



**King County**

**Charter Review Commission  
Town Hall and Commission Meeting  
King County Council Chambers  
516 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Room 1001  
Seattle, WA 98104**

October 23, 2019

**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Louise Miller (Co-Chair), Tim Ceis, Elizabeth Ford (via telephone), David Heller, Michael Herschensohn, Linda Larson, Clayton Lewis, Toby Nixon, Rob Saka, Beth Sigall, Kinnon Williams and Sung Yang.

**Excused:**

Joe Fain, Ian Goodhew, Sean Kelly, Marcos Martinez, Nat Morales, Nikkita Oliver, Brooks Salazar, Ron Sims and Alejandra Tres.

**Council and Executive Staff:**

Patrick Hamacher, Director of Legislative Analysis, and Mac Nicholson, Director of Government Relations.

**Also in Attendance:**

Meeting facilitator Betsy Daniels, Co-President, Triangle Associates, Inc. and Rosa Ammon-Ciaglo, Project Associate, Triangle Associates, Inc.

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Co-Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the King County Council Chambers.

## **PowerPoint Presentation**

Patrick Hamacher, Director of Legislative Analysis, briefed the public about the history of the King County Charter and the Charter Review Commission and its review process.

## **Public Comment:**

The following persons spoke:

1. Alex Tsimerman
2. Mitzi Johanknecht                      Supports the sheriff as an elected position

## **Discussion regarding the Report to the County Council**

A handout was provided that summarized public comment and letters received to date. A letter from Commissioner Oliver dated October 23, 2019, was also distributed.

The following items were raised for potential further discussion at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tonight is the opportunity to propose anything further.

- Ranked-Choice Voting – the report drafted by Commissioners Nixon and Heller will be put in the form of the rest of the report and included as a recommendation to the Council to create a task force to look at this more in depth and then consider it further.
- Revisit Appointment of sheriff based on public comments received – include layer of protection that prevents removal at whim. See if the language used for the Director of Public Defense can be adapted for an appointed sheriff. Co-Chair Miller noted that if the commission moves forward with this ordinance, they should recommend to the county council that this be the only charter amendment on the ballot. This item will be addressed further on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Preamble language - “Racial equity”. This item will be addressed further on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Replace “citizen” with “resident” throughout the Charter. This item will be addressed further on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Replace the “Office of Citizen Complaints” with a “Community Advocate”. This item will not be addressed further. Will be recommended to Council for further consideration.
- Section 840, Antidiscrimination language. This item will not be addressed further.
- Director of Public Defense language to protect independence. This item will not be addressed further.
- Antidiscrimination, add protective hairstyles (authenticity statute). Will be recommended to Council for further consideration.
- Charter Review Commission Process. These items will be addressed further on November 6<sup>th</sup>:
  - Onboarding.

- Engagement process using deliberative democracy to select members of the Charter Review Commission.
- Refer amendments straight to ballot rather than to the County Council.

Prior to the next meeting a full draft report will be provided, to be discussed at the first meeting in November. The nine confirmed items are all in ordinance form, however the summary of the justification for each needs to be addressed by the Commission. The Preamble item will not be included in this version of the report. Included in the report will be items the Commission encourages the Council to further consider.

All of the comments received, including a summary of the comments, will be included in the report to the Council.

The November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be for discussion of the items talked about tonight, and the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be to finalize the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.