

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CITIZENS' COMMISSION
on Elected Official
Compensation

Meeting Minutes for the Citizens' Commission on Elected Officials Compensation

July 26, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Columbus City Hall, Conference Room 225

Attendance:

- Fred L. Ransier III, Commission Chair
- Joel Diaz, Commissioner
- Diana Givand, Commissioner
- Robert J. Weiler, Sr., Commissioner
- Greg Beaverson, Compensation Manager, Department of Human Resources
- Jo Ellen Cline, Legal Analyst & Ethics Officer, Columbus City Council
- Lauren Herderick, Columbus Department of Human Resources
- Matt Erickson, Senior Legislative Analyst, Columbus City Council
- Michael S. Brown, Chief of Staff, City Council President Shannon G. Hardin

Commissioner Weiler called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Upon motion and second the minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Minister Kujenga Ashe addressed the Commission as a member of the public supportive of increased compensation for city elected officials. He noted city elected officials are far more accessible and responsive to their constituents and should be compensated accordingly.

Matt Erickson, Senior Legislative Analyst – Columbus City Council, presented information to the Commission as requested regarding budget projections for City Council after the implementation of Issue 3 which adds two Council members. He noted that the figures presented were based upon the current base salaries of Council members with COLAs continuing into the future. The projections would change if the Commission recommends any change to the base salary. Commissioners sought clarity on the Commission's responsibility to set salaries in the future and the unpredictability of the economy and resources.

Michal Brown, Chief of Staff to the City Council President, discussed the philosophy behind the Charter Review Commission recommendation to expand Council to 9 members elected by district but voted on by the entire city. He noted that the Charter Review Commission wanted to acknowledge the increased workload of Council members by adding more members and, at the same time, make Council more

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geographically representative. Chief Brown also noted to the Commissioners that the City Council budget, even with the additional members, only represents a very small portion of the City's budget. The Commission asked Chief Brown about the ability of Council members to hold outside employment. Chief Brown opined that compensation does have an impact on the ability to recruit people in certain professions to public service. He also noted that precluding outside employment would lead to Council members having fewer conflicts of interest on matters that come before Council. He noted that several current Council members do hold outside employment but not all members. The Commissioners asked for information about peer cities structure - whether they preclude outside employment or specifically designate their Council members as full or part time. Mr. Beaverson directed the Commissioners to consult the spreadsheet created by Mr. Friedman for the last meeting as the information is contained in that document.

Ms. Cline and Mr. Beaverson then provided the Commissioners with updated information requested by the Commissioners at the last meeting.

Commissioner Diaz noted that the Commission needs to focus on whether or not the Commission believes that Council members should be compensated with a higher base salary while precluding outside employment as that consideration will drive many of the recommendations. Commissioner Weiler also noted that the Commission needs to make a decision as to which CPI it will utilize in its recommendations.

Commissioners will hold a public hearing to take public comment on August 16, 2018. They also asked if Auditor Kilgore could attend that meeting to give an overview of growth and trends that occurred from 2015 to 2018 and make some projections regarding trends and growth for 2022 through 2026. The Commission will begin to formulate and discuss its recommendations at its meeting scheduled for August 20, 2018. One final meeting will likely be scheduled for September.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the Commission adjourned at 2:06 p.m.