



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

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Commission Members

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Michele L. Lieberman
Alachua County Manager
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Charter Review Commission – Request for documents to be placed on website

October 30, 2019 **DRAFT**

Ms. Lieberman,

On October 30th, the Charter Review Commission (CRC) voted to request that you exercise your authority and make an exception to County ADA policies in order to restore historical, as well as 2019-2020 generated, CRC information to the County's website.

Every ten years (since 1990) a CRC is convened to review the County's Home Rule Charter and propose amendments or revisions which may be advisable for placement on the general election ballot. The Alachua County Commission has established a CRC for the 2019-2020 review period. Public engagement is key to this process.

There is a compressed timeframe for submittal of proposals, study, legal research, and collective deliberation. The CRC had expected to make significant use of the County's website to provide public information and solicit proposals. At the September 26th organizational meeting, County Attorney Torres told the CRC that a lawsuit resulted in the County removing website documents that may pose a difficulty for those who are sight impaired. Many historical documents; videos; past CRC reports; and presentations to/minutes of relevant County Commission meetings, etc. – previously on the County's website - are no longer available or accessible.

Though current CRC meeting agenda, backup materials and miscellaneous documents are uploaded to a Sharefiles site for CRC members, this information is not available to the public. Those who wish to participate in this significant local government process through the County website cannot access this public information.

The Charter Review Commission believes that the process of deliberating local home rule authority is of great public importance, as is availability of the public information necessary to fully participate. For these reasons, we appreciate your consideration of this request to restore historical and 2019-2020 CRC documents to the website.

With kind regards,