

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission

FROM: Kurt Spitzer

DATE: June 17, 2005

RE: Options for Interim Policy Recommendations

The purpose of this memorandum is to review and summarize your actions thus far. You may wish to take formal action on one or more of the topics listed herein. Of course, one option available to you is to take no action on any of the subjects listed herein.

1. Special Districts

The CRC discussed the subject of special districts, boards and authorities within Pinellas County. There are 16 such entities. Your discussion centered on six districts that were possibly classified as being “dependent” and could be directly addressed by the CRC:

- Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board
- License Board for Children’s Centers and Family Day Care Homes
- EMS Authority
- Mosquito Control Board
- Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority
- Unified Personnel Board

After further analysis by the County Attorney’s Office, it was determined that the Mosquito Control Board and the Water and Navigation Control Authority were dependent districts. The governing body for both entities is the Board of County Commissioners. The option exists to amend the charter to bring these functions under the charter itself and eliminate the need for consideration of special act amendments in the future.

Options -

- Specifically provide that the powers, duties and responsibilities of what were Mosquito Control Board and the Water and Navigation Control Authority are transferred to the County

in Section 2.04 of the charter. You have previously been provided with draft amendments on this subject.

2. Annexation

Generally, there are two forms of annexation in Florida - voluntary and involuntary or referendum. Policy on referendum annexations is control in general law. Policy on voluntary annexations may be addressed in a county charter. The Pinellas charter is one of a few that does contain policy on voluntary annexations.

Options - Voluntary Annexation

- Affirm the current policy contained in the charter which delegates to the County all powers necessary to establish an exclusive method and criteria concerning all aspects of voluntary annexation.
- Revise the current policy contained in the charter, presumably by adding specificity in the form of definitions or criteria concerning voluntary annexations in the charter.

Options - Referendum Annexation

- Recommend revisions to state law providing for an optional process that could be adopted by the voters of a charter county. Such an option would allow the voters to decide the extent and manner in which policy concerning referendum annexation could be set locally.

3. PSTA Governance Structure

The Transit Governance Task Force recommended changes to the size and composition of the PSTA Board of Directors so that an additional three members would be appointed from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and an additional member from the St. Petersburg City Council, recognizing the County's expanding role in mass transit services and funding. This recommendation was endorsed by the CRC in 2004.

Options –

- Reaffirm your recommendation that four additional members of the PSTA Board of Directors be added, with three appointed from the membership of the Pinellas County Commission and one from the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg.