

Submitted July 15, 2022

This is just a quick comment in opposition to the changes you're proposing to the Charter Commission appointments process. I am concerned with the line of accountability to voters regarding such important appointments. I don't have any particularized problem with the Office of Citizen Involvement, but delegating appointments to an agency rather than elected officials makes the appointment process less accountable. Because the Charter Commission has some fairly extraordinary powers and responsibilities, appointments to the Commission should be the responsibility of someone directly accountable to voters. The appointment of members to the Commission is a political act, not a ministerial or administrative one.

Because the Director of the Office of Community Involvement reports to the Board Chair, would accountability for this appointment authority run solely to the Board Chair? Is this the line of political accountability the Charter Commission intends? If so, shouldn't the Charter Commissioner appointments be at least approved by the full County Board? What prevents the Office of Community Involvement from stacking the Charter Commission or rigging the evaluation process for a particular Charter outcome? Who do I, as a voter, hold responsible for a runaway Charter Commission?

I understand the administratively messy problem with legislative district lines that the Charter Commission is trying to solve by making these changes, but the delegation of authority chosen by the Charter Commission seems inappropriate and subject to influence and conflict of interest that could go unchecked and unbalanced.

I'm not yet sure I can attend, but I will try to provide oral comments at your upcoming meeting

Terry Harris