

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee on Administration and Legislature

May 4, 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 May 4, 2006. Present were Committee members, John Maggiore, Vice- Chair, David Comerford and James Magavern, Chair. Also present were Brian White, Assistant County Attorney, John Davis, Legislative Clerk, and law student Ray Walter.

Mr. Magavern reported that Chairman Arthur had referred to the Committee a Resolution of the County Legislature adopted April 27, 2006 in relation to the Erie County Counsel, Consultant and Lobbyist Responsibility Law (a copy of which is attached to the Notice of this meeting). Mr. Magavern said that he and his firm had been engaged by the County Attorney as special counsel for a considerable amount of work in recent years, and that he would therefore abstain from consideration of this matter. After discussion, led by Mr. Maggiore, it was resolved to recommend that the Commission reply to the Legislature to the effect that since the proposed Law appears to have the support of thirteen members of the Legislature and it is within the power of the Legislature to re-enact the Law, the Commission has determined not to act on the matter. Mr. Maggiore will prepare a report of the Committee to the Commission to that effect.

With reference to qualifications of appointed department heads and deputies, Mr. Maggiore said that he had not completed his report but will do so for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee authorized Mr. Magavern to submit to the Commission a report based on Mr. Comerford's report, recommending against consolidation of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Committee will consider the issues of full-time vs. part-time legislators, district offices and legislative staffing at its next meeting, after Mr. Bromley has received and compiled the Legislature's responses to the Questionnaire.

As to defunct boards and commissions, Mr. White will ask the County Attorney to send a letter to the Department heads asking them to identify the status of the boards and commissions related to their departments.

The Committee authorized Mr. Magavern to submit a report to the Commission recommending that the Legislature contract with a commercial publisher to consolidate the County Charter and the Administrative Code and to codify the County's local law.

The Committee discussed issues of transparency and accountability raised by Legislators Ianello, Konst and Locklear's Chinese Menu of Reform Options. Mr. Magavern will prepare, for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee, possible proposals for public hearings by the Legislature on proposed local laws and for restrictions on solicitation of campaign contributions by county officers and employees.