Fleckenstein shared his agreement to having the Commission appointed earlier in the year.

Mr. Waddy shared he was in favor of changing the start date of the Commission.

Mr. Telford suggested splitting the Commission into two groups, one for redistricting, and

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another for reviewing the Charter.

Ms. Klasmeier recommended starting the Commission earlier in the year to work on the Charter before the census comes out. She reminded the Commission that the Council takes the month of August off.

Mr. Kauffman agreed and asked what the best time during the year was for the Council to review the applicants.

Ms. Mansfield asked which jurisdictions in the state use two commissions.

Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Waddy gave his opinion of how the Council sees the Commission.

Mr. Kauffman shared his view on having two commissions.

Ms. Mansfield clarified what will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed.

Ms. Mansfield spoke on changing the deadline from March 31<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was discussion regarding the best date to have the deadline.

On motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the Commission will draft a letter to the Council asking for the deadline to be moved from March 31<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Mansfield gave her view on having in person meetings.

Mr. Kauffman suggested having alternate in person meetings and virtual meetings.

Mr. Fleckenstein expressed his desire to have in person meetings, but was open to either option.

Mr. Waddy requested the meetings stay virtual.

Mr. Telford and Ms. Hanglitter shared their preference to do either alternate meetings or all virtual meetings.

Ms. Mansfield stated the Commission should do a hybrid of in person and virtual meetings.

Ms. Corby suggested doing the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting virtually and March 28<sup>th</sup> in person.

The Commission agreed.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Waddy, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 14  
March 14, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
David Kauffman  
Larry Telford  
Ashley Hanglitter  
Thomas Fleckenstein  
Torrey Snow

Andrea Mansfield was absent.  
Steven Waddy left at 8:30 P.M.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs  
Trisha Walford, Fire Chief  
Karin McQuade, Controller, Office of Finance  
Anne Budowski, Personnel Officer  
Christine Anderson, Central Services

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Snow called the meeting to order and explained the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Telford, seconded by Ms. Hanglitter, the minutes of February 28, 2022 were approved.

**CHARTER MATTERS**

Mr. Snow asked for an overview of the Resolution.

Ms. Klasmeier spoke on the relationship between the Volunteer Fire Companies and Anne Arundel County Fire Department.

Chief Walford clarified the relationship in context with the Charter.

Mr. Snow asked for a definition of “volunteer”.

Chief Walford answered.

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Mr. Kauffman asked if there was a need to have a second clarification in the Charter for the Fire Chief to oversee volunteers.

Ms. Klasmeier responded.

Mr. Kauffman asked what change is being requested.

Mr. Telford asked if the volunteers knew these topics were being talked about.

Chief Walford explained there would be multiple opinions from the volunteers and spoke on Reciprocity Agreements.

There was further discussion regarding the Volunteer Fire Companies.

Mr. Kauffman asked to have a fire volunteer come speak to the Commission.

Mr. Snow agreed and the Commission chose to table the discussion until a fire volunteer could come speak.

Mr. Snow asked about a dedicated fire tax and what that would mean to the Department.

Chief Walford expressed her desire for more information on the fire tax.

Mr. Baron stated there were no plans to pursue a fire tax, and explained the increase in the fire budget.

Ms. Klasmeier spoke on different taxes and impact fees.

Mr. Kauffman stated that no department is requesting a fire tax and suggested canceling the discussion.

Mr. Fleckenstein agreed and asked why this topic was asked to be considered.

Mr. Snow gave his opinion and asked if politics created an impact to provide services.

Chief Walford explained the hindrances.

Mr. Snow asked if there was value in a stabilizing fire tax.

Mr. Kauffman shared his concern for the effects of adding a fire tax.

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, the Commission chose to make no recommendation on a fire tax.

Mr. Snow clarified the next step to have a fire volunteer speak and to define corporate and operational matters.

Ms. Klasmeier reviewed items 6, 7, 8, and 9 from Resolution No. 54-21 for Article VII and

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gave a brief overview of the budget process.

Mr. Waddy stated he was leaving the meeting.

Mr. Snow spoke on evaluating whether the Council can increase the budget and asked if there were other jurisdictions where those Councils could add to their budget.

Ms. Klasmeier answered.

Mr. Snow asked Mr. Baron for his thoughts on the flexibility of the Administration to provide funding.

Mr. Baron shared his comfort with the current structure.

Mr. Telford asked that if the Council could increase items in the budget would there have to be somewhere the funds come from.

Ms. Klasmeier agreed.

Mr. Fleckenstein added that the Council is involved in the budget process and expressed his agreement with the current structure.

Mr. Kauffman asked for clarification on why this item is being discussed.

Ms. Klasmeier spoke on the bond initiative.

Mr. Kauffman shared his concern on the language for bonds.

Mr. Fleckenstein explained his view that both item numbers 6 and 7 were related.

Mr. Snow suggested that item numbers 6, 7, and 8 were related.

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the Commission had no recommendations for item numbers 6 and 7.

Mr. Snow asked for background on the Community Benefit Program.

Mr. Baron explained the program and stated he had no recommendations for changes.

Mr. Kauffman gave his suggestions for where the funding would make sense.

Mr. Snow gave his opinion on the program.

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Kauffman, the Commission had no recommendation for item number 8.

Mr. Snow spoke on item number 9, imposing local tax income cap, and expressed his desire that the whole Commission be present for the discussion.

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Mr. Fleckenstein asked for the difference between this and the tax revenue cap already in place.

Ms. Klasmeier gave background on the income tax cap.

Mr. Baron stated there is a local income tax cap through the State.

Mr. Fleckenstein spoke on the property tax cap and clarified that the decision to change the income tax cap would go on the ballot.

Mr. Baron agreed.

Mr. Kauffman clarified what the Commission is being asked to consider.

Mr. Fleckenstein shared his thoughts on item number 9.

Ms. Hanglitter asked if there was legislation in front of the State to increase the cap.

Mr. Baron answered.

Mr. Snow shared his position on item number 9.

Mr. Telford asked if the Commission was tasked to choose a limit, and what that limit should be.

Mr. Snow responded.

Mr. Fleckenstein expressed his desire to have all the Commission present to make the decision.

Mr. Kauffman shared his views on voting.

The Commission agreed to hold the discussion on item number 9 until the next meeting.

Mr. Snow spoke on Articles VIII and IX, and asked if there was anything the Commission should look at to make the department's jobs easier.

Ms. Budowski responded for Article VIII.

Ms. Anderson responded for Article IX.

Mr. Kauffman asked about the rate of inflation relating to the threshold of caps.

Ms. Anderson answered.

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Snow stated the next meeting would be in person at the Council office where the future schedule and Articles X and XII will be discussed.

Ms. Klasmeier stated she has provided the requested information for the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Kauffman, seconded by Mr. Snow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 15  
April 20, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Patric Enright  
Larry Telford  
Ashley Hangliter  
Thomas Fleckenstein  
Torrey Snow  
Andrea Mansfield

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs  
Trisha Walford, Fire Chief  
Kitty Gross, President, Arundel Volunteer Fire Department  
Joseph Larsen, First Vice-President, Arundel Volunteer Fire Department  
Ethan Hunt, Office of Law

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and welcomed a new Commission member, Patric Enright. She explained the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Enright, the minutes of March 14, 2022 were approved.

### **CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Mansfield explained the Volunteer Fire Department items to be examined by the Commission and read through the Commission's Fire Department questions.

Chief Walford and Mr. Larsen responded to the questions.

Ms. Gross gave information on volunteer responsibilities and shared the need for a change of wording in Section 547.

The Commission members asked for clarification on a few subjects.

Ms. Gross, Mr. Larsen, and Chief Walford responded.

There was discussion regarding whether the Charter needed to be amended.

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On motion by Ms. Mansfield, seconded by Mr. Waddy, the Commission will not make any recommendations on items number ten and eleven of Resolution No. 54-21, but will include language in the final report to suggest the matters be looked at through other means.

Ms. Mansfield gave a brief overview of the County Income Tax and expressed her view of the cap.

The Commission members shared their views on imposing an interest cap.

On motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Enright, the Commission agreed to not make a recommendation on item number nine of Resolution No. 54-21 by the following vote:

Aye – Mr. Fleckenstein, Mr. Enright, Mr. Waddy, Ms. Mansfield  
Nay – Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford, Ms. Hangliter

Ms. Corby explained Article X and Article XII of the County Charter.

Mr. Telford expressed his desire to split the Commission to two parts; Charter Revision Commission and Redistricting.

There was discussion among the Commission regarding the split and the timeframe of each part.

The Commission agreed to not make any changes to the Charter Revision Commission.

Ms. Mansfield reviewed the suggested language offered by Ms. Klasmeier for all the requested sections, and the Commission discussed.

Ms. Mansfield asked the Office of Law to clean up the suggested language in Section 1203.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Mansfield clarified the Commission's schedule. There was discussion about different dates and the Commission decided for a virtual public hearing on May 10<sup>th</sup> and a final virtual meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 16  
May 10, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Virtual

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Patric Enright  
Larry Telford  
Ashley Hangliter  
Andrea Mansfield  
Thomas Fleckenstein

Torrey Snow was absent.

Also present were:

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and explained the agenda. She requested that there be a press release of the draft report for the public to have fifteen days to review before the final discussion on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Mr. Telford, seconded by Mr. Enright, the Commission unanimously agreed to review the minutes of April 20, 2022 at the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The following persons spoke on the Charter Revision:

Joseph Larsen, Acting President, Anne Arundel County Volunteer Fire Department  
Joseph Wojtowycz, Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company

There was no one else registered or present who wished to speak and the hearing was concluded.

### **CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Klasmeier explained the Report on the Charter.

The Commission discussed the issues in the report and clarified any changes they wished to make.



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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Mansfield suggested the press release of the report with the changes be made available to the public for comments until May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Waddy spoke on adding an equity related amendment to the Charter.

Ms. Mansfield proposed having the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting in person and include a small celebration before or after the meeting.

Mr. Enright recommended embedding the Board of Elections into the Boards and Commissions section of the Charter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Talford, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
Minutes – Meeting # 17  
May 31, 2022 - 7:15 P.M.  
Council Chambers

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The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M. with the following members present:

Steven Waddy  
Patric Enright  
Larry Telford  
Torrey Snow  
Andrea Mansfield  
Thomas Fleckenstein

Ashley Hanglitter was absent.

Also present were:

Kaley Schultz, Assistant Administrative Officer to the County Council  
Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney, Office of Law  
Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs  
David Kauffman, former Commission member

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mansfield called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Snow, the minutes of April 20, 2022 were approved.

On motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Telford, the minutes of May 10, 2022 were approved.

**CHARTER MATTERS**

Ms. Blair Klasmeier reviewed the Report on the Charter.

The Commission reviewed outstanding issues listed in Resolution No. 54-21:

Issue No. 10

On motion by Mr. Telford, seconded by Mr. Enright, the motion to make no changes was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

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Issue No. 12

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the motion to make no changes was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

Issue Nos. 13 and 14

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the motion to adopt the suggested language in the draft report and the appendix was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

Issue No. 16

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Telford, the motion to adopt the suggested language in the draft report was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

Several additional issues not included in Resolution No. 54-21 were discussed and resolved by the Commission:

On motion by Mr. Enright, seconded by Mr. Waddy, the motion to change the tagline for Section 1203 of the Charter, to “Redistricting and Charter Revision Commission”, was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

On motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Telford, the motion to adopt the recommended wording for Section 311(c) of the Charter was passed by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

**RECESS**

The Commission took a recess at 7:39 P.M. and reconvened at 7:49 P.M.

**CHARTER MATTERS (continued)**

On motion by Mr. Snow, seconded by Mr. Fleckenstein, the Commission approved the Sixth Decennial Charter Revision Commission Report on the Charter by a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Hanglitter being absent.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Mansfield, Mr. Fleckenstein, Mr. Snow, Mr. Telford, and Mr. Enright thanked all who helped with their work on their Charter.

Ms. Schultz presented Council citations to the Commission.

Mr. Baron presented County Executive citations to the Commission.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Fleckenstein, seconded by Mr. Snow, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Macaulay  
Reporter

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Charter Counties <sup>1</sup>											
	Anne Arundel <sup>2</sup>	Baltimore <sup>3</sup>	Cecil <sup>4</sup>	Dorchester <sup>5</sup>	Frederick <sup>6</sup>	Harford <sup>7</sup>	Howard <sup>8</sup>	Montgomery <sup>9</sup>	Prince George's <sup>10</sup>	Talbot <sup>11</sup>	Wicomico <sup>12</sup>
<i>Council Member Term Limits</i>	Two full consecutive four-year terms	No	No	No	Three Consecutive Terms	No	3 terms or 2 terms and partial term more than two years	3 consecutive terms including partial term more than 2 years	Two consecutive terms	No	No
<i>Councilmanic Districts</i>	7	7	5	5	5	6	5	5	9	5	5
<i>Council Members for Councilmanic District</i>	7	7	5	5	5	6	5	5	9	0	5
<i>At-large Council Members</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	1	n/a	4	2	5	2
<i>Total Council Members</i>	7	7	5	5	7	7	5	9	11	5	7
<i>Population in County (2020 Census<sup>13</sup>)</i>	588,261	854,535	103,725	32,531	271,717	260,924	332,317	1,062,061	967,201	37,526	103,588
<i>Average Population per Councilmanic District (2020 Population/ Councilmanic Districts)</i>	84,037	122,076	20,745	6,506	54,343	43,487	66,463	212,412	107,467	7,505	20,718

<sup>1</sup> Eleven Maryland counties have ratified charter forms of government: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico. All of these are governed by county councils; and all (except Dorchester & Talbot) are led by county executives.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/county.html#:~:text=Eleven%20Maryland%20counties%20have%20ratified,are%20led%20by%20county%20executives.>

<sup>2</sup> [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/annearundel/latest/annearundelco\\_md/0-0-0-98213#JD\\_CharterArt.II](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/annearundel/latest/annearundelco_md/0-0-0-98213#JD_CharterArt.II)

<sup>3</sup> [https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=CHTR\\_CHBACOMA\\_ARTIITHCOCO](https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CHTR_CHBACOMA_ARTIITHCOCO)

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecode360.com/15790698>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ecode360.com/12066132>

<sup>6</sup> [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/frederickcounty/latest/frederickco\\_md/0-0-0-55022](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/frederickcounty/latest/frederickco_md/0-0-0-55022)

<sup>7</sup> <https://ecode360.com/12066522>

<sup>8</sup> [https://library.municode.com/md/howard\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=HOCOCH\\_ARTIITHLEBR](https://library.municode.com/md/howard_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=HOCOCH_ARTIITHLEBR)

<sup>9</sup> [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco\\_md/0-0-0-161](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco_md/0-0-0-161)

<sup>10</sup> [https://library.municode.com/md/prince\\_george's\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTICHPRGECOMA\\_CHPRGECOMA\\_ARTIITHLEBR](https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICHPRGECOMA_CHPRGECOMA_ARTIITHLEBR)

<sup>11</sup> <https://ecode360.com/36323343>

<sup>12</sup> <https://ecode360.com/13910446>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MD>

**Charter Review Commission – Meeting Schedule and Strategic Plan –  
Study and Review of County Charter**

**Discussion Document**

<b><u>Meeting Date</u></b>	<b><u>Objective and Outcome</u></b>
January 10	Approve final report on redistricting; Discuss county charter and the Commission’s role in review and making recommendations; discuss and approve work plan; Provide opportunity for Commission members to raise matters for review and discussion
January 24	Public virtual hearing to hear from public on charter matters; Presentation from County Executive’s office on matters for review; further discussion by Commission members on matters for review and discussion
February 14	Discuss Articles I, II, and III dealing with the County Council and Legislative Branch; Review and discuss key issues 1 through 5 and 13 through 15 from the Council Resolution; Hear from appropriate staff members to educate Commission members on these matters; Discuss potential recommendations on these articles
February 28	Discuss Articles IV, V, and VI; Hear from appropriate staff members to educate Commission members on these matters; Review and discuss key issues 10 and 11 from the resolution that fall under these articles; Discuss potential recommendations on these articles
March 14	Discuss Articles VII, VIII, and IX; Hear from appropriate staff members to educate Commission members on these matters; Review and discuss key issues 6 through 9 and 12 from the resolution that fall under these articles; Discuss potential recommendations on these articles
March 28	Discuss Articles X, XI, and XII; Hear from appropriate staff members to educate Commission members on these matters; Review and discuss key issues 16; Discuss potential recommendations on these articles;  Public Virtual Hearing to hear from members of the public on issues and recommendations discussed
Additional March/April Meeting	Discuss and finalize recommendations to the Council
Possible Late April Meeting	Review and vote on final report

Charter Title	Resolution No. 54-21
Article I. Name and Rights of the County	
Article II. The County Council	<p>1. Examine the benefits of increasing the number of Councilmanic districts. Charter Sections 201 and 206.</p> <p>2. Examine allowing members of the County Council to serve in office for three full consecutive four-year terms. Charter Section 203.</p> <p>3. Evaluate salaries and retirement benefits for members of the County Council. Charter Section 204; County Code §§ 2-2-101, 2-2-102, 3-9-101 (Salary Standards Commission).</p> <p>4. Examine whether the role of members of the County Council should be considered full-time and if the salaries of members of the County Council should be increased to reflect actual hours worked. No corresponding section, but see Charter Section 204; County Code §§ 2-2-101, 2-2-102, 3-9-101 (Salary Standards Commission).</p> <p>5. Evaluate, if members of the County Council were full-time, whether they should be allowed to maintain secondary employment. No corresponding section.</p>
Article III. The Legislative Branch	<p>13. Examine allowing the use of an emergency ordinance to address a situation that needs immediate action. Charter Sections 208(d) and 307(i).</p> <p>14. Evaluate Sections 208 and 307 as they apply to emergency ordinances and what could be done to improve the procedures for passing emergency ordinances. Charter Sections 208(d) and 307(i).</p>



	<p>15. Evaluate the need to update or amend Title 6 of Article 1 pertaining to civil emergencies.</p> <p>No corresponding Charter Section, but see Article 1, Title 6 of the County Code.</p>
<p>Article IV. The County Executive</p>	
<p>Article V. The Executive Branch</p>	<p>10. Examine the powers of the Fire Chief to oversee and regulate riding members of volunteer fire companies in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>No corresponding Charter Section, but see generally Charter Sections 545 (Fire Chief) and 547 (powers and duties), as well as Article 12, Title 1 of the County Code.</p> <p>11. Evaluate Section 547 of the Charter as it applies to volunteer fire companies and any entities under which they operate.</p> <p>See Charter Section 547 and Article 12, Title 1 of the County Code.</p>
<p>Article VI. Special Boards, Commissions, and Committees</p>	
<p>Article VII. Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures (Executive Budget System)</p>	<p>6. Evaluate allowing the County Council to increase or amend items in the budget. Charter Section 709 (cut but not add); see also Charter Section 812 (must fund arbitration awards), § 5-102(c) of the Education Article of the State Code (can restore County Executive’s cuts to Board’s requested budget), and Maryland Constitution Article 2, §17 and Article 3, §52(6) (similar provisions of State budget process).</p> <p>7. Evaluate allowing the County Council to introduce bond initiatives to be placed on the ballot.</p> <p>No corresponding Charter Section, but see generally Charter Sections 719 (borrowing limitations) and 721 (bond issuance).</p>

	<p>8. Examine the benefit of allowing Councilmanic districts to be eligible for grants under the Community Benefit Program. No corresponding Charter Section, but see § 4-11-109 of the County Code.</p> <p>9. Evaluate placing a limit on the local income tax rate in Anne Arundel County. No corresponding Charter Section, but see § 4-4-101 of the County Code and § 10-106 of the Tax-General Article of the State Code.</p> <p>12. Evaluate the benefit of authorizing a local fire tax for funding the Fire Department. No corresponding Charter Section, but see § 10-313 of the Local Government Article of the State Code for taxing authority.</p>
Article VIII. Merit System	
Article IX. Centralized Purchasing	
Article X. Miscellaneous	<p>16. Consider making the language used in the Charter more gender neutral. Charter Section 1010(d).</p>
Article XII. Termination of Charter; Amendments to Charter	

## **RESOLUTIONS**

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 19

Resolution No. 50-21

Introduced by Ms. Lacey, Chair

and by the Entire Council

By the County Council, October 4, 2021

1 RESOLUTION appointing a Charter Revision Commission

2

3 WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Charter of Anne Arundel County provides that, at  
4 or before the first annual legislative session of the County Council after the  
5 publication of each decennial census of the population of the United States, the  
6 County Council shall appoint by resolution a Charter Revision Commission for the  
7 purpose of making a comprehensive study of the County government and the  
8 updating of its Charter where necessary, including the matter of the revision of the  
9 Councilmanic districts of the County; and

10

11 WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau's deadline for reporting 2020 census results  
12 was December 31, 2020; and

13

14 WHEREAS, the statutory deadline for the delivery of 2020 census data was missed  
15 because of the delays cause by the pandemic and anomalies found in the census  
16 data; and

17

18 WHEREAS, the census data needed to consider the revision of the Councilmanic  
19 districts of the County was made available on September 16, 2021; and

20

21 WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Charter provides that the Commission shall be  
22 composed of a number of representative citizens of the County equal to the number  
23 of Councilmanic districts in the County, with each member of the County Council  
24 making one appointment, who shall report to the Council their findings and  
25 recommendations, together with drafts of any recommended revisions of the  
26 Charter, within twelve months after their appointment;

27

28 WHEREAS, the timeline contemplated under Section 1203 is not possible due the  
29 delayed 2020 census results; now, therefore, be it

30

31 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That it hereby*  
32 *appoints the following citizens to the Anne Arundel County Charter Revision Commission:*

33

34 1. Steven Waddy

35

36 2. Thomas Fleckenstein

- 1        3. Torrey Snow
- 2
- 3        4. Andrea Mansfield
- 4
- 5        5. Larry Telford
- 6
- 7        6. David Kauffman
- 8
- 9        7. Ashley Hangliter

10  
11 and be it further

12  
13        *Resolved*, That the Commission shall solicit the comments from the County Executive  
14 and department heads on appropriate areas of review and suggestions for revisions to the  
15 Charter; and be it further

16  
17        *Resolved*, That the Commission shall solicit the views of the citizens of Anne Arundel  
18 County regarding its comprehensive study of the County government; and be it further

19  
20        *Resolved*, That the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations on  
21 revision of the Councilmanic districts to the County Council no later than December 31,  
22 2021; and be it further

23  
24        *Resolved*, That the Commission shall report the results of its comprehensive study and  
25 any recommendations for updating the Charter to the County Council no later than March  
26 31, 2022; and be it further

27  
28        *Resolved*, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member appointed to the Charter  
29 Review Commission.

READ AND PASSED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 50-21 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Sarah F. Lacey  
Chair

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 20

Resolution No. 54-21

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Mr. Pruski, and Ms. Lacey

By the County Council, October 18, 2021

1 RESOLUTION requesting the Charter Revision Commission to consider certain issues

2  
3 WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 50-21 the County Council appointed a Charter  
4 Revision Commission for the purpose of making a comprehensive study of County  
5 Government and updating the Charter, including revision of the Councilmanic  
6 districts; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to ensure that several key issues are  
9 carefully considered by the Charter Revision Commission; now, therefore, be it

10  
11 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That it hereby  
12 requests the Charter Revision Commission to include the following issues on their agenda  
13 for in-depth study and to make recommendations relating to these key issues:

- 14
- 15 1. Examine the benefits of increasing the number of Councilmanic districts.
  - 16
  - 17 2. Examine allowing members of the County Council to serve in office for three full  
18 consecutive four-year terms.
  - 19
  - 20 3. Evaluate salaries and retirement benefits for members of the County Council.
  - 21
  - 22 4. Examine whether the role of members of the County Council should be considered  
23 full-time and if the salaries of members of the County Council should be increased  
24 to reflect actual hours worked.
  - 25
  - 26 5. Evaluate, if members of the County Council were full-time, whether they should  
27 be allowed to maintain secondary employment.
  - 28
  - 29 6. Evaluate allowing the County Council to increase or amend items in the budget.
  - 30
  - 31 7. Evaluate allowing the County Council to introduce bond initiatives to be placed on  
32 the ballot.
  - 33
  - 34 8. Examine the benefit of allowing Councilmanic districts to be eligible for grants  
35 under the Community Benefit Program.
  - 36
  - 37 9. Evaluate placing a limit on the local income tax rate in Anne Arundel County.

1 10. Examine the powers of the Fire Chief to oversee and regulate riding members of  
2 volunteer fire companies in Anne Arundel County.

3  
4 11. Evaluate Section 547 of the Charter as it applies to volunteer fire companies and  
5 any entities under which they operate.

6  
7 12. Evaluate the benefit of authorizing a local fire tax for funding the Fire Department.

8  
9 13. Examine allowing the use of an emergency ordinance to address a situation that  
10 needs immediate action.

11  
12 14. Evaluate Sections 208 and 307 as they apply to emergency ordinances and what  
13 could be done to improve the procedures for passing emergency ordinances.

14  
15 15. Evaluate the need to update or amend Title 6 of Article 1 pertaining to civil  
16 emergencies.

17  
18 16. Consider making the language used in the Charter more gender neutral.

19  
20 and, be it further

21  
22 *Resolved*, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Charter Revision Commission.

READ AND PASSED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2021.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 54-21 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY  
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Sarah F. Lacey  
Chair

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. --

Resolution No. 5-22

Introduced by Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, and Mr. Pruski

By the County Council, March 15, 2022

1 RESOLUTION amending a certain reporting deadline required of the Charter Revision  
2 Commission

3  
4 WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Charter of Anne Arundel County provides that, at  
5 or before the first annual legislative session of the County Council after the  
6 publication of each decennial census of the population of the United States, the  
7 County Council shall appoint by resolution a Charter Revision Commission for the  
8 purpose of making a comprehensive study of the County government and the  
9 updating of its Charter where necessary, including the matter of the revision of the  
10 Councilmanic districts of the County; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission was appointed on October 4, 2021  
13 by Resolution No. 50-21; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Resolution No. 50-21 required that the Charter Revision Commission  
16 report its findings and recommendations on revision of the Councilmanic districts  
17 to the County Council no later than December 31, 2021, and report the results of its  
18 comprehensive study and any recommendations for updating the Charter to the  
19 County Council no later than March 31, 2022; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission reported its findings and  
22 recommendations on the revision of the Councilmanic districts on January 10,  
23 2022; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission, at its February 28, 2022 meeting,  
26 established that more time to conduct a comprehensive study and recommend  
27 updates to the Charter is needed; now, therefore, be it

28  
29 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That it hereby*  
30 *amends the fifth clause in Resolution No. 50-21 to revise the deadline as follows:*

31  
32 *Resolved, That the Commission shall report the results of its comprehensive*  
33 *study and any recommendations for updating the Charter to the County Council no*  
34 *later than June 1, 2022;*

35  
36 and be it further

37  
38 *Resolved, That all other resolves in Resolution No. 50-21 remain intact and in effect;*  
39 *and be it further*



- 1        *Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Charter Revision
- 2        Commission.

READ AND PASSED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 5-22 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Lisa D. B. Rodvien  
Chair

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 8-22

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, April 18, 2022

1 RESOLUTION appointing a member to the Charter Revision Commission to serve the  
2 remainder of a term

3  
4 WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Charter of Anne Arundel County provides that, at  
5 or before the first annual legislative session of the County Council after the  
6 publication of each decennial census of the population of the United States, the  
7 County Council shall appoint by resolution a Charter Revision Commission for the  
8 purpose of making a comprehensive study of the County government and the  
9 updating of its Charter where necessary, including the matter of the revision of the  
10 Councilmanic districts of the County; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Charter provides that the Commission shall be  
13 composed of a number of representative citizens of the County equal to the number  
14 of Councilmanic districts in the County, with each member of the County Council  
15 making one appointment; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, a seven-member Charter Revision Commission was appointed by the  
18 County Council on October 4, 2021; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, David Kaufmann, the Commissioner appointed by Councilmember  
21 Rodvien, has resigned from the Charter Revision Commission effective April 2,  
22 2022; now, therefore, be it

23  
24 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That it hereby*  
25 *appoints Patric S. Enright to serve on the Charter Revision Commission; and be it further*  
26

27 *Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Andrea Mansfield, Chair,*  
28 *Charter Revision Commission.*

READ AND PASSED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

Resolution No. 8-22

Page No. 2

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 8-22 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa D. B. Rodvien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lisa D. B. Rodvien  
Chair