

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
FROM: Kurt Spitzer
DATE: October 6, 2005
RE: October 11th Meeting Information

The next meeting of the Charter Review Commission will be held this coming Tuesday (NOT Monday) at the STAR Center in Largo, located at 7887 Bryan Dairy Road. Note that we expect this meeting to run until 8:00 PM.

Fire Services Study

MGT Report

MGT will have their Final Draft of the efficiency study complete by this coming Monday. I will e-mail it to you as soon as I receive it. Hardcopies will be available at the CRC meeting on Tuesday. We expect that the remaining issues in the project and all of the questions raised during your last meeting will be addressed in the Final Draft. As Mr. Humphrey has previously mentioned, the final Report will be complete before the end of this month.

Fire District Special Act

A draft Special Act concerning fire services is attached. The draft presents one approach to accomplish the recommendation of the consultant, which is to create a single fire district. If approved by the electorate in November 2006, the Act provides that a countywide fire protection district is created January 1, 2007 and begins to provide services one year later.

- ✓ The governing body of the District is three County Commissioners, selected by the Board of County Commissioners, and four elected municipal officials. In the current draft, the municipal members are selected by the four largest cities.
- ✓ Appointments to the District are made no later than December 31, 2006. The District must have an organizational meeting no later than January 15, 2007. The District will begin to provide fire protection services no later than January 1, 2008. The first fiscal year of the District will begin on October 1, 2007.

- ✓ The District must also appoint a Fire Protection Services Advisory Council no later than January 31, 2007. The Council consists of 15 members from a wide range of representatives of the fire protection community. The Council's duties are advisory in nature and include assisting the District during the initial transition, and making recommendations concerning fire protection programs and improvements on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ All fire-related property and other assets owned by the County, cities or existing special districts are transferred to the Fire District. All debt is transferred to the District. All fire-related employees of the County, cities or existing special districts become employees of the Fire District.
- ✓ The District is granted broad powers to carry-out the purposes for which it was created, including the authority to levy special assessments, charge user fees and impose an ad valorem tax. In the current draft, fire property taxes are capped at 3 mills.

Annexation

There are five draft measures concerning annexation. Two of the drafts have been discussed by the CRC previously: "Full" annexation authority and "Preservation" areas. One draft proposal (concerning several miscellaneous policies) is per your suggestions from the last CRC meeting. The remaining two draft measures were prepared at the request of Mr. Bomstein (policy concerning "non-referendum, referendums") and Mr. Davis (enclave MSTUs).

Note that all of the drafts require adoption by the Legislature as a Special Act and subsequent approval by an affirmative vote of the electorate. Copies of each of the measures and summary information are attached for your review.

The Council of Mayors and the Pinellas Planning Council will make presentations on annexation at Tuesday's meeting.