

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee on Administration and Legislature

April 27, 2006

The Charter Revision Commission's Committee on Administration and Legislature ("A&L") met in a meeting room of the County Legislature at 8:00 a.m. on April 27, 2006.

Present were Committee members, David Comerford, and James Magavern, Chair. Also present by invitation were Brian White, Assistant County Attorney, and Hank Bromley, Commission research analyst.

Noting that the Commission, at its meeting on April 26, had adopted the Committee's recommendation against term limits (page 1 of the Committee's report), but had not acted on the Committee's further proposal to submit to the County Legislature a particular form of term limits for its consideration in the event that the Legislature should determine to enact term limits in some form (page 2 of the Committee's report), Messrs. Comerford and Magavern resolved not to pursue the matter now, but to hold page 2 of the Committee's report for possible re-consideration in light of the Commission's public hearings.

The Committee reviewed a proposed Questionnaire to the Members of the County Legislature in relation to issues of full-time vs. part-time legislators, district offices and staffing. The questionnaire was prepared by Mr. Bromley on the basis of questions suggested by the law students. A copy is annexed to these minutes. Mr. Bromley agreed to revise it so as to assure the confidentiality of the responses by requesting Legislators not to sign it, requesting them to

return it to Mr. Bromley in self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes provided for that purpose, and informing them that the answers to each question would be aggregated in mixed order in his report, so as to preserve the confidentiality of the responses, and that individual responses would then be destroyed.

Messrs. Comerford and Magavern resolved to recommend that the Commission not pursue consolidation of the Parks and Public Works Departments at this time, for the reasons stated in minutes of the Committee's meeting on April 20.

Mr. Magavern agreed to prepare a brief draft report recommending that the Legislature contract with a commercial municipal code publisher to consolidate the Erie County Charter and Erie County Administrative Code and to codify the County's local laws.

Mr. Magavern agreed to prepare a draft report on the transparency and accountability issues raised by the agenda proposed by Legislators Ianello, Konst and Locklear.

There was a brief discussion of the task of preparing the Commission's final report. It was concluded that we should suggest to Chairman Arthur that Mr. Bromley be requested to start work on a draft report based on the relevant reports and resolutions of the Commission and its Committees.