



2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Committee Summary Report

Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee

November 20, 2019
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Soraya Smith, Chair
Jack Douglas
Angela Melvin
Jeffrey A. Miller
Dotti Wynn
Clifford Shepard, CRC Attorney
Noelia Perez, Senior Minutes Coordinator

Invited Guest:

Emmett O'Dell

The organizational meeting of the Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee was held to identify related issues and to address any member questions.

Public Comment

The following persons addressed the committee:

- Emmett O'Dell
- Camille Evans

Invited Guest

Mr. O'Dell addressed the committee and provided his experience and perspective related to the history and current requirements of the citizen initiated process. Discussion ensued. CRC Attorney Shepard contributed to the discussion.

Background Information and Current Charter Provisions

Chair Smith asked CRC Attorney Shepard to provide an overview regarding the Background of Changes to Article VI of the Charter memo submitted prior to the meeting. CRC Attorney Shepard will provide a more in depth explanation at the next committee meeting. Discussion ensued.

Members Open Discussion

Chair Smith opened the floor for member discussion. Chair Smith referred to Member Santiago's Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Proposal as it relates to lowering the petition threshold count for citizen initiated Charter amendments and repeals and ordinance

amendments, enactments and repeals. Chair Smith reiterated the potential topics for further research included in Member Santiago's proposal.

Chair Smith explained that it would be valuable to receive information from the Supervisor of Elections as to what has occurred in the past. Member Miller provided remarks regarding the importance of reviewing the work product and conclusions of the 2016 CRC committee that studied this topic. CRC Attorney Shepard advised that he could provide a full copy of the report. Discussion ensued. CRC Attorney Shepard advised he would contact the Supervisor of Elections. Further discussion ensued.

Member Melvin questioned, in terms of invited guests, whether there are any groups of people who have ideas or would like to do citizen initiatives but the current process stopped them. Member Wynn suggested that the committee invite the Supervisor of Elections to address them at an upcoming meeting. Chair Smith advised that this is already in the works.

Chair Smith asked a question related to Section 601 – Initiative and Referendum of the Orange County Charter. Discussion ensued. CRC Attorney Shepard contributed to the discussion.

Future Action Plan

Chair Smith invited committee members to email the Charter account if there are any individuals they would like to invite as a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting. Chair Smith asked committee members to review the memo provided by CRC Attorney Shepard and reiterated that he will provide a more in depth explanation at the next committee meeting.

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>.