

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE LISTENING SESSION

DELTONA REGIONAL LIBRARY
2150 EUSTACE AVE., DELTONA
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Charter Review Commission Chair Hyatt Brown convened the Listening Session of the Volusia County Charter Review Commission at 5:31 p.m. The meeting was held at the Deltona Regional Library, Deltona, Florida. The following Commission members were present: Dr. T. Wayne Bailey, Chair Brown, Patricia Drago, Ambassador Stanley Escudero, Dr. Phillip Fleuchaus, David Haas, Patricia Northey, Glenn Ritchey Sr., Mark Watts, and Lisa Ford Williams. Also present were County Manager Jim Dinneen, County Attorney Daniel Eckert, Management and Budget Director Tammy J. Bong, and Community Assistance Director Dona DeMarsh Butler.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMARKS:

Chair Brown began public participation, calling on Brian Glaze. Mr. Glaze, a resident of Daytona Beach, stated that Let Volusia Vote should be on the ballot. He stated observations of media coverage and polls indicating that the majority of people want the opportunity to vote on the issue. Ambassador Escudero asked if the matter was currently in the hands of the courts, further clarifying that he believes there are three separate ordinances being decided in court. Mr. Glaze agreed, stating that he was under the impression that this group would discuss the issue as well. Ambassador Escudero expressed that there was not a lot to discuss on the issue currently, but stated that he would like to hear from Mr. Glaze and others after the court's decision.

REMARKS BY ELECTED OFFICIAL AND COMMISSION

Deltona Mayor John C. Masiarczyk addressed the low turnout, noting the schedules and commutes of residents preventing them from being at a 5:30 p.m. meeting. Dr. Fleuchaus asked how the listening sessions were being advertised, adding that the previous meeting had a low turnout as well. Ms. Butler listed several advertising methods used: press releases, letters to the mayors of cities, website postings, and informing public information officers for each city. Mr. Dinneen stated that it may not be a matter of advertisement; the Charter Review might not be as big of an issue as it was in previous years. Ambassador Escudero asked if it would be worth having a later meeting. Following some discussion on the matter Mayor Masiarczyk said there are no issues with the Charter for residents to discuss at this time, but once there is a preliminary list of proposed changes to the Charter, residents may be more apt to discuss and take sides.

Dr. Bailey brought up the issue of homelessness and the way that the County and cities intersect in handling these issues. He stated that ten years ago it was the opinion of himself and Dr. Fleuchaus that the Charter should not solve the issue of homelessness, but could possibly provide a framework to do so. Mayor Masiarczyk responded by noting the differences in homelessness in different areas within the County, mentioning the lack of a homeless population in the City of Deltona. Mr. Dinneen addressed the homelessness subject briefly, stating that it is a healthy discussion to have. He acknowledged that the County does a lot and spends a lot relating to homelessness and homelessness prevention. The Council will be part of the solution, but not the entire solution. The importance of maintaining private support was expressed.

Mr. Eckert spoke about recall, an issue that had come up at a previous listening session. He stated that there is a general law provision that provides a recall provision even if it is not in the Charter, and it is pre-emptive. Mr. Watts asked if the provision applied to vacancies. Mr. Eckert said that the statute is 100.361 in the election code and it does not apply to vacancies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.