

Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
Summary of Previous Study Issues and Recommendations

2004

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
1	Pinellas Planning Council - The duties, authority and responsibilities of the Pinellas Planning Council. Discussion centered on whether the planning functions of the PPC was a valuable “check and balance” or an unnecessary duplication of responsibilities.	None	
2	Accounting, Audit and Finance - The Office of the Clerk of the Court as relates to the responsibilities for the audit and general finance/accounting functions for the BCC. Discussion centered on moving one or more of those responsibilities to another position.	None	
3	Countywide Standards/Dual Vote - The provisions of the charter which currently authorize the BCC to set minimal, countywide standards in certain policy areas. Whether and how that authority could be expanded.	Deferred further consideration to reconstituted CRC	
4	Parks and Recreation - The delivery of county recreation services.	None	
5	Transportation - The provision of certain aspects of countywide transportation services.	No recommendations for Charter amendments. Two Resolutions concerning the PSTA were adopted.	

2004

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
6	Fire/EMS - Revisions to the service delivery mechanisms for fire and emergency medical services.	Deferred to reconstituted CRC	
7	Annexation - The procedures for voluntary and non-voluntary annexation, including consideration of the Pinellas Assembly process on the subject of annexation.	Deferred to reconstituted CRC	
8	Technical Revisions - Numerous potential changes to the Charter were identified that were of a “housekeeping” or “technical” nature. Some were included as recommendations relating to the County Administrator.	<p>Most issues deferred for consideration by the reconstituted CRC. Four amendments to charter placed on ballot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-Interference Clause barring individual members of BCC from giving instructions to employees of County Administrator. 2. Designating County Administrator as Chief Budget Officer. 3. Clarifying procedure to terminate County Administrator. 4. Clarifying authority of County Administrator to terminate exempt employees. 	<p>Passed November 2004</p> <p>Passed November 2004</p> <p>Passed November 2004</p> <p>Failed November 2004</p>
9	CRC - Significant consideration was given to adopting a recommendation creating a Charter <u>Revision</u> Commission or granting future review entities the power to recommend repeal and replacement of the charter.	The CRC adopted a recommendation to reconstitute itself beginning in November 2004 and concluding in December of 2006.	Passed November 2004

2006

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
1	Local Districts/Boards - The duties, authority and responsibilities of various local entities, and whether the authorization for the entity should be eliminated and transferred to the county charter. Most of the boards or councils were established pursuant to state law as independent districts and their status was not within the purview of either the CRC or a charter amendment.	The CRC passed a recommended Special Act and charter amendment to abolish the Water Navigation and the Mosquito Control Districts, and add their responsibilities as countywide powers of the BCC.	Passed November 2006
2	Technical Revisions - The CRC considered several housekeeping revisions to the charter, including the Pinellas Sports Authority, the Industry Council and the reference to the Motor Vehicle Inspection program.	Pursuant to a recommendation from the CRC, the Legislature adopted a Special Act in 2006 that eliminated the Sports Authority, which had been dormant for several years.	Passed 2006 Legislative Session
3	County Administrator/Misc. - The authority of the County Administrator to supervise and terminate exempt employees.	Clarified the Administrator's authority to terminate senior "exempt" employees without seeking BCC approval and corrected gender references in the charter.	Failed November 2006
4	Constitutional Officers - The CRC considered a procedural amendment to remove requirement for legislative approval of amendments relating to the County Constitutional.	No amendments were recommended by the CRC in this area.	
5	Non-partisan Election of Supervisor - The CRC discussed whether to provide that the Supervisor of Elections should be elected on a non-partisan basis and without reference to party affiliation.	No amendments were recommended by the CRC in this area.	

2006

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
6	<p>Fire Services - The CRC retained MGT of America to conduct an efficiency study of fire services in the county. MGT had conducted a similar study in 1992. The 2006 Report of MGT identified approximately \$20 million that could be saved in fire service costs. The MGT Report formed the basis for several options that the CRC had begun to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single, countywide independent district, which was the recommendation of MGT.• A single, independent district in the unincorporated area.• Authorization for the County Commission to set regional policy or standards.• Abolishment of Independent Fire Districts.	<p>The CRC voted to discontinue examination of alternatives for the delivery of fire services before a specific alternative was formally considered.</p>	

2006

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
7	Building Services - The CRC examined the provision of building services. Six recommendations were made in this service area. However, most could be accomplished by interlocal agreement and implementing measures via a charter amendment would require adoption by a “dual vote.”	No recommendations were made by the CRC for charter amendments.	
8	CRC – Future Charter Review Commissions	Adopted a proposed amendment to prohibit government officials from serving on CRC, changed meeting times to every eight years, expanded duration to one year, added requirement for hearings, etc.	Failed November 2006
9	Repeal Authority – Authorization of future charter amendments to propose the repeal of the charter, in addition to amending the charter	The CRC recommended that the Legislative Delegation adopt a Special Act during the 2007 Session which would authorize repeal of the charter by either of the methods currently available to amend the charter.	
10	Dual Vote to Adopt Future Amendments on Standards - Deletion of the Charter’s requirement for a “Dual Vote” when adopting amendments establishing countywide policy.	The CRC adopted a proposed amendment deleting the requirement for a “dual vote” of the public when considering amendments authorizing countywide policy, such as minimal standards to protect the environment.	Failed November 2006*

	Description	Recommendations?	Action?
11	Annexation - The CRC devoted several meetings to annexation policy and practices. Issues discussed by the CRC included: Preservation Areas; Involuntary Annexation; Full Authority for Local Policy; “Non-Referendum” Referendum Annexations; Enclaves; and, Miscellaneous Revisions.	<p>Three amendments were adopted for the voter’s consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required informational mailing prior to voted annexation; established a seven-year moratorium on repeated annexation attempts; required written consent in certain circumstances. 2. Restricts use of public funds or other incentives to induce annexation. 3. Clarified the impact of consent by owners of governmentally-owned property. 	<p>Passed November 2006*</p> <p>Passed November 2006*</p> <p>Failed November 2006*</p>

2006 Recommendations not Requiring a Proposed Charter Amendment

12	Strategic Planning Council/Council of Governments – The CRC discussed ways in which ongoing mechanisms could be established to assist in building consensus amongst the leadership of cities, the county and other entities. No recommendations were made in this area as the CRC believed that sufficient authority to create such councils already exists.
13	State Legislation Concerning the Dual Vote – The CRC recommended that the Legislature reject measures considered during the 2006 Session that would seek to establish a “dual vote” requirement in general law.
14	Reporting of Growth and Planning Information – The CRC recommended that the County Commission provide widely distributed, comprehensive information on growth and development in Pinellas County to the public on a regular basis.

* The County Commission and the cities in the County entered into a Settlement Agreement in 2007 that addressed many aspects of annexation policy and procedures in Pinellas County. The Agreement also provided that the Parties agreed that the “dual vote” provision in Section 6.04 of the Charter was constitutional, that the County will not support future litigation challenging the provision’s validity or legislation or referenda seeking its removal, and that if challenged the Parties will request the Court to enter a judgment finding the provision to be constitutional.