

*November 21, 2012 at 5:00 pm*  
*Notice posted*

## **Minutes**

**Meeting of the Charter Review Commission  
Cuyahoga County  
November 21, 2012 at 5:00 P.M  
Richmond Heights City Hall  
26789 Highland Road, Richmond Heights, OH 44143**

Required notices were provided and posted and the meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Chairman **Akers**. **Boyle** called the roll.

Present: **McLaughlin; Riley; Callahan; Akers; Dietrich; Tarter; Russell; Albright;**

Absent: **Headen** (excused);

A quorum was present. **Akers** noted that **Headen** had a family matter that prevented her attendance.

**Akers** asked for any Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Copies of the minutes for the Organizational Meeting held on November 5, 2012 were distributed to all CRC members. **Akers** asked if any CRC members had any corrections or additions to the distributed minutes. There were no additions or corrections. **Riley** called for a Motion to adopt the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by **McLaughlin**. **Akers** called for a voice vote on the Motion to approve the minutes.

**For the Motion: McLaughlin, Riley, Callahan, Akers, Dietrich, Tarter, Russell, Albright.**

**Opposed to the Motion: None**

The motion is approved.

**Akers** requested that Directors of County Departments be made available to meet with the CRC to discuss possible changes to the County Charter.

**Akers** asked **Boyle** to facilitate the arrangements for this request.

department has issued an opinion regarding the appointment process but the process has not been codified and is more of a working arrangement. Regarding appointments to the MetroHealth Hospital Board of Trustees, **Dietrich** asked about the role played by the County Council. **Makhlouf** responded that the council served as a balance to the Executive by having the power to confirm, or not confirm, any appointment to that Board.

There were several issues raised by **Makhlouf** regarding the Board of Revision and its composition. He noted the seemingly inconsistencies of Charter Sections 2.03, 5.03, 5.07 and 6.02. He noted that in all Ohio counties, there is only one Board of Revision, with multiple Hearing Boards. Without clarification on this matter, issues concerning hiring authority and reporting responsibility could result. **Tarter** noted that the Charter uses the plural "Boards of Revision" and noted that this language could be problematic when interpreting this issue.

**Makhlouf** addressed the composition and operations of the Charter-created Human Resource Commission and how its powers would function relative to the County workforce. **Makhlouf** pointed to Charter Sections 2.03 and 9.05 as matters that should be addressed in the CRC's analysis. **Akers** noted that the desire of the Charter is to allow consistent standards for county operations. **Makhlouf** said that it was also necessary to assess the HRC's jurisdiction relative to other quasi-county agencies such as the ADAMHS Board and the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Finally, **Makhlouf** addressed the relationship between the offices of the County's Director of Law and the elected Prosecuting Attorney. He pointed out the manner in which the Summit County system operates and numerous questions were posed by CRC members regarding the current operations of the Legal Department. **McLaughlin** related how the federal legal system is structured and **Riley** indicated that Cuyahoga County needs to avoid the creation of parallel, redundant systems between the Director of Law and the County Prosecutor. **Makhlouf** addressed the need for clarity in representation and the need that any provision be functional in practice and not dependent on the individuals who served as County Executive and County Prosecutor.

**Akers** noted that some of the relevant language in the current County Charter resulted from compromise amongst the drafters and it was expected that some alterations would be needed in the future.

**Sister Joanne Gross**, Senior Policy Advisor for the Cuyahoga County Council, was called to speak to the CRC. She brought documentation from the County Council regarding matters that the Cuyahoga County Council had discussed over the last year. Each issue was separately documented. She stressed the need for independence of the CRC and stated that County Council representatives would welcome the opportunity to address the CRC and answer any questions. She noted that some members may choose not to address the CRC, again noting the anticipated autonomy of the CRC.

**Sister Gross** concurred with **Makhlouf** about the need for the CRC to research possible Charter amendments regarding the Board of Revision and the clarification of roles between the Law Director and the County Prosecutor. She also noted that **Judge Nancy Fuerst** should be contacted to discuss any possible amendments regarding the structure and/or operation of the office of the Clerk of Courts and office and its operations. Additionally, she felt that some clarification might be needed for the Office of the Inspector General.

Finally, **Sister Gross** noted that the citizens of Cuyahoga County had approved two amendments to the Charter. Once the Board of Elections certifies the results, the amendments will be added to the official Cuyahoga County Charter.

**Akers** announced that the next meeting of the CRC would be held at 5:00PM on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. There being no further business before the CRC, **Akers** made a motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

(Note: Tarter left the meeting at 6:10 PM)

Draft 11-26  
Issue 11-26  
App. 12-12  
Post. 12-13