

ITEM #69₍₆₎ & #70₍₃₎

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 7, 2022

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COMMISSIONER JARED E.
MOSKOWITZ**

LAW OFFICES OF
GEORGE I. PLATT, III, P.A.

June 6, 2022

Hon. Mayor Michael Udine
Hon. Vice Mayor Lamar Fisher
Hon. Commissioner Torey Alston
Hon. Commissioner Mark Bogen
Hon. Commissioner Beam Furr
Hon. Commissioner Steve Geller
Hon. Commissioner Jared Moskowitz
Hon. Commissioner Nan Rich
Hon. Commissioner Tim Ryan

Re: June 7, 2022 Agenda Items 69 and 70/Elected Mayor Charter Amendment

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners:

For the past 18 years, our community has had long and detailed discussions about the merits of proposing a Charter Amendment so voters can decide if they support a countywide elected mayor. Our ad hoc committee thanks this Commission for placing this matter on the agenda for discussion. We also appreciate the work of those of you who have shared your thoughts on this important issue.

We have had the privilege of working with a diverse group of community leaders who have urged a vote on the issue, including many municipal officials, labor leaders, business leaders, The League of Women Voters, news media, grass roots organizations and many others. On the two occasions when we polled voters on the issue, a weak elected mayor, similar to what we have in most of Broward's municipalities, was favored by approximately 80% of those polled.

The Ryan Proposal (#69) was discussed in detail in 2021 and had input from many of you in previous years. This approach would create a countywide elected mayor with the same single vote as each Commissioner. This "weak" elected mayor form resembles most of Broward's large cities and the day-to-day County business would be carried on, as now, by the professional County Administrator. Both the Ryan and Moskowitz proposals emphasize the non-interference provisions which are currently in place to ensure that this separation of duties remains strong.

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We favor the Ryan proposal where the Mayor, as now, chairs the Commission meetings and can participate in discussions and place items on the Agenda. The Ryan proposal does not add duties beyond the current Charter provisions. We are also supportive of the Moskowitz (#70) proposal to add some definition to the mayor's role in times of "emergency."

We ask that you consider the Moskowitz language or the Geller proposal regarding Compensation where the Mayor's base pay would be lower than the Ryan proposal and there would be no prohibition on outside employment and compensation. Naturally, all the laws and rules regarding ethics and conflicts would apply to any such outside income. This is similar to the cities with a weak mayor form of government and seems to work fine. It would also broaden the pool of potential candidates for the position of Mayor.

We urge you to allow the voters to have an opportunity to vote on a carefully crafted Charter Amendment to establish a countywide elected Mayor in 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Charlie Caulkins
Gene Pettis
James Donnelly
Hon. Mike Ryan
Hon. Josh Levy
Bob Butterworth
Dan Reynolds
Juan Carlos Arias
Vicente Thrower