

11/6/2019

Chair and members of the Charter Review Commission:

I respectfully rise to address what seems to be misinformation with which you are dealing regarding the full or part time status of county commissioners. I have talked with prior CRC General Counsels, a prior CRC member and litigator for CRC, and with a prior County Attorney. Our recollections and memories all line up together.

207. Powers and Duties, last sentence

“The commissioners shall **only** devote such time as is necessary to perform the legislative responsibilities of their office.” (word “only” added in 1988)

205. Compensation

“Commissioners’ salaries shall be uniform and shall be **set by ordinance.**”

Sec. 212. Noninterference

“Except for purposes on inquiry and information, commissioners are **prohibited from interfering with employees...**under direct or indirect supervision of the county mayor.”

Salary set in originally adopted charter in 1988 at \$25,000

Allowed Commissioners to have/continue additional jobs, as they were envisioned to be legislators, not executive/operational leaders (examples Bob Sindler’s veterinary practice; Ted Edwards’ law practice)

In 1996 (eight years later), Commissioners and Chair (then Crotty) passed ordinance setting commissioner salary at \$56,083, with CPI adjustment. (Now codified as Sec. 2-30 Salaries)

23 years later, salary as of 10/1/2019 for commissioner = \$84,688.29. Some would say that’s a great salary and others would say not so much, in comparison to other available 6-digit salaries.

Nowhere and never did the Charter indicate part-time or full-time for commissioners.

They are paid same amount each day, whether in the office or not. They are in effect in a special pay group known colloquially as elected officials.

- They do the work of their office, along with the help of their aides.
- They don’t get paid more for evenings or weekends.
- They don’t earn sick or vacation/personal time.
- They can choose to have health benefits.
- They do earn credits towards pension.

If you add full-time, are you considering the ramifications? Can't really expect commissioners to be in office Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Would you pay them extra for nights and weekends? Who will oversee their time in office? Will you forbid them from holding other outside jobs/consulting? They spend at least 25-30 hours doing commission work and often spend 40 hours. Issues, problems, and concerns arise and need to be addressed.

Time spent by commissioners at community events and in district is in actuality politically necessary time (for reelection and service to community); it's often not for their specific legislative responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention.

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