

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session


Legislative Day No. 3

Resolution No. 18 -2019


Introduced by: The Chairperson

A RESOLUTION establishing a Charter Review Commission to review and make recommendations concerning the Howard County Charter; appointing certain persons to serve on the Commission; appointing a Chairperson; providing for the duties of the Commission including the duty to submit a final report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Charter Review Commission.


Introduced and read first time February 4, 2019

By order 
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time and a public hearing on February, 2019

By order 
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on Monday, 2019.

Certified by 
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Charter requires the County Council of Howard
2 County to establish a Charter Review Commission (“Commission”) every eight years; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, a Commission last met in 2011; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Commission’s purpose is to ensure that the Charter is clear in
7 meaning, addresses the needs of contemporary government, and remains a functional,
8 working document that effectively outlines the framework for the efficient operation of
9 County government; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the Council has selected fifteen residents of Howard County to serve
12 as members of the Commission, five of whom have been selected from a list of names
13 submitted by the County Executive, and no more than ten of whom are of the same political
14 party.

15
16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard
17 County, Maryland this ___ day of _____, 2019 that there is hereby established a
18 Charter Review Commission to review the Charter, to identify sections of the current
19 Charter that need to be revised, and to recommend changes for consideration.

20
21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following persons are appointed to
22 serve on the Commission:

- 23 1. Ron Brade, Clarksville, MD
- 24 2. Judith Center, Columbia MD
- 25 3. Ayesha Holmes, Sykesville, MD
- 26 4. James Howard, Columbia, MD
- 27 5. Tahira Mussarat Husain, Fulton, MD
- 28 6. Deeba Jafri, Elkridge MD
- 29 7. Elgin Klugh, Columbia, MD
- 30 8. Stu Kohn, Laurel, MD
- 31 9. Fred Leong, Laurel, MD

1 10. Margaret Ann Nolan, Columbia, MD

2 11. Dawn Popp, Elkridge, MD

3 12. Paul Skalny, Ellicott City, MD

4 13. Yolanda Sonnier, Ellicott City, MD

5 14. Carolan Stansky, Ellicott City, MD

6 15. James D. Walsh, Woodbine, MD

7
8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chairperson of the Commission
9 shall be Yolanda Sonnier.

10
11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of the Commission are
12 entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred, in accordance with County policy.

13
14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall submit to the
15 Council, on or before May 1, 2020, a comprehensive written report of its findings,
16 recommendations, and drafts of recommended revisions of the Charter.

17
18 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the term of the Commission is 2
19 years.

20
21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall establish a
22 schedule of public hearings to be held at various locations in the County.

23
24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall conduct
25 meetings in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Law.

26
27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any vacancies on the Commission
28 shall be filled by the Howard County Council.

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all recommendations and proposed
2 Charter revisions shall be approved by a majority of the Commission members before the
3 recommendations are forwarded to the Council.

4

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any minority reports of the
6 Commission may also be forwarded to the Council for consideration.

7

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall adopt or
9 designate, and may modify, rules of procedure to accomplish the charges as set forth in this
10 Resolution.