

**ALACHUA COUNTY
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
FINAL REPORT**

AUGUST 1990

**PREPARED BY:
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE**



CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

P.O. Drawer CC • Gainesville, Florida 32602
(904) 374-5210

August 7, 1990

The Honorable Kate Barnes, Chairman
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Drawer CC
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Dear Chairman Barnes:

On behalf of the Charter Review Commission, I am pleased to present the final report on the county's charter. The Commission has decided not to recommend any changes to the charter at this time. However, we do offer you a strong recommendation to reconvene a review commission at an early date following the Fall elections.

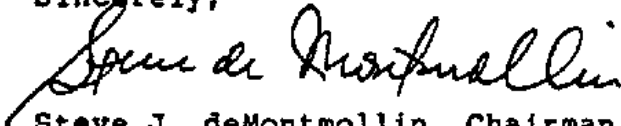
Over a year-long period, the Commission conducted a thorough review of issues affecting county government. This review was in progress when the legislative delegation took action to place a choice between consolidation and annexation before the voters. With this choice pending, it seemed inappropriate to develop proposals to fine tune the present charter. Nevertheless, it is the consensus of the Commission that whatever results from the September election, a number of important issues affecting the county's charter must be considered in the near future. These issues are described in the attached report beginning on page 11.

Charter Review Commission
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One other consideration convinces us that an early date for reconvening a review commission is essential. Whatever the outcome of the September election, the result will be substantial changes to local government in Alachua County. Either large-scale annexation or consolidation will require the county to take a careful look at its structure and operations. The task of assessing and evaluating these matters is enormous and should begin immediately. While no proposals from this commission can be presented to the voters before 1992, empanelling the commission early will allow time for the careful and thorough study of the issues that county residents deserve.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve on this commission and present you with these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Steve J. deMontmollin, Chairman
Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Members

Linda S. Gray, Vice-Chairman
Rodney Estes
Carol J. Gormley
Harold Graybill
Gary Hardacre
The Honorable L.J. "Lu" Hindery
Dr. L. Clark Hodge
Karl Owens
Barbara S. Scott
Clevern Sharpe
William C. Zegel

REPORT OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
TO THE ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 GENERAL

The original Florida Constitution in 1868, provided for the structure of county governments; this structure established a five-member Board of County Commissioners which was empowered to levy taxes for the county and assure that roads were built. This original Constitution also set up the offices of the Sheriff, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections and Clerk of the Court. The Tax Assessor would later become the Property Appraiser and the Clerk of the Court would serve as the County Treasurer. The revision of the Florida Constitution in 1968 did not alter the structure of county government.

Even though the structure outlined in the Florida Constitution has not changed in more than 100 years, the functions of County government have been altered dramatically, many as a result of the dramatic growth that has occurred within the State of Florida. County government and County Commissioners must now effectively manage contemporary issues such as regional planning, environmental monitoring and protection and bonds.

Three general factors have influenced a call for "local home rule" in Florida. The first factor is the various multi-layered governmental agencies involved in local government that are often outdated, duplicative and non-interrelated. The second factor involves the rapid growth and urbanization of the entire state. The third factor is the tough financial problems that Florida must deal with in the face of reduced federal grants and increased state and federal mandates imposed on local governments.

1.2 ALACHUA COUNTY CHARTER GOVERNMENT (History)

The 1968 Florida Constitution Revision allowed local voters, through a referendum election, to adopt a local Charter for their county. Non-charter counties are granted their powers in Section 125.01 of the Florida Statutes. The Florida Constitution grants Charter counties all powers of local self government not inconsistent with General law, or with a Special law that has been approved by the local voters and the Florida Legislature. Powers granted to Charter counties in Florida Statutes are outlined in Chapters 125.60 - 125.64 and Chapters 125.80 - 125.88. A Charter also delineates which shall prevail in the event of a conflict between city and county ordinances.

Prior to 1987, when Alachua County's Charter went into effect, the County only had powers that were granted through General or Special Law. Non-charter counties were not granted ordinance-making authority until 1968 and it was not until 1970 that Alachua County adopted its first ordinance when it created the County Attorney's position.

Charter government was designed to relieve the state legislature of the details of local government and grant the city and county electorate greater control over their own affairs. By broadening the power of local governments to deal with their own affairs, it has become possible to deal more effectively with problems of local government. However, this broad power carries with it substantial duties and powers. Unless the Florida Legislature has preempted a subject through either General or Special Law or has passed a General law that conflicts with the local law, a Charter county has full authority to act through its exercise of "home rule power".

The Florida Supreme Court ruled that the 1968 Revision gave Charter counties two powers not available to non-charter counties:

1. The power to preempt conflicting municipal ordinances.
2. The power to avoid intervention of the legislature through Special Laws.

Alachua County made four attempts to adopt a Charter form of government. In 1975 the Legislative Delegation created a "Local Government Study Commission of Alachua County". These efforts led to recommendations that the cities and county be consolidated into a single government, which failed in two separate elections. In 1981 a third Charter was put forth. There was no attempt in this proposal to consolidate the local governments or to restructure the County government; however, it did propose to remove the independent status of the Constitutional Officers and to make them appointed department heads. This was also turned down by the voters.

In 1986, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners appointed a "Citizens Task Force on Home Rule Charter Government Status". This was in part a result of recommendations by the "Visions 2000" group which called for implementation of Charter government which would transfer the existing structure of government directly into a "home rule" document. Through this type of approach the voters were allowed to approve the idea of "home rule" through a charter, without initially considering restructuring changes. In addition, it provided a framework for the voters to change the structure in the future, on a case-by-case basis. The Charter passed by a 2 to 1 vote in the 1986 general election.

The current Charter Review Commission (CRC) is composed of 11 of the 13 original members of the "Alachua County Task Force for the Study of Home Rule Charter Government", who drafted and proposed the current Alachua County Charter in 1986.

1.3 IMPACT OF THE CHARTER

The impact of the Charter on local government organization and function has been limited in the three years since its adoption, largely because of the "no change" type of document originally adopted. The intent of this type of document was to implement a basic Charter first. In this way the transition to Charter government could be simple, and specific issues could be dealt with later, one at a time. In this respect, the Charter at least represents the potential to address issues of concern.

Local government in Alachua County has not had the opportunity to use the Charter to implement changes because there have been a variety of local issues that have preempted such action. There have been conflicts between the governments of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville and between both governments and the Legislative Delegation for Alachua County. There will also be a consolidation proposal on the September 4, 1990 ballot. If approved by the voters, this proposal would call for the consolidation of the City of Gainesville and Alachua County. If not approved by the voters, the "Alachua County Boundary Adjustment Act" goes into effect which calls for Alachua County and its municipalities to begin a formal process to establish "urban reserve areas" that could lead to the annexation of some of the unincorporated areas of Alachua County.

The Charter government formation and review process has, however, facilitated a discussion about many of the important issues in local government and the options available to try to deal with them. The state constitutional constraints have not changed much regarding County organization and function, since 1898. The 1968 revision of the Florida Constitution allowed counties to adopt a Charter, but did not direct them on how Charters are to be written and organized. Those questions can only be answered through the review process. The current review has also led to discussion of many of the issues that consolidation and/or annexation will attempt to deal with.

The September elections may change the County substantially through annexation or abolish the current charter through consolidation. If the current Charter remains in effect, it offers opportunities to change and improve county government. Examples are: 1. As a Charter County, Alachua County can implement new revenue sources to help make up for the lack of taxable property in Alachua County. 2. Alachua County could also gain further control and direction over its budget by making the Constitutional officers Charter officers. 3. The Charter Review Commission could be allowed to meet more often than every 10 years or meet at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, so that it could be more responsive to changes in the County.

In 1990, Alachua County stands at a crossroads. Annexation or consolidation will probably alter the structure and/or function of the County in the future. As noted, the current Charter has allowed the County to review and anticipate some of the issues that will arise in the future. If not abolished by consolidation, the Charter will be available to be used to respond to the changes brought about by annexation. If the County is consolidated, the new County government will have a new Charter that, although probably different in form, will still need to be reviewed and updated. Hopefully, the work of the current CRC will provide a working example for such future efforts.

1.4 REVIEW OF THE CURRENT CHARTER

On June 5, 1989, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met with the CRC in a workshop to discuss the role and work plan of the CRC and the Charter review process as outlined in the current Charter. The initial meetings of the CRC were focused on a review of Charter government in general. This included presentations by experts in the field and review of charters from other counties in Florida.

Some specific advantages Alachua County gained by having a charter are:

1. Increased citizen participation in, and control of, local government.
 - Citizens may initiate or recall ordinances through a petition process and referendum. They cannot do this under non-charter status.
 - Citizens may recall a County Commissioner through the petition and referendum process. Currently, only the Governor can remove a County Commissioner from office in a non-charter county.

- Citizens can determine the structure of County government in their charter document and can amend that structure as needed through a process the citizens establish in the Charter document. Non-charter counties currently must adhere to a structure called for under Florida Law.

This means that while the structure may be satisfactory at the current time, local government can respond quickly to future issues without waiting for the Legislature to change General Law.

2. A County Charter requires that an Administrative Code be put together for the County which details all the regulations, policies and procedures of a government. This is not required under State Law for non-charter counties.
3. The County and its citizens can establish laws, ordinances, etc. that are desired by voters, without going to the Legislative Delegation as long as it is not inconsistent with the Florida Constitution and State Laws.
4. Local government is more responsive and flexible to the needs of the people. For example, currently no State Laws regarding impact fees exist. A Charter could call for impact fees, if desired, which could then be voted on by the citizens. This would then streamline the process of implementing impact fees by allowing the County to tailor a process to specifically meet Alachua County's needs.

SECTION 2.0 CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS

2.1 CHARGE OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Specific language concerning the charge of the CRC is contained in Alachua County's Charter, Section 4.2, (B), 1-6. The CRC first met on May 3, 1989, when the members decided that they must be ready to meet regularly by no later than November of 1989. At this meeting, County Manager Bob Fernandez, addressed the CRC, indicating the group would need to approach the Charter from the perspective of dealing with the specific needs of the community. Fernandez said that the major reason the CRC was convened earlier than the Charter required was due to the fact that there were issues in the community that needed to be addressed as soon as possible. He also noted the original Charter was purposely drafted to be a "no change" document from the original pre-Charter form of government and that some of the intent of this was to provide for a gradual change in County government over time.

2.2 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION'S APPROACH

The work plan for the CRC was developed and outlined by the group at the May 8, 1989 CRC subcommittee meeting. The work plan consisted of three phases: Phase I lasted 2 months and was devoted to organizational concerns; Phase II lasted approximately 9 months and was devoted to development and discussion of possible amendments to the charter and Phase III was to be devoted to final public hearings on any proposed Charter amendments or revisions, writing a final report to the Board of County Commissioners and implementing a public education campaign. At the time of this writing, Phase III has been altered in form and substance, because of the formation of the "Alachua County Consolidated Government Study Commission". That group submitted to the Legislative Delegation its final report on May 15, 1990.

At the April 12, 1990 meeting of the CRC, a decision was made that the CRC would suspend its efforts to put referendum proposals on the November, 1990 ballot. The CRC indicated that with other proposals on the ballot that concern restructuring of local government, the probability exists of major changes in government structure that could make any proposals by the CRC inappropriate or ineffective. In addition, the CRC indicated that any amendment or revision it might propose for the ballot would only further confuse voters, who have not been educated properly at this point about government restructuring processes.

The CRC, however, did decide to proceed with its efforts to write this report to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. This report contains specific recommendations about suggested changes in local government. The CRC began drafting this report at the May 24, 1990 meeting.

The CRC held a series of initial public hearings in the Summer of 1989 to gain ideas on specific issues for review and sought input through these hearings from interested citizens and public officials. The CRC sent letters to all area public officials to inform them of public hearings and to ask for their input.

The CRC held a workshop with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners early in the review process, June 5, 1989. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the role and work plan of the CRC and outline the process for participation in the development of proposed Charter amendments. The CRC also reviewed the existing Charter with the Board of County Commissioners.

An informational public hearing was held on June 8, 1989 to inform the citizens of Alachua County as to the purpose, responsibilities and proposed plans of the CRC. At this meeting, a schedule of future public hearings was distributed to allow elected officials, organizations and interested citizens the opportunity to express their ideas and suggestions concerning possible Charter amendments. In addition, a mailing list of interested citizens was compiled from those who requested to be on it, at the public hearings.

Over succeeding months, a master list of 31 issues was developed by the CRC based on public input and a position paper on each of these issues was developed by staff. Each position paper included: background information, a legal opinion, an administrative review that included an operational impact assessment, a financial review and ultimately the CRC decision on the issue and why it was decided to retain or drop the issue.

Further specific plans set up for the work plan include:

1. The need to review all the issues presented to date.
2. The need for scientific methodology to be used as a basis for review.
3. The need for staff to prepare base minimum information on all issues.
4. Discussion of whether the Charter needed to be amended.
5. Agreement to defer the decision on issues until a basic analysis has been completed.

The general process for the review of each individual issue followed the step-by-step process, as outlined on the attached issue review sheet. The first section contains Base Information which has several subsections. First, the issue was researched to see if it was addressed anywhere in the Florida Constitution and in the Florida Statutes. Second, the issue was researched to see if it was addressed in any of the charters of other counties in Florida. Next, the research focused on whether the issue had a history in Alachua County and if there was any type of report or outside research that focused on the particular issue under review. Finally, the research shifted to the current status of the issue in Alachua County.

After a review of research up to this point, the CRC voted on whether to retain the particular issue under discussion for further consideration. If the CRC decided to continue with further review, then research on the issue continued under the CRC Decision to Proceed issue review area. Here, the reason was listed as to why the CRC decided to continue or not continue with further review. The vote of the committee, noting any abstentions, was indicated as well.

The next area of research focused on legal review. The CRC enlisted the help of the University of Florida's Center for Governmental Responsibility. This research focused on a more in-depth review of the Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, pertinent case law and Attorney General opinions.

Additional research of the issue focused on an administrative review which would outline the possible operational impact on local government of the issue. It also attempted to assess any possible financial impact that implementation of the issue might cause.

At this stage of the issue review process, the CRC decided again whether it would like to retain the issue for further consideration and/or whether it would like to place the issue on the ballot.

Any issues forwarded for inclusion on the ballot would be discussed at another series of public hearings to be held by the CRC. Research would then take into account County citizen input and direction gained through public hearings. Finally, the CRC would decide whether to put the issue on the November ballot.

SECTION 3.0
ISSUES WHICH REMAINED UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CRC

3.1 GENERAL

The following issues were in the final stages of the issue review process when the CRC decided to suspend its efforts to put referendum proposals on the ballot:

1. Limit of two Consecutive Terms for the County Commission (Issue #7)
2. Salary of the Board of County Commissioners (Issue #9)
3. Change the initiative section to the percentage of people who voted in the last election (Issue #11)
4. Charter Review Commission to meet more often than 10 years (Issue #22)

3.2 Limit of two Consecutive terms for the County Commission (Issue #7)

This issue is addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 2.2, A. This issue was brought to the attention of the CRC at the August 17, 1989 public hearing and via a letter on August 6, 1989 from the "Friends of Alachua County" group. The issue was first discussed at the December 7, 1989 meeting although no action was taken or recommended. New information by the staff was presented to the CRC at the January 4, 1990 meeting, but no action was taken at this time.

Further discussion and review of this issue was continued at the January 11, 1990 meeting. It was decided to continue with further review and research on this issue and that the language of this issue should be more specific. The CRC voted to change the language from "Limit of 2 terms for the County Commission" to more specific language that reads, "Limit of 2 Consecutive Terms for the County Commission".

At the March 8, 1990 meeting, it was decided to include this issue in with the other "County Commission issues" for possible further review through a workshop. Further review of this issue was suspended in light of the efforts of the "Alachua County Consolidated Government Study Commission".

3.3 Salary of the Board of County Commissioners (Issue #9)

This issue is addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 2.2. At the November 9, 1989 CRC meeting this issue was initially brought up for discussion. It was added to the list of Structural issues at the September 28, 1989 meeting of the CRC, based on citizen input received at the August 17, 1989 public hearing of the CRC. Initial discussion of this issue included a review of the mechanism to determine a salary level and a suggestion that the salary be changed to 75% of the state formula. A motion was made and passed to continue further study of this issue and that the salary be set equal to the median family income for a family of four in Alachua County. This was proposed as a way to tie Commissioners salaries to an economic indicator for the County and because it would result in local salary setting, rather than the salary being set in the State Legislature.

This issue was reviewed next at the January 11, 1990 meeting of the CRC. Discussion centered around allowing the Commissioners to set their own salaries. It was decided that this would be in the spirit of "home rule". The decision was made to set a base salary at either \$25,000 or at the median income level for a family of four. Any raises above this level would be voted on by the Commission.

The CRC stated that the base should not be set unusually low because there is the danger that one Commission could vote for a very low salary if they had alternative sources of revenue and then that salary rate would be passed on to the next Commission which might not be in the same financial position.

The CRC decided at the March 8, 1990 meeting to include this issue in with other "County Commission Issues" such as "#4 - Single Member Districts", "#5 - Size of the Commission" and "#7 - Limit of 2 Consecutive Terms for the County Commission". In this way the issues could be studied together in a workshop of all related issues. Further review of this issue was suspended in light of the efforts of the "Alachua County Consolidated Government Study Commission". However, this was an issue still under review by the CRC.

3.4 Change the initiative section to a percentage of people who voted in the last election (Issue #11)

This issue is addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 2.2, H. This issue was brought to the attention of the CRC at the August 17, 1989 public hearing and via a letter from the "Friends of Alachua County" on August 6, 1989. It was first reviewed by the CRC at the November 9, 1989 CRC meeting. This discussion included: 1. Research into the number of registered voters in the County. 2. The reasoning behind the existing 7% for ordinance initiatives and 10% for Charter initiatives. 3. Review of other Charter counties who used a percentage of voters from each district (geographic distribution). 4. The need for a map of the districts.

Further review of this issue was continued at the January 11, 1990 CRC meeting. Discussion centered around the possible need for the local initiative language to be consistent with the state language. In addition, CRC members stated that passage of this issue would make it easier for citizens to put an issue on the ballot.

At the January 25, 1990 meeting the CRC looked at setting the initiative percentage at 8% for both Charter and Ordinance initiatives to make Alachua County consistent with the Florida Constitution.

At the March 8, 1990 meeting, the CRC decided to include this issue in with the other "Initiative issues". The other initiative issue to be studied with this issue in a possible workshop was "Delete initiative provisions re: budget, zoning, debt obligations and comprehensive plans".

The CRC decided to suspend further review efforts on this issue at the April 12, 1990. The CRC stated, however, that this issue is important to the local community and that a change in this area is needed.

**3.5 Charter Review Commission to meet more often than every 10 years
(Issue #22)**

This issue is addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 4.2, B, 1. This issue was raised by CRC members at the September 14, 1989 meeting. Initial review and research began at the November 9, 1989 meeting. This discussion centered around: 1. The need for review, perhaps every 5 years because a reasonable review of government is necessary on a periodic basis. 2. Proposal for a compromise between 5 and 10 years. - 3. The need to prioritize this issue.

The CRC stated that in light of the many proposed changes to the County and the City of Gainesville in the next year, the CRC should be able to meet more often than every 10 years. An alternate plan would give the CRC more flexibility to anticipate changes in local government rather than just responding to changes after the fact.

SECTION 4.0
ISSUES TO GO TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AS RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 General

The following issues are areas that are important to the CRC and warrant further review and possible action. For various reasons the CRC could not act on some of these issues or felt that another area of local government was better suited to deal with the issue.

Through the vehicle of this report, the CRC hopes to advise the Board of County Commissioners of these issues which the Board can either act on, or can refer to another branch of local government that can more effectively deal with the specific issue. Members of the CRC stated that they believe they have had the time to do in-depth research on these issues, while other areas of local government may not have had time to do such research.

4.2 Non-partisan elections for the County Commission and the Constitutional Officers (Issues #2 and #20)

These issues are not addressed in the Alachua County Charter.

These issues were first recommended to the CRC via letters on July 25, 1989 and August 17, 1989 and at the August 17, 1989 public hearing of the CRC. This issue was first discussed by the CRC at the February 8, 1990 meeting. Discussion included the problems in finding two qualified candidates to represent both parties locally and that Republicans who are registered locally often cannot voice their opinion through local elections. Further discussion included the opinion that there is not any consistent representation of parties at the local level right now.

A motion was passed at this meeting to remove this issue from further consideration by the CRC because it would take a Special Act to implement this proposal and that the CRC does not have the authority to do so.

4.3 Single Member Districts and Size of the Commission (Issues #4 and #5)

These issues are addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 2.2, (A), (B). "Single Member Districts" were proposed at the August 17, 1989 public hearing. "Increasing the size of the County Commission" was suggested to the CRC via a letter on August 30, 1989.

These issues were first discussed at the February 22, 1990 meeting. Discussion included:

1. The opinion that single member districts would increase minority representation on the Board of County Commissioners.
2. The opinion that single member districts would enhance the voice of local citizens in the eastern part of the County.
3. That there has only been one black commissioner on the Alachua County Commission since reconstruction.
4. The opinion that single member districts may increase district in-fighting and that the concerns of the County as a whole, might suffer.
5. The opinion that in at-large elections, Commission candidates are free to choose their constituencies and ignore the residents of the districts from which they were elected. Philosophical allegiance and especially the prospect of campaign funds are seen as inducements for candidates to choose constituencies from beyond their districts. This may result in over-representation of the interests of one area and under-representation of the interests of another area.
6. The opinion that this issue of under-and/or over-representation might be currently in effect in Alachua County and might be reflected in the current East-West problems in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County.
7. The observation that if the County went to single member districts, that it would then be consistent with the City of Gainesville and the State of Florida.
8. The observation that if the size of the County Commission was increased, then the cost to the County might increase.

At the April 12, 1990 meeting a memo was submitted to CRC members that addressed these issues. Opinions reflected in the memo by the CRC are that the CRC is nearly unanimously against single member districts only, they favor a combination of at-large with single member districts.

The CRC stated that it does not have the authority to implement this proposal. The CRC recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt, on its own initiative, a formal resolution to place this proposition on the ballot.

The specific recommendation the CRC was studying at the time its efforts were discontinued was that the Board of County Commissioners increase its size to seven, with 5 being elected from single member districts and 2 from at-large. In addition, the CRC stated that district lines should not be drawn in a "pie wedge" fashion because this gives too much weight to the urban areas. The district lines should be drawn to divide up the urban areas and then the rural areas, independently of each other, to provide equal representation for both areas.

4.4 Supervisor of Elections to approve proposed initiative ordinance language (Issue #13)

This issue is addressed in the Alachua County Charter in Section 2.2, H, 2. This proposal was recommended to the CRC by the "Friends of Alachua County" via a letter on August 6, 1989 and at the August 17, 1989 public hearing. Specifically the recommendation was to change the language in the first 2 sentences in Section 2.2, H, 2 of the Alachua County Charter, so that it would be easier for a citizen to get his/her initiative approved.

Discussion of this proposal was held at the January 25, 1990 meeting. The CRC passed a motion to remove this issue from further consideration because the Board of County Commissioners is in a better position of authority to implement this proposal.

4.5 Notification of all municipalities of any County ordinance which the County intends to apply within municipalities (Issue #28)

This issue is not addressed in the Alachua County Charter.

This proposal was submitted to the CRC via a letter from the City of Gainesville on August 9, 1989. It was presented to the CRC at the August 17, 1989 public hearing.

This proposal was discussed at the March 8, 1990 meeting. Discussion included: 1. Would this increase the administrative workload of the County? 2. Would this proposal help to clear up some communication problems between the City of Gainesville and Alachua County? The CRC passed a motion to drop this issue from further consideration, but to recommend this proposal for amendment of the Charter to the Board of County Commissioners for further action by the Board.

4.6 Crime Commission (Issue #31)

This issue is not addressed in the Alachua County Charter.

The CRC decided to add this proposal to the initial issue list at the September 14, 1989 meeting.

This proposal was discussed at the March 8, 1990 meeting and a presentation concerning the formation of a crime commission was also given at this time. Discussion included: 1. That for a crime commission to be effective, it must have some standing and power in the local community. 2. That the current crime commission is not strong enough and is only ad-hoc in nature. 3. That the proposed crime commission is not meant to replace any current crime commissions already in the County.

The CRC passed a motion to remove this issue from further study. They further recommended that this proposal be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners to sponsor further study of this idea and if feasible, consider a Special Act to create a crime commission.

In addition to this report, the CRC has created an informational file of background material that is located in the Alachua County Public Library. This file consists of the following:

1. Alachua County Charter
2. Florida Statutes - Chapters 125.01, 125.60 - 125.64 and 125.80 - 125.88.
3. Florida Constitution - Article VIII
4. Minutes from the 1989 - 1990 Charter Review Commission
5. Handouts and information generated from the CRC meetings
6. Proposed Charter for the Consolidated Government of the City of Gainesville and Alachua County
7. The Boundary Adjustment Act

The CRC, which devoted literally hundreds of hours to review and deliberation of possible Charter amendments and revisions, has indicated it believes that the citizen review process is an integral part of local government in Alachua County. The CRC encourages the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to continue to look to the citizens for review of the structure and functions outlined in Alachua County's Charter, which governs all of our lives.