

Minutes
Charter Review Commission
Human Services, Education, Recreation and Culture Committee
February 27, 2006

Attendance: Commissioners, Donna E. Rice, Ronald Smith, Joan Lillis
Commission Analyst Hank Bromley
Ms. Dorcas L. Colvin, Chairperson for the Erie County Commission on
the Status of Women
Ms. Naniscah Koessler, Executive Director
Ms. Marianne Hanley, Vice Chair
Ms. Cecile Biltekoff, Secretary

Absent: Commissioner George Arthur

The meeting of the Committee was called to order at 8:15 AM

Commissioner Rice welcomed representatives from the Commission on the Status of Women. They then gave a presentation on their organization as to how it works, how it is organized and its value to the community. Regarding their status in the Erie County Charter, it is their recommendation that the no changes be made to the Charter.

Dialogue and free discussion continued in regards to potential charter changes. Ms. Colvin emphasized the importance of being a government entity as opposed to a community action organization. Funding was discussed at which time the dire fiscal situation of the County was explained. Commissioner Smith recommended that whatever the decision is pertaining to the Charter, that the Commission should immediately explore creative ideas which would allow them to become less reliant on county funding in order to exist. The Commission will re-examine its position and report back to the Committee with any possible new approaches.

The next meeting of the committee will be on 3/6 at a location and time to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald P. Smith, Commissioner