

Meeting Date
May 20, 2010



AGENDA	
Proposal #	52
Item No.	X. F.

AGENDA REPORT
BREVARD COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Section 3.3 Financial and Operational Reporting Duties of County Manager

PETITIONER: Carolyn J. Fausnaugh

Requested Action:
Requesting Charter Review Commission consider approval of a Charter Amendment requiring the County Manager to make public presentation of financial and operating results to Board of County Commissioners within 90 days after close of each fiscal year.

Summary Explanation & Background:

There is no guidance in the Charter as it currently exists for a minimum standard for content or timeliness of financial and operational reporting by the County Manager to the Board of County Commissioners. The indirect result of this omission from the Charter is no requirement for financial and operational reporting to the citizens of Brevard County. Information which is not timely loses its usefulness, that is, its ability to inform future actions.

At present publicly available reports with financial information consists of:

1. Annual Budget – available on County Manager’s Webpage
2. County Manager’s Annual Report – available on County Manager’s Webpage
3. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – available on the Clerk of the Court Webpage

However, there is not a requirement as to timeframes in which the County Manager’s Annual Report and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and made publicly available. There is no report that sets forth in one document actual expenditures and performance measures compared to current year budget and performance measure assumptions contrasted to prior year actual expenditures and performance measures compared to prior year budget and performance measure assumptions.

Therefore, a proposal to amend the charter to require public presentation of financial and operating results to the Board of County Commissioners within 90 days after the close of each fiscal year is recommended.

The current county manager is new to the county and appears to be making exceptional progress in leading the development of a budget and modernization of financial management procedures within county government during the current difficult financial times.

However, a significant portion of the public is uninformed about the processes and outcomes of county government. Likewise elected members of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners come to their position with varying qualifications and abilities for the interpretation of financial and operating information. Increased awareness, emphasis and understanding of both processes and outcomes can only benefit the citizens and help assuage any perception that their government is not as efficient as they desire. To some the delay in availability of reports adds to perceptions of financial and operating inefficiencies. Let me hasten to suggest keeping in mind that all too often there is little or no relationship between perception and reality but consistent flow of information eases the problem.

An effective date of fiscal year ending 2012 is suggested.

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Exhibits Attached:
None

Reviewed by Administrative Secretary/Chairman Yes No

County Department