

June 30, 2022

Dear Multnomah County Charter Review Committee,

I support your goals for greater transparency and equity in our jail system, but was left with several questions after your last meeting. You may want to consider these as you refine your recommendation.

- How will the work done by these citizens differ from the Corrections Grand Jury, which is also made up of citizens? I don't question the value of the additional review, but answering this question may help clarify your goals and avoid duplication.
- Would all the constituents write one report together each year, or would there be separate reports for each Commissioner's office? If they are separate reports, would the Chair's constituents also write a report (only Commissioners are mentioned in some language)?
- If reports are written by citizens who have no expertise in corrections, would they be easily discredited or ignored?
- Could the group include experts in corrections who live outside Multnomah County, or outside a Commissioner's district? Including some experts with citizens might increase the credibility and influence of the findings. If you want to allow experts to participate, it isn't clear why you'd limit them to residents of Commissioner's districts.
- Will any inmate interview questions be reviewed in advance by experts in mental health and trauma to avoid creating stress or trauma? Untrained citizens might easily ask inappropriate questions that could result in harm.
- Are there people you want to exclude from participating as "constituents," such as corrections personnel or law enforcement personnel? From all jurisdictions (federal, state, local)? Their immediate families? The District Attorney and his staff?

Best wishes, thank you for your service, and thank you for considering these comments.

Carol Chesarek