

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

11:30 AM

Joint Workshop with Charter Revision Board

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

SUSAN GRANT, Acting City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sturman, and Mayor Trantalis

Charter Revision Board (CRB) Members Present: Vice Chair Christopher Fertig, Michael Albetta, Jacquelyn Scott, and Richard Weiss (participated via communications technology)

Charter Revision Board Members Not Present: Chair Judith Stern

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: Acting City Manager Susan Grant, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0887](#)

Joint Workshop with the Charter Revision Board - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of the presentation.

A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to this agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst discussed conversations with his CRB appointee Richard Weiss and remarked on Mr. Weiss' expertise regarding resolving necessary Charter revisions for placement on an upcoming ballot. Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns regarding imposing a long list of modifications on a future ballot and suggested focusing on substantive, cleanup revisions versus ministerial revisions.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his understanding of Commissioner Herbst's remarks and commented on how Charter revisions could be listed on a ballot. Commissioner Herbst discussed his viewpoint and recommendation for a phased approach.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, City Clerk

David Soloman explained the costs associated with placing Charter Amendments on a Special Mail-In Ballot in a non-election year, estimated at approximately \$600,000 plus costs and labor, and placement of Charter Revisions on the next election cycle ballot, estimated between \$92,000 and \$131,000. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on the importance of cost-efficiency.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Fajardo explained information and remarked on the purpose of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA). Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expounded on her viewpoint regarding the CFLCA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his support for public outreach regarding Charter Revisions and noted his opposition to costs associated with a Special Mail-In Ballot during an off-year election cycle. He confirmed the priority of ensuring the Charter aligns with State Statutes and expounded on related information. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on two (2) memorandums from the Office of the City Attorney regarding necessary Charter Revisions and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Attorney Thomas Ansbro explained that each Charter Revision must be a separate item on a ballot and noted that any related combined topics on a ballot must meet the seventy-five (75) word limit. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the positive community outreach and involvement for prior ballot initiatives, explained related information, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Fajardo confirmed that the CRB's work included alignment with State Statutes, discussed the Charter's challenging, intertwined nature, and cited examples.

Commissioner Sturman concurred with Commissioner Herbst's comments regarding the time-sensitive nature and importance of certain Charter revisions and cited examples, including the City's election cycle.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint regarding Charter revisions, including the need to focus on concrete measures. He noted the need for additional public outreach, including live public interaction during CRB meetings. He commented on the need for public input regarding changes to the election cycle and cited various options, including having primary elections and implementing staggered terms for Commission Members and remarked on related benefits. Further comment and discussion

ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on updated election campaign contributions that align with Broward County (County) Ordinances and State Statutes. He emphasized the need for resident feedback regarding Charter revisions. Mayor Trantalis discussed and recommended having a centralized, strong mayor form of government that is more efficient, expounded on his perspective and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CRB Vice Chair Christopher Fertig confirmed that the CRB Charter Revisions align with County Ordinances and State Statutes and explained related information. Vice Chair Fertig said that following a Commission consensus regarding direction to the CRB, extensive neighbor involvement would ensue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of how Charter Revisions would be presented to the public. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Chair Fertig discussed aspects of the Charter that needs further clarification to the CRB and cited an example. Vice Chair Fertig concurred with Commission comments today regarding Charter Revision recommendations.

CRB Member Richard Weiss remarked on his initial recommendation regarding a list of Charter Revision priorities. He noted the need for a Commission consensus on the specific CRB revisions and inquired about the Commission's recommendations regarding the sequence of events for community outreach that could include a comprehensive review of the Charter or specific Charter revisions recommended by the Commission.

CRB Member Jacquelyn Scott discussed her viewpoint and concern with the CFLCA being responsible for disseminating information about CRB revisions. She noted that CRB meetings would be relocated to a central location and recommended that the CRB format allow the community to participate in real-time during those meetings, which would be followed up with community workshops. Ms. Scott concurred about the importance of Charter revisions discussed by the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the success of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee's (ITFAC) methodology for public outreach, which would work well for CRB.

CRB Member Michael Albetta discussed the success of community

outreach related to the issuance of bonds on previous ballots, commented on his inquiries to civic associations regarding Charter revisions, and recommended ideas to ensure successful community outreach.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Peloquin, 2510 NE 12th Court, CFLCA President. Ms. Peloquin discussed her support of a phased approach for public outreach and expounded on her perspective. She also noted the assistance and benefits of the League of Women Voters, which assisted with informing the community on other ballot initiatives in layperson's terms.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Fajardo confirmed an understanding of the Commission's direction and recommended further discussion at a future Conference Meeting to restart the CRB process, followed by quarterly CRB updates to the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis urged Commission Members to submit recommended Charter Revisions that the CRB should consider for community feedback.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his support for instituting municipal primary elections, staggered terms, and expounded on his viewpoint.

City Attorney Ansbro noted the Broward County Special Act that does not permit municipal primary elections in years with November general elections and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted the need for consistency regarding municipal and non-municipal elections and cited examples. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, City Attorney Ansbro reiterated that the Broward County Special Act only applies to municipal elections. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis recommended inquiring with the Broward League of Cities regarding this topic.

City Attorney Ansbro confirmed that the change to municipal election contributions was done by Ordinance and commented on related information.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested an update on the maximum monetary contributions for the other Broward County municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Ansbro discussed his understanding and history related to municipal election contributions.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Attorney Ansbro

confirmed that without a prior Ordinance limiting election contributions to \$250, the default State contribution limit would have been \$1,000. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on his recollection and explained related information.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.