



# **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Charter Review Task Force**

Stephen P. Clark Government Center  
Commission Chambers  
111 N.W. First Street  
Miami, Florida 33128

September 25, 2017  
As Advertised

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**MIAMI-DADE CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE  
CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017**

The Miami-Dade Charter Review Task Force (the Task Force) convened its fifth meeting on September 25, 2017, at the Miami-Dade County Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Commission Chambers, Second Floor, 111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33128, at 6:10 p.m. Upon roll call, the following Task Force members were present: Chair Robert Cuevas, Ms. Alice Burch, Mr. Jeff P. H. Cazeau, Mr. Alfredo J. Gonzalez, and Mr. Marlon Hill. Mr. Maurice Ferre, Mr. Neisen Kasdin, and Mr. Eric Zichella arrived late. Vice Chair Maria Lievano-Cruz, Mr. George M. Burgess, Mr. Carlos Diaz-Padron, Mr. Luis E. Gonzalez, Mr. William H. Kerdyk Jr., and Mr. Mike Valdes-Fauli, were absent. The Commission District 10 seat remains vacant.

County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava was also present.

In addition to Task Force members, the following staff members were present: Assistant County Attorneys Oren Rosenthal and Mike Valdes; Ms. Nicole Tallman, Director of Policy and Legislation and Ms. Patricia Flor, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Mayor; and Mr. Alan Eisenberg, Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Alan Eisenberg announced that notice was received from Vice Chair Maria Lievano-Cruz, Mr. George Burgess, Mr. Carlos Diaz-Padron, Mr. William H. Kerdyk, Jr., and Mr. Mike Valdes-Fauli that they would be absent from today's (9/25) meeting.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised Chair Cuevas that action could not be conducted on any agenda item without a quorum and the Board of County Commissioners Rules of Procedure required a waiting period of thirty (30) minutes before the meeting could be cancelled. He further advised Chair Cuevas that the Task Force could schedule another meeting date, if desired.

Discussion ensued amongst Task Force Members and the Assistant County Attorney about how to proceed in the absence of a quorum. It was decided that the Task Force would proceed with the citizen's presentations.

**REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Chair Robert Cuevas opened the reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard.

Ms. Maribel Balbin, 8346 Dundee Terrace, Miami, National Board Member, League of Women Voters, mentioned the Strong Mayor form of government and Article 8 relating to petition requirements needed to be addressed.

County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, 15360 SW 67 Court, Palmetto Bay, acknowledged Task Force members for their service. She mentioned that she and Board of County Commission

Chairman Esteban Bovo sponsored the legislation creating the Task Force. Commissioner Levine Cava commended her Task Force appointee, Mr. Robert Cuevas for agreeing to serve as its Chair. She said she was looking forward to public input, noting the League of Women Voters was an active participant throughout the process. Commissioner Levine Cava said she looked forward to the upcoming publically announced opportunities for public participation and that she would help promote those meetings once scheduled. She questioned whether the issues presented during the public process would be addressed by the Task Force, even though certain issues were already being considered. Commissioner Levine Cava expressed her support to the Task Force, noting the February deadline for the report was an aggressive timeline.

Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez commented that some items were already considered; however, the Task Force members were committed to revisiting items as necessary after the public process.

Mr. Maurice Ferre stated that he asked Chair Cuevas to schedule a joint meeting with the Broward County Charter Review Committee (BCCRC). He reported that BCCRC's findings can be placed directly on the ballot which was similar to the State of Florida Constitutional Review Committee process, noting it was a different process than used in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Ferre inquired whether Commissioner Levine Cava would sponsor legislation before the BCC changing the County Charter to allow future Charter Review Task Force recommendations to be placed directly on the ballot. He said he believed this would promote more public participation in the charter review process.

Commissioner Levine Cara stated that she reserved legislation to sponsor any items presented by the Task Force, noting she would follow through with this recommendation, if presented by the Task Force.

Ms. Susan Windmiller, 2103 Coral Way, Suite 200, Miami, President, League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County appeared before the Task Force. She expressed support for the Strong County Manager form of government. Ms. Windmiller mentioned the citizen petition process needed to be reviewed. She pointed out that a provision needed to be added to Article 3 that would postpone a scheduled election until a declaration of natural disaster or emergency was lifted.

Mr. Maurice Ferre agreed that suspending voting following a disaster be discussed, noting staff should present recommendations to the Task Force with the League of Women Voters (League) assistance. He pointed out that the Task Force already voted against a Strong Manager form of government; however, suggested evaluating an alternative approach where an elected mayor appointed a manager who was then confirmed by the commission. Mr. Ferre noted this approach was used by Washington, DC; Philadelphia, PA; Newark, NJ; and elsewhere throughout the Country. He mentioned that the State of Florida Constitution says that all power of governance will be vested in the county commission, yet as a consequence what we really had was an elected manager and the League was requesting an appointed manager.

Ms. Windmiller disagreed with Mr. Ferre's suggestion, noting the BCC was the policy making body and the county manager was the professional who implemented policy. She said there was

currently no clear line as to who sets policy, who implements policy, who was responsible and who was accountable.

Chair Cuevas agreed that accountability was the key issue, noting the item could be revisited by the Task Force, if desired.

Mr. Neisen Kasdin commented that a Strong Mayor was more important than ever, given County's complexity.

There being no other persons wishing to address the Task Force, the reasonable opportunity to be heard was closed.

Following the reasonable opportunity to be heard, at 6:31 p.m., Chairman Cuevas noted business could not be conducted due to the lack of quorum.

Assistant County Attorney Oren Rosenthal indicated that Rule 5.04 provided that should no quorum attend within thirty (30) minutes after the hour appointed for the meeting, the chairperson or clerk may adjourn the meeting until another hour or day unless, by unanimous agreement, those members present select another time. The names of the members present and their action at such meeting shall be recorded in the meeting minutes by the clerk.

In response to Mr. Kasdin's question whether another Task Force member was in route to the meeting, Ms. Nicole Tallman reported that Mr. Eric Zichella would be here shortly.

Mr. Ferre expressed confusion over the procedure used for processing ideas and motions', noting a clear understanding was needed on how to address items presented to the Task Force.

Chair Cuevas said he brought up items presented by Task Force members with the most votes for discussion, with the exception of commissioner salaries. He noted any proposal relevant to the issues on the meeting agenda should be put on the agenda and considered.

Mr. Ferre stated that items should be presented at least four (4) days before the meeting in which the item was to be discussed.

Chair Cuevas said the meeting agenda would need to be distributed the Monday prior to the meeting to accommodate the 4-Day Rule requirements.

Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez concurred with Mr. Ferre that Task Force members should be present to advocate for their proposals; however, noted that public testimony could lead to subsequent motions.

Chair Cuevas pointed out that meeting agenda's would clearly present the upcoming items to be considered. He said that any member could invoke the 4-Day Rule on any item presented that was not on the published agenda, noting the item would not be considered until the following meeting.

Mr. Kasdin commented that the Task Force should be less formal and less procedural, to allow more discussion on substantive issues.

Ms. Alice Burch pointed out that many issues being discussed were closely intertwined, noting the difficulty in picking agenda items and not bringing up other areas of interest that related to the discussion.

Mr. Ferre suggested the Task Force waived the 4-Day Rule, with the understanding that a vote be withheld on new items until the beginning of the next Task Force meeting, in the event that anyone was uncomfortable with voting on that item. He said this would allow Task Force members to be present at the subsequent meeting if they wanted to be part of that decision process.

Mr. Jeff Cazeau stated that he would rather discuss substantive content rather than procedures.

Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez indicated that there was not a 4-Day Rule discussion on today's (9/25) meeting agenda and we should continue with the published agenda.

**1<sup>st</sup> ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION: Discussion and vote on whether the Charter should be amended as relates to the *budget process*, and if so, what those amendments should be?**

There was no discussion about the budget process and no suggested changes to the process were made.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION: Discussion and vote on whether the Charter should be amended as relates to the *organization and function of the Finance Department*, and if so, what those amendments should be?**

Mr. Eric Zichella stated for the record that the Finance Department should be organized under the direction and discretion of the County Commission, noting the Commission should formulate the County budget.

There was no further discussion about the organization and function of the Finance Department and no suggested changes to the process were made.

**3<sup>rd</sup> ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION: Discussion and vote on whether the Charter should be amended as relates to the *Office of the Commission Auditor*, and if so, what those amendments should be?**

Mr. Alice Burch stated that the Commission Auditors (CA) Office was doing the best it could under the current circumstances, noting governmental offices usually exhibited strengths and weaknesses at various times. She said she believed the County Commission had the ability to deal with the CA Office to find the needed information to serve the public.

Mr. Eric Zichella said that his proposed amendment changing the CA Office name reflected current needs. He said it was not the intention that the CA Office only conducted audits, noting

there was a separate County Audit Department that could perform this function. Mr. Zichella mentioned that the CA Office was intended to provide information to the County Commission. He noted the requirement that the Director was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) made it more difficult to find an individual who was best equipped to manage that office and that another individual holding such designation could be hired for the office, if necessary.

It was moved by Mr. Eric Zichella to amend Section 9.10 of the County Code changing the Office of the Commission Auditor's name to the Commission Office of Management and Research and eliminating the requirement that the Director be a Certified Public Accountant. This motion was seconded by Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez asked and Mr. Zichella accepted a friendly amendment that the new name be the Commission Office of Budget and Research, noting he did not envision much management activity occurring.

Mr. Ferre inquired whether the current CA Office responsibilities included audit functions and whether this change removed the audit responsibility.

Mr. Zichella indicated that the audit function remained a viable function if they choose to do so. He said the CA Office was primarily intended to provide research and information to the County Commission.

Mr. Ferre said there was confusion over a lack of government transparency and accountability. He noted usually in a government the size of Miami-Dade County, the legislative body legislates and an executive ran the operation; however, we had a hybrid form of government which was not clearly delineated. Mr. Ferre pointed out that the County Commission was looking to the executive to provide the investigative material to make decisions, noting this could be a conflict. He said more power needed to be given to the County Commission in order to strengthen the legislative branch. Mr. Ferre said it needed to be an entity that was not under supervision of the elected manager (Strong Mayor).

Mr. Gonzalez clarified that the original intent of the CA Office was to help the County Commission get more information. He said some changes could improve this office, noting more than audit functions were needed to assist the Commission get needed information.

Ms. Burch added that she believed the current advertisement for a CA did not require that person to have a CPA designation.

Assistant County Attorney Oren Rosenthal reported that the County Charter currently required the CA be a CPA, noting someone could not be hired without such designation. He said this requirement would be eliminated with the Mr. Zichella's proposal. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal pointed out that the requirement to provide the Commission with independent budgetary, audit, management, revenue forecasting, and fiscal analyses of commission policies, county services and contracts did not change with the amendment.

Mr. Ferre commented that there was a difference between audit and research functions. He said a CPA was needed to conduct audits. Mr. Ferre pointed out the amendment changed the office's title but not the substance of what they did.

Chair Cuevas stated that it changed the requirement to be a CPA.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the Task Force proceeded to vote.

Upon being put to a vote, the vote passed by a 6-2 vote of members present. Chair Cuevas and Mr. Ferre voted "No".

**4<sup>th</sup> ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION: Whether the Charter should be amended as relates to the procurement process?**

- PRESENTATIONS:

- Five to ten minute presentation by the County Attorney's Office as to current Charter provisions and requirements of Florida Statutes relating to the procurement process .

Assistant County Attorney Oren Rosenthal stated that Miami-Dade County could differ from State of Florida legislation pursuant to the Home Rule Amendment and the County Charter in many aspects; however, this did not apply to the procurement process. He noted the County must comply with general procurement laws as well as judicial decisions. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal said that the County's governing body must be the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He pointed out that the courts interpreted the authority to adopt or reject contracts as governing body power, specifically in a Strong Mayor form of government. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal said the power to approve contracts was a collateral power of the power to adopt budgets. He noted the power to contract could not be different from the power to budget because the budget was necessary to fund contracts.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal mentioned that the BCC could delegate those powers; however, it could not be taken away from them. On the other hand, he advised that the Charter could constrain the way the BCC exercised that power. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal pointed out that the current Charter provided the Board's contracting powers in terms of Charter requirements. He noted Section 5.03 D of the Charter required competitive bid processes when practical and left it to the Board to determine practicability. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal added that non-formal sealed bids were allowed under a pre-determined dollar amount; that the Board authorized contracts; that non-competitive bidding over a designated dollar amount was allowed following a written Mayoral recommendation and a 2/3 Board vote. He stated that a recent Charter amendment gave procurement authority to the BCC Chairperson when the Mayor indicated a conflict on a specific proposal.

Mr. Neisen Kasdin asked for more information on the court case requiring BCC approval of all contracts.

Assistant County Attorney Oren Rosenthal reported that *Citizens for Reform v. Citizens for Open Government* was the case where the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Appeals (Court) analyzed whether the Strong Mayor Amendment was a constitutional amendment. He said the Charter Amendment transferred administrative powers from an appointed county manager to an elected county manager (Strong Manager). Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised Task Force members that pursuant to Section 125.01 of the Florida Statutes, if all powers rested with the BCC then they were still the County's governing body. He said that one of those powers was to adopt or reject contracts and because that power rested with the BCC after the Strong Mayor amendment, that amendment did not violate the Home Rule Amendment which made the BCC the governing body. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal indicated that the Court ruled the Strong Mayor amendment constitutional because those powers were not transferred away from the governing body.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised Task Force members that the Board could delegate its power to a third party with certain predetermined limitations; however, the authority ultimately remained with the Board. He added that the Board always ratified contracts over a certain amount. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal pointed out that any provision taking away authority from the governing body would likely run afoul of the Home Rule Amendment, noting the Board must either approve or reject contracts.

In response to Mr. Kasdin's question about making the procurement power independent of the Board, Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal said that the BCC as the governing body would need to be changed through a State of Florida Constitutional Amendment. He pointed out that although the ultimate procurement power remained with the Board, they could choose to delegate that power to a different administrative entity.

Mr. Kasdin commented that the BCC could control contract procurement through the budget process.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal discussed pooled contracts, noting the BCC would set a \$5 million budget to purchase items in no more than \$1 million increments per contract. He said the Board would then delegate authority to the Mayor to create independent contracts for those items. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised that it would be difficult for the Task Force to amend the Charter requiring the Board to do this, noting the Board could no longer choose not to delegate the authority to the Mayor. He said the Board could continue to control the process but the ultimate authority must remain with the Board to decide whether they wanted to enter into a contract.

Ms. Alice Burch questioned whether there were any examples of how a charter change could give the counter balance being discussed.

Mr. Maurice Ferre stated that the State of Florida Constitution delegated an enormous amount of power to the County through the Home Rule Charter; however, indicated that there were currently elected State legislators trying to put forward a State Constitutional change limiting these powers. He said there were many people in the State who were angry we had powers that others did not, noting we did not need State approval for the BCC to do a lot of things. Mr. Ferre



indicated that unless you changed the State Constitution you could not make certain changes locally. He suggested the BCC delegated authority and established certain restrictions on themselves by ordinance, as an alternative. Mr. Ferre said that the ultimate power of governance remained with the BCC, not with the Mayor, noting Miami-Dade County did not really have a Mayor, but had an elected manager.

Chair Cuevas pointed out that the County delegated a great deal of power to the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) to operate and conduct its affairs and questioned the amount of authority the Board could give and remain the governing body while relinquishing some control over contracting. He said he believed the MTA could continue to run the bus operation as long as contracting was subject to continuing Board budgetary control.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised that a separate governmental entity was created with the authority to contract. He said that the MTA was created by ordinance, noting the ordinance could be taken away the same as contracting could be delegated down to a separate entity by ordinance or resolution. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal stated the County Charter could not divest the BCC of their ability to approve contracts. He said State laws allowing a separate government that the County Commission did not have to be the governing body of was an issue as well as whether it was by ordinance or by charter. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal indicated that the BCC could decide to delegate that power through ordinance, implementing order or resolution to a third party within the constraints of governmental delegation.

Chair Cuevas asked Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal to further evaluate whether there was any validity to this approach.

Mr. Kasdin pointed out that the Home Rule Charter or State Statues might need some fundamental changes. He said he did not believe the contracting authority was specifically adjudicated. Mr. Kasdin stated that the BCC was governing the County if they were controlling the budget and administration was instructed to implement that budget once passed by the Board. He noted contracting was subsidiary to controlling the budget.

Mr. Ferre commented on previous efforts to create certain authorities within the County, noting this never happened because of the constitutional provision putting the authority in the County Commission. He said that the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority (MDX) was created in 1994 through State legislation and was not under County jurisdiction. Mr. Ferre noted subsequent resolutions were passed by the County relating to MDX; however, that legislation was never clarified by the courts.

- Five to ten minute presentation by Namita Uppal, Chief Procurement Officer, of the Internal Services Department which will provide an overview of the current procurement process.

Ms. Namita Uppal, Chief Procurement Officer, provided an overview of the County's Procurement Management Services operation; including the County Executive Leadership Team, Internal Services Department, and Procurement Management Division Table of Organization, the

Division's Mission, Centralization & Decentralization Services, Capital Departments, the Mayor's Delegation of Authority, Acquisition Methods, Active Contracts, and Contract Award Authority (See Exhibit).

In response to Mr. Ferre's question regarding pooled contracts, Ms. Miriam Singer, Sr. Assistant Director, Internal Services Department Procurement Management reported that the County accessed other jurisdictions competitive contracts when it made business sense and was scope appropriate. She said the prequalification pools were County only pools and they were available to other jurisdictions. Ms. Singer indicated that other municipalities were not included but they could access the County's pools. She said that the County could access other jurisdictions pools when it made sense; however, they usually accessed our contracts because of their size. Ms. Singer added that the County could join other county's contracts or State authorities as long as the competitive process mirrored ours, the scope was consistent, and we conducted a due diligence process.

Mr. Ferre inquired about whether the County followed State or County law relating to unsolicited proposals, noting County law was stricter than State law.

Ms. Singer reported that there was County legislation which mirrored State legislation and there was minimal difference between them. She noted an unsolicited proposal may be submitted only for capital projects and if the County was interested there would be a solicitation for competition. Ms. Singer said the County would adhere to the County ordinance related to unsolicited proposals.

Assistant County Attorney Mike Valdes added that County procedure that was stricter than State procedure would prevail unless those provisions were waived.

- DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

- On whether the Charter should be amended as relates to the procurement process, and if so, what those amendments should be.
- Task Force Member Ferre's proffered Amendment.

Mr. Neisen Kasdin suggested that topic be deferred and considered at a subsequent meeting in order to receive the additional requested information.

Mr. Ferre agreed with the deferral request. He asked that the intent of his proposal be presented in the meantime in order to gain a better understanding of its content.

Mr. Marlon Hill inquired whether Ms. Singer was aware of any inefficiency in the procurement process that could be improved through the Charter revision process.

Ms. Singer mentioned that the delegation of authority was among the most recognized best practices in governmental procurement, noting the BCC placed a great deal of trust in the Administration to delegate and any increase in this authority was welcome. She said that in

terms of Charter relationship; the County was working diligently on an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution for countywide efficiencies.

Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal mentioned that Mr. Ferre's proposal was intended to create a more independent, professional procurement process within the Charter. He said an independent Procurement Management Director outside the general administrative authority of the County Mayor would be created, subject to BCC approval and subject to termination by the Mayor or the BCC by majority vote. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal noted this would provide more administrative freedom from the general administrative branch and more BCC control. He indicated this would be an independent administrative department within the BCC and that the Procurement Department would make recommendations for all procurements within a dollar amount to be determined but tentatively set for anything over \$1 million. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal said the recommendation would require a 2/3 Board vote of approval.

Mr. Ferre commented that the County negotiated \$5 billion worth of contracts annually. He cautioned that corruption was always associated with money, noting contracts and real estate were major sources of money. Mr. Ferre said that the County Attorney's office was asked to look at best practices and develop alternate recommendations to discuss. He noted this was something for the future and would not apply to any current elected County official.

In response to Mr. Kasdin's question whether this model was used elsewhere, Ms. Singer reported that she was not aware of it being used elsewhere, noting most procurement organizations reported to a key administrator or Strong Mayor.

Mr. Ferre added that this permitted the BCC to be involved in procurement and would make the current procedures stronger.

There was no further discussion on the procurement process and the item was deferred to the October 16, 2017 meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2017 AND AUGUST 28, 2017 CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE MEETINGS**

It was moved by Mr. Eric Zichella that the meeting minutes from the August 14, 2017 and the August 28, 2017 Charter Review Task Force meetings be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by all members present.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Cuevas stated that the deferred Procurement discussion would be considered at the October 16, 2017 Task Force meeting. He asked Task Force members to provide staff with any other discussion items or ideas to be added to the meeting agenda. Chair Cuevas said the Task Force members suggestions relating to the County Commissioner compensation, term limits and district/countywide elections would also be placed on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Eric Zichella stated that County Commissioners should get paid more than \$6,000; however, expressed concern as to how to present this to the voters in a favorable manner, considering previous failed attempts to increase their salaries. He suggested capping salaries at 50 percent or some other agreeable percentage of the Mayor's salary as an option.

Chair Cuevas indicated that County Commissioners performed an enormous amount of work, noting he could not believe that the public would not accept the need to increase their salaries.

Mr. Neisen Kasdin commented that people believed County Commissioners were bad politicians and should not be rewarded. He said it was a disincentive for people with good motives to go into government and being paid some reasonable compensation for them to run for office might be an incentive.

Mr. Maurice Ferre mentioned this issue had been on the ballot numerous times. He asked staff to provide information on previous ballot language and the voting history related to County Commissioner salaries at the next meeting.

Chair Cuevas said that the County Commission needed to be behind this issue; to show the community the extent of what they did for the community; and to promote it amongst their constituents.

Mr. Ferre said they needed to make the case for the future rather than for themselves.

Ms. Alice Burch stated that the amendment being considered on procurement shuts the public off, noting a simpler approach was needed. She said that public meetings needed to engage the public and sell the idea of a better Charter for them. Ms. Burch noted everything coming out of the Task Force needed to be presented in a simplified manner so that the public would understand why it was being recommended.

Mr. Marlon Hill pointed out that he did not like concept of selling the idea to the public, but would rather communicate it. He asked staff about the status of the communications plan which he submitted, noting it was not included in the meeting package.

Ms. Nicole Tallman said that she shared his proposal with Task Force members and recalled that Chair Cuevas commented on that proposal at the last meeting. She advised Task Force members that information was being disseminated on Facebook and Twitter; however, nothing was currently being done in regards to sharing information through a newsletter or infographics.

Chair Cuevas commented that sometimes simplifying issues left out important aspects.

Mr. Hill indicated that we needed to explain why Charter changes were needed.

Chair Cuevas said the item sponsors would be responsible to provide those explanations.

Mr. Hill stated that the communications needed to be consistent over time for people to start embracing the why before they went to the polls.

Mr. Ferre said that the Task Force was only making recommendations; that the Board of County Commissioners approved those recommendations; and that they previously approved only a very small number of those recommendations.

Mr. Zichella mentioned he did not think it was the Task Force's responsibility to set up a communications plan, to sell, or to explain items to the voters. He pointed out the Task Force was charged to create language that was clear, concise and simple enough for the voters to understand. Mr. Zichella noted others should be involved in campaigning for or against the proposals.

Mr. Jeff Cazeau indicated that the Task Force had the duty to get the information out to the public; however, should not advocate for one position over the other. He said that he understood the rationale not to wait until the last moment to disseminate information, yet it was the public's responsibility to listen to these meetings and understand what was being considered.

Ms. Burch commented on the need for Strong Mayor qualifications, noting this issue needed to be revisited.

Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez inquired about the timeline for scheduling public outreach meetings.

Chair Cuevas responded that he was looking for public meetings to begin in November or December, 2017.

Mr. Gonzalez requested that the dates be considered at the next Task Force meeting.

In response to Chair Cuevas' request about the availability of public facilities throughout the County, Ms. Nicole Tallman reported that she already had this information.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Charter Review Task Force meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Robert Cuevas, Chair