

Resolution No. 9-20

RESOLUTION: To establish the scope of review, topics and subject matter for the Charter Review Commission to review and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding provisions contained in the City of Rockville Charter

WHEREAS, at its meeting of January 13, 2020, the Mayor and Council discussed the establishment of a Charter Review Commission to review and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for changes to the City of Rockville Charter; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2020, the Mayor and Council adopted resolution 1A-20 establishing a Charter Review Commission; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1A-20 provided that Mayor and Council would adopt a resolution at a later date setting forth the scope of review of the Charter for the Charter Review Commission on which the Commission would make its recommendations to the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2020, the Mayor and Council appointed 10 members, the Mayor appointed a chair, and the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections as an ex-officio non-voting member to the Charter Review Commission; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2020, the Mayor and Council discussed the scope of review of the Charter by the Charter Review Commission and determined that the provisions of the charter involving the following topics and subject matter should be the focus of review and recommendation by the Charter Review Commission

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desires that the Charter Review Commission solicit citizen input, deliberate with all due care, prepare a report with its recommendations, and deliver that report to the Mayor and Council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE MARYLAND, as follows:

1. That the following topics and subjects shall comprise the scope of review by the Charter Review Commission for recommendations to the Mayor and Council:
 - A. Election related topics:
 - a. Expanding the size of the Council.
 - b. Term limits of the Mayor and Council.
 - c. Staggered terms of councilmembers.
 - d. Representative districts and the boundaries for Districts.
 - e. The addition of a "resign to run" provision.
 - f. The process for filling a vacancy in the office of mayor and vacancy in the office of councilmember.
 - g. Alternative voting systems.
 - h. Translation of election information in various languages.

- i. Alternative methods of advertising the election.
- j. Increasing the number of members on the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- k. Lengthening the term for the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- l. The appointment process for the members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- m. The required duties of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to include meeting with the Mayor and Council and participating in meetings with the Mayor and Council and timely responding to information requests.
- n. Any additional provisions on topics raised during the vote by mail election, for example, ballot harvesting.
- o. Provisions that may increase voter turnout.
- p. Provisions in the election code for internal consistency with the Charter and vice-versa.

B. Additional topics

- a. Review the provisions for which the Mayor and Council have authority to adopt ordinances for updating or additional authority as needed:

Authority to appoint a Board of Health
Authority to establish quarantine regulations

- b. Review the provisions regarding urban renewal for updating and/or revisions.
- c. Review methods of advertising for public hearings and charter amendments for updating and/or revisions.
- d. Consider the addition of language to provide for emergency legislation and/or expedited legislation and the process for such legislation.
- e. Review the roles and responsibilities of the three charter appointed officials including any conflict of those provisions with the administrative responsibility of the City Manager.
- f. Consider adding provisions regulating firearms.
- g. Review provisions for upkeep and maintenance of sidewalks.
- h. Review and evaluate any additional provisions of the City Charter and Rockville City Code related to all the topics herein as well as any additional topics that the Commission believes are appropriate.
- i. Identify any provisions in the Charter that are more appropriate for inclusion in an ordinance.

- 2. As part of the process of reviewing and preparing recommendations, the Charter

Review Commission shall include the following considerations:

- a. Hold meetings as necessary to accomplish the goals of the Commission.
 - b. Solicit citizen input regarding these issues by public forums, public hearings or other processes.
 - c. Solicit input from City staff as to what may be needed or desired revisions to the Charter.
 - d. The demographics and characteristics of the City including the various neighborhoods, the various types of housing, and the economic and development trends.
 - e. Racial and other inequities and social justice.
3. The Charter Review Commission shall prepare a final report and deliver it to the Mayor and Council no later than June 30, 2022, setting forth the findings, recommendations, and any proposals for amendments to the Charter, or changes to the Code, of the City of Rockville.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at its meeting of November 2, 2020.



Sara Taylor-Ferrell, City Clerk
Director of Council Operations