

FW: Public Comment

Charter Board <CharterBoard@charlescountymd.gov>

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To: Charter Board <CharterBoard@charlescountymd.gov>

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At the September 28 meeting Ms. Butler-Washington related her sub-committee's recommendations for some of the proposed items for the county executive position. Establishing thorough and clearly defined items in that section is crucial to creating a charter worthy of positive consideration by the citizens. I strongly recommend this Charter Board become pro-active and creative in its writing, rather than proposing a modified, warmed over version of the failed 2014 proposed charter.

For example, in relation to the sub-committee's suggestion pertaining to filling the vacancy of the county executive position (Section 409 in the 2014 charter), it would be more appropriate to simply allow the then current County Administrator (who would be confirmed by a super-majority of the Council) to serve as "Acting County Executive" until the next general election, which in any case, would be less than two years. Doing so would remove the political factors from the process and provide an immediate, seamless continuity of the executive branch and eliminate the necessity for a costly special election.

All sections of the proposed 2024 charter should be viewed in a similar manner and not simply rely on modified wording or a revision of the 2014 charter, and focus on thinking outside of that box. Please refer to my previous suggestions which I submitted for the September 28 meeting.

Another key factor in the current charter process was the request for proposal (RFP) consideration for hiring a firm to "educate" and inform the public as opposed to "selling" the proposed charter to the citizens who ultimately will approve or reject the work of the Charter Board. That is how our "Form of Government Committee" promoted our recommendation for Code Home Rule, which passed with overwhelming approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Crawford
Charter Board, Alternate member