

Submitted June 29, 2022

I have been watching the City and County's charter processes. Thank you for looking so closely at the County's charter.

The edits so far are right on track. However, I'm still chewing on the auditor's proposals. The auditor's budget ask was a bad idea from the start. Some of the other ideas may be fine, but the auditor is trying to push a whole bunch of new things through and it feels like too much without knowing how these proposals fit into the county. It leaves me wondering why she is using this committee's review process instead of working with the Board? This approach raises an eyebrow and creates more questions than answers.

The auditor function is obviously unique and very important, but the ombudsman and hotline seem similar, if not duplicative. Why include those functions in the charter? Also unanswered is why would both of those functions would be under the auditor? Isn't an ombudsman a management or customer satisfaction role? By requiring the auditor to also manage an ombudsman and hotline, won't the auditor function be watered down?

Government has to be accountable, but creating multiple layers of basically the same function is duplicative, expensive, and likely to confuse people who are looking for help.

From where I sit, the fact that unanswered questions remain about these proposals is a result of the auditor's venture to push through too much, too fast.

More bothersome is that the auditor's proposals are taking time from other important work! The next agenda gives 15 minutes for discussion and potential votes on gender neutral and voting. That is a tight timeline. Other ideas, like the proposed changes to the charter review process and selection process deserve more attention. Next time around the committee needs more time, support, and public engagement during this process.

I hope the committee can finalize voting, gender neutral, and changes to the process before devoting more time to other proposals.

Submitted by Sarah S.