

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

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PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 7, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas P. Fabricio

H. Collins Forman, Jr.

James Gray Kane

Thomas McDonald, Chair

Lori Moseley

Eugene Pettis

Carlos J. Reyes

Grant Smith

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MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cynthia Busch

Larry Davis

David DiPietro

Roslyn Greenberg

Cynthia Guerra

Suzanne Gunzburger

Marilyn Leto

Suzette A. Maylor

Monica Navarro

Burnadette Norris-Weeks

Joseph Wells

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Also Present:

David Tolces, Esquire, Goren Cherof Doody & Ezrol, PA,
Counsel

Carlos Verney, Executive Director

Niki Donner, Assistant Executive Director

Sofia Gan, Administrative Staff, Charter Review
Commission

Scott Andron, Broward County Attorney's Office

Johanna Williams

Bisby Dukes

Ray Martin

Norm Grad

Fred Grimm, Sun-Sentinel

Oscar Gallego, Libertarian Party of Broward County

Sarah Leonardi

Katy Syed

Vice Mayor Beverly Williams, City of Lauderdale Lakes

Mayor Richard Kaplan, City of Lauderhill

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Clara Gomez

Willowstine Lawson

Bradette Jepsen, Broward County League of Women Voters

Joanne Aye, Broward County League of Women Voters

Carol Jodie Breece, Broward County Office of the
Inspector General

Denise Elliott

Angine Moss

Deborah Davis

Harlan Schmidt

Julie Morrall

Mike d'Oliveira

Valerie Hendrix

Ken Thurston

Carlos Naranjo

Tania Stuart

Anson Stuart

Richard Wooley

Bonnie Gross, Broward County League of Women Voters

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Nancy Cavender, The Laws Group

Joe Zerillo, Videographer, The Laws Group

A public meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Commission was held at the City of Lauderhill City Hall, 5581 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Lauderhill, Florida, on March 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

(The following is a near-verbatim transcript of the meeting.)

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CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

MR. MCDONALD: Call to order -- Wednesday, March
7th, 6:30. I'd like to have a roll call.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Cynthia Busch.

Larry Davis.

David DiPietro.

Thomas P. Fabricio.

MR. FABRICIO: Here.

MINUTES SECRETARY: H. Collins Forman, Jr.

MR. FORMAN: Here.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Roslyn Greenberg.

Cynthia Guerra.

Suzanne Gunzburger.

James Gray Kane.

MR. KANE: Here.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Marilyn Leto.

Suzette A. Maylor.

Lori Moseley.

MS. MOSELEY: Here.

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MINUTES SECRETARY: Monica Navarro.

Burnadette Norris-Weeks.

Eugene Pettis.

MR. PETTIS: Here.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Carlos J. Reyes.

MR. REYES: Present.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Grant Smith.

MR. SMITH: Here.

MINUTES SECRETARY: Joseph Wells.

Thomas McDonald, Chair.

MR. MCDONALD: Here.

AGENDA ITEM II - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MR. MCDONALD: Let's stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

AGENDA ITEM III - INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC

HEARING FORMAT - CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION CHAIR -

THOMAS MCDONALD

MR. MCDONALD: I want to thank everyone for coming

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tonight.

I want to thank the City of Lauderdale for lending us this beautiful City Hall.

We're going to have tonight -- I'm going to read a little statement here.

As -- good evening. As Chair of the Broward County Charter Review Commission, I'd like to welcome you all to one of our five Public Hearings being conducted by the Charter Review.

This hearing is an opportunity for the CRC members to receive input from the public on the proposed amendments to the Broward County Charter that will appear on the general election ballot in November of 2018.

In a moment, our general counsel will read the title of each of the resolutions into the record, which will be followed by a brief explanation of the proposed Charter amendments by our Executive Director.

In accordance with the CRC rules, each of these

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resolutions has been approved by an affirmative vote of at least 13 of the 19 CRC members.

Once each of the resolutions has been read into the record, I'll open the meeting to public comments -- for public comments.

Members of the public are welcome to speak on any of the resolutions that have been adopted by the CRC or any other matter which you'd like the CRC to consider.

Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Note that tonight's hearing is not a special meeting, and no formal action will be taken this evening.

The CRC will conduct a final meeting in early April at the conclusion of all Public Hearings to address any final business being formally transmitting -- before transmitting our proposals to the County Commission.

Thank you.

At this time, I'd like to have -- our general counsel will read the titles.

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AGENDA ITEM IV - CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

- READ TITLE OF RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

(CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION GENERAL COUNSEL - DAVID
TOLCES)

- BRIEF EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTIONS

(CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CARLOS
A. VERNEY)

MR. TOLCES: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
Commission. David Tolces, legal counsel.

I'll read each title, then Mr. Verney will explain
the resolution.

We'll go through all eleven, and then you'll have
your -- your time for public comment at that time.

This is CRC Resolution Number 2018-002, a
resolution of the Broward County Charter Review
Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section
10.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida,
entitled Broward County Office of Inspector General;
providing for the Inspector General's discretion as to

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whether to commence an investigation if good cause exists that an entity or person over whom the Inspector General has authority has engaged in misconduct or gross mismanagement; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This is CRC Resolution Number 2018-002, OIG discretion.

And what this resolution does, it -- commencing an investigation if good cause exists. This resolution would provide for the Inspector General's discretion as to whether to commence an investigation if good cause exists that an entity or person over whom the Inspector

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General has authority has engaged in misconduct or gross mismanagement.

MR. TOLCES: The next one is CRC Resolution Number 2018-003, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 8.05 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Broward County Planning Council Powers and Function; providing for revisions to administration of the Planning Council's duties by providing for the Zoning Glossary to be contained in the County Land Use Plan, and at least one Planning Council Public Hearing for Land Use Plan amendments; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for

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severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This is CRC Resolution Number 2018-003, Broward County Planning Council Zoning Glossary and Land Use Plan, and at least one Planning Council Public Hearing.

What this resolution would provide for is revisions to the administration of the Broward County Planning Council's duties by providing for the Zoning Glossary to be contained in the County's Land Use Plan, and at least one Planning Council Public Hearing for Land Use Plan amendments.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-004, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 9.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Central Examining Boards; providing for the appointment of alternate members to the Central Examining Boards; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special

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referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This is CRC Resolution Number 2018-004, Central Examining Boards, providing for the appointment of alternates.

What this resolution does is it provides for an amendment to Section 9.01 of the Charter of Broward County allowing for the appointment of alternate members to the Central Examining Boards.

You might be asking yourself what the Central Examining Boards are. They are tasked with the registering and licensing of individuals involved in the construction trades. They are also tasked with the Certificate of Competency, ensuring that these

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individuals have them, and that they're properly insured.

Also, they are the body that hears construction issues, so if you want to register complaints, mediate disputes, or have your issues related to construction trade issues heard, this is the place where you would go.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-005, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 9.02 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Building Code and Board of Rules and Appeals; providing for a quorum of the Board of Rules and Appeals to be a majority of the total membership of the Board of Rules and Appeals; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed

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amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would provide for a quorum of the Board of Rules and Appeals, also known as BORA, to be a majority of the total membership of BORA.

You might be asking yourself what BORA actually does. It is tasked with amending and enforcing the Building Code.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-006, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to the Charter of Broward County, Florida by enacting a new Section 1.07 entitled required posting of notices, agendas, and backup materials; providing that all meetings subject to the requirements of Section 286.011 Florida Statutes that all notices, agendas, and backup materials shall be posted on the County or

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municipality's website no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting; providing for notice in the event of an emergency meeting; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would provide for the -- the requirement of posting all notices, agendas, and backup materials for all sunshine-related meetings.

They would need to be posted on the County or municipality's website no later than 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting and providing for notice in the event of an emergency meeting.

MR. TOLCES: Thank you.

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The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-007, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to the Charter of Broward County, Florida by enacting a new Section 11.11 entitled Broward County Affordable Housing Trust Fund; providing for the establishment of the Broward County Affordable Housing Trust Fund; providing for a definition of affordable housing; providing for the purpose of the trust fund revenue sources for the trust fund, the continuing nature of the trust fund, and for administration and oversight of the trust fund; providing for presentation to the electorate by the Broward -- by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for

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severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution provides for the establishment of the Broward County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

It defines affordable housing.

It provides the purpose of the trust fund and the revenue sources for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the continuing nature of the trust fund, as well as who will be providing the administration and oversight of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-008, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 4.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled County Auditor; providing for changes to the composition of the body that appoints the County Auditor; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general

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election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would provide for changes to the composition of the body that appoints the Broward County Auditor.

MR. TOLCES: Next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-010, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 2.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Composition, Terms, Qualifications, and Compensation of members; providing that County Commission districts may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party, and that districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the

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political process and elect representatives of their choice; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would codify the Fair Districts Amendments into the Charter. Specifically, it would state that districts may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party, and that districts should not -- shall not be drawn to deny racial, language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number

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2018-011, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 2.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Composition, Terms, Qualifications, and Compensation of Members; providing for the redistricting of County Commission districts following the decennial Census in 2020 and every ten years thereafter, or sooner if the County Commission determines that the districts have become unbalanced due to population shifts; providing for the engagement of a four-year college or university located within the State of Florida for the purpose of identifying and designating nine single member districts within Broward County; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and

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sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution provides for the redistricting process for County Commission districts following the decennial Census in 2020 and every ten years thereafter, or sooner if the County Commission determines that districts have become unbalanced due to population shifts, and providing for the engagement of a four-year college or university -- university located within the State of Florida for the purpose of identifying and designating nine single member districts within Broward County.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-012, a resolution of the Broward County Charter Review Commission adopting a proposed amendment to Section 10.01 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida entitled Broward County Office of Inspector General, revising the composition of the Inspector General

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Selection/Oversight Committee by replacing the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida or his slash her appointee with an individual appointed by the Broward County Bar Association; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would provide for replacing the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida with an appointee from the Broward County Bar Association.

MR. TOLCES: The next item is CRC Resolution Number 2018-013, a resolution of the Broward County Charter

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Review Commission clarifying the Charter by eliminating ineffective language and deleting language that is no longer needed, as the entities referenced in the Charter are no longer in existence and serve no legally required purpose; providing for presentation to the electorate by the County Commission at a special referendum election to be held in conjunction with the November 2018 general election; providing the ballot title and summary of the chief purpose of the proposed amendment; providing for the County Attorney to re-number and re-letter articles and sections in order to conform the amendments to the Charter; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

MR. VERNEY: This resolution would eliminate ineffective language and delete language that is no longer needed as the entities referenced in the Charter are no longer in existence or they do not serve a legally required purpose.

MR. TOLCES: And that -- that are all the -- that

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is all the amendments that have been approved by the Broward County Charter Review Commission at this time.

AGENDA ITEM V - PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. MCDONALD: At this time, we're going to open up for public comment.

I have several people that have signed up.

Niki, if you'll bring up the other ones that have signed up since then.

If you wish to speak tonight for up to three minutes, please sign in over at the podium.

Our first speaker tonight will be Norman Grad.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MR. GRAD: You need an address or a phone number?

An ID?

MR. TOLCES: Name and address would be helpful.

MR. GRAD: Norman Grad, 7467 Northwest 18th Street, Margate, Florida. Anything else?

MR. VERNEY: No, that's fine.

MR. GRAD: First of all, thanks for coming up here

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to the northwest. It's always good to see folks up here in the northwest part of Broward County. Carlos said you might be showing up in Coral Springs, so maybe we'll see you again.

(Inaudible) this is my source of information. I saw it, so that's why I'm here. I'm not computer literate.

I just grabbed some of these, so I'll just quickly -- I circled things that really looked positive.

Affordable housing trust, you know what they're doing up in -- in Tallahassee with the -- the Sadowski funds, so anything you can do to create that kind of thing for Broward County, you all know we need affordable housing.

So thank you for that one.

Compensation for members, incumbent political parties, and districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities, you know we're all for that.

Thank you for that one.

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Redistricting, anything positive you can do about redistricting is a positive, as well.

Broward County Office of Inspector General, big time, anything you're doing positively to enhance the Inspector General's Office, thank you very much.

Oversight, anything -- any time I see oversight, I'm for that, so thank you for that one.

And this County Auditor, lot of money is expended in Broward County for all these departments. I mean, some could be extremely bloated, so anything you can do on that, I appreciate it.

And I'm -- just quickly on things aside from that, okay, I don't know what you can do. We know there's legalities, but, of course, banning assault weapons and high caliber guns. My son's a former athletic director at Stoneman Douglas High School. He was close to Coach Aaron Feis. So we're very, very involved in that.

So, again, I don't know what we can do legally. I know the County Commission is -- has instructed its

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attorney to see what they can do, because, by state law, they can't touch anything, because they're going to be fined and/or imprisoned.

Personally, I'd like to see my elected officials taken off the dais in handcuffs and attracting the media to that particular issue.

I don't know if you can handle any of that, but, believe me, we'd all appreciate that.

And, finally, strong mayor. Huh, I worked for Raul Martinez for 20 years at the City of Hialeah. That was a strong mayor form of government, okay? I've been speaking to a lot of people, pros and cons. I don't know if you're going to readdress that or whatever. You know, we have the nine County Commissioners with the districts and all that.

I'd be for a strong mayor, okay, (inaudible) I've talked to certain people, if in fact the strong mayor was a strong mayor, not just a ribbon cutter, okay, where they -- the strong mayor can control the budget.

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That would be the key, okay? So not just another
Commissioner for a 90, a hundred-grand part time job.

No. No, that's not going to work.

So, again, I just wanted to bring that to your
attention, as well.

Thank you very much for being here, and I'll see
you in Coral Springs.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Grad.

MR. GRAD: Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: The next name, I apologize. I can't
read the first letter of the last name. It's Oscar
Ballreg?

MR. GALLEGO: I'd like to decline to speak, sir.

MR. MCDONALD: Decline to speak?

MR. GALLEGO: Decline to speak.

MR. MCDONALD: All right. Thank you.

The next person is Sarah Leonardi. Just state your
name and address for the record.

MS. LEONARDI: Yeah. My name's Sarah Leonardi, 717

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Southwest 2nd Drive, Pompano Beach, Florida 22067.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MS. LEONARDI: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight.

My name is Sarah Leonardi. I'm a resident of Pompano Beach and a Broward County public schools teacher.

After the recent event at MSD, it appears that the expectations of my profession have changed. Students ask me if I will become a shield for them. Friends and family members ask if I'm afraid to go to work.

These questions and those responsibilities should not be a part of my job.

During my time studying at the School of Education at the University of Miami, I did not take classes on how to take bullets and take down active shooters.

I took classes on how to address the needs of students from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. I took classes on how to teach students

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how to read and write and how to love reading and writing. I took classes on how to use data to drive my instruction and how to build relationships with students and their communities.

That should be my job. Those should be the issues I worry about when I drive to school in the morning.

Unfortunately, we live in a country where a small group of people in power value unfettered access to weapons of war over human life, and where our federal and state governments refuse to act to protect the women, men, and children who go to school every day in the name of opportunity and education.

Let me clarify what I mean by weapons of war. I mean semi-automatic assault rifles. These are not the kinds of guns that my family would use to hunt deer. These are the kinds of guns that were made for the mass slaughter of human beings.

These weapons were purchased legally and used to inflict mass mayhem in Parkland this February, in Las

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Vegas last October, Orlando in 2016, San Bernardino in 2015, and Oregon in 2015, Sandy Hook in 2012, and Colorado movie theater in 2012. And I'm only going back six years.

All of these events were tragic, and they were preventable.

So while our State Legislature has seemingly made the choice of cowardice in the wake of the tragedy at MSD, and while our federal government continues to talk instead of act, I implore you to take action in the ways that you can.

I am begging the Commission to consider banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

It already appears that some of you favor these ideas. I applaud Chairman McDonald, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Leto for challenging our state and risking their office in support of making Broward County a safer place to live and work.

I promise that risk will be worth it.

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There is an overwhelming desire among your constituents to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. We are tired of feeling unsafe.

Thank you again for hearing me speak tonight. I hope you truly consider it.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you very much.

Kathy [sic] Syed of Weston. Kathy? Oh, I'm sorry. Or Katy.

MS. SYED: Hi. Good evening. It's Katy. I'm Katy Sayed, and I'm from Weston.

About a week ago, I sat on the floor in a school library in Dania Beach and practiced a Code Red drill with first graders and other Reading Pal adult volunteers who had come to help students reach higher reading proficiency levels.

And for those of you who might not know what a Code Red drill is, that's the term all children come to know means there's possibly an active shooter at your school.

The adult leader in the Code Red drill told the

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children that if they were quiet, they would be safe. What set an arrow through my adult soul at that moment was that I knew that what this adult said was only a half-truth or a half-lie.

Remember Sandy Hook?

Current Florida gun laws have removed the protective layer of innocence from our children's young lives and have allowed deranged individuals to throw many, many families into turmoil and grief from which they never truly recover.

Through their failure to enact tougher gun laws, some law makers have become complicit with those who get guns and use them to harm the most innocent members of our society.

So I say enough is enough.

Florida, the Gunshine State, has allowed its Frankenstein, the super preemption laws created by the monstrous NRA in 1987 and followed up with choke-holding financial restrictions in 2011, to force us into a

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position where our government leaders at all levels are held hostage. They sit gagged, hands tied, powerless, as the people who want the most dangerous war weapons can walk into our schools and cut short our beautiful young -- young lives.

I challenge you to be brave and courageous and put forth an amendment to the County Charter on the 2018 ballot banning assault weapons and guns with high capacity magazines.

It might be a violation of current Florida statute to enforce that law, but any Florida statute which does not effectively regulate the sale and distribution of these dangerous weapons is a violation of my Second Amendment rights and the rights of every Parkland child, every child in Lauderhill, and every person in Florida, our right to a well-regulated militia.

The U.S. Constitution is the law of the land, not Marion Hammer or NRA minions and the Florida -- Florida legislators who go where the NRA leads.

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This is Women in History Month, and it's appropriate to remember Rosa Parks, who dared to break the law. And Ida B. Wells, who said the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.

It's time to turn the light of truth on the rights of those who want to live in a free and secure society, one free of weapons intended only for combat zones.

So I ask you tonight which side of history will you be on? You have the opportunity to be on the right side of history, as all the nation's eyes are on Florida and on Broward County, as everyone watches to see what we will do to prevent yet another mass shooting.

And remember always, as I always do, evil will continue to flourish as long as men and women of good will do nothing to stop it.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

At this time, Richard Kaplan. Is that Mayor Kaplan?

MAYOR KAPLAN: Yes.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MAYOR KAPLAN: All right. Yes, I'm Mayor Richard Kaplan, City of Lauderhill.

First of all, welcome to the City of Lauderhill. I'm very pleased that you're here, and I'm hoping that your stay and everything is working well for you here, and if there's anything we can do, we're here.

I want to talk quickly about two things. One is on Resolution 2018-006. That's the one requiring the 48 hours of notice to post things on the website of the County or municipality at least 48 hours prior to a meeting.

I will tell you this. The state does not like when the federal government tells it what to do. The County does not like when the state tells it what to do. And the cities definitely don't like it when the federal, state, and County and everybody else tells it what to do.

I will tell you that I have been diligently

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involved in the City of Lauderhill for over 30 years, and add-on items at meetings have -- have been a problem that I've worked diligently to try and reduce to the point that we virtually don't have them very much at all.

But when they happen, they happen. And we have a Charter that deals with how that situation is dealt with.

This directly would interfere with our Charter and probably the Charter of many other cities.

And I think that this is something if you want to do it for the County, be my guest, but as far as the municipalities' government goes, we have Home Rule. I have never had, in 30 years, a complaint about an item that was added on, even before the internet occurred.

But if you do this, and we have -- and we're not sure it's even enforceable for you to do it. But if it is, all we're going to have to do is schedule it a couple days later when nobody's going to be there.

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As it is, people come to our meetings, so at least they hear it. What is going to result is people aren't going to show up. You know, we'll have just staff.

And the other item is that I understand the concerns about putting anything on the Broward County -- for the vote dealing with anything related to guns. You are -- well, I am subject to the Florida Statute 790, and I will tell you it has had an incredible chilling effect upon us.

I am an attorney. I'm not your attorney. I have no idea if it in fact affects you. In fact, I question, along with other attorneys, because I know you're appointed, but you don't pass an ordinance or anything. You -- you pass resolutions, but, really, the public is what's voting on it. You just authorize it for them to vote on it.

The thing is if you do put it on, subject to whatever may occur, I'm not sure anything that does in fact pass in this regard may be in fact valid.

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The question I have is do you have within your authority to put non-binding referendums on it? At least give the public the ability to speak on the subject matter, non-binding, do you want to prohibit assault weapons, high magazine cartridges in guns, et cetera. At least give the public the right to vote.

I will tell you as a city, we often pass resolutions directly to the County and the state and the federal government. Honestly, I don't think they listen to us.

Maybe if 1.8 million people in this County vote on it, someone might listen to it a little stronger than it does when it comes from the city.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you very much.

Joanne Aye -- Aye.

MS. AYE: Good evening, Commissioners. I'm Joanne Aye. I'm with the League of Women Voters. My address is 2254 Northeast 20th Street, Fort Lauderdale.

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I'll be seeing you a few times during the next couple of meetings, so I'll start with this one.

When you count the number of proposals that you have headed for the ballot, as the League of Women Voters, we're very concerned.

We already have four on the -- on the ballot, and we haven't heard from the CRC yet. And you are, according to this, you're adding ten.

There's going to be ballot fatigue. We do hundreds, literally four or 500 presentations on all the proposed amendments to various groups, civic associations, homeowner associations, et cetera.

I can tell you from the experience from the last couple of times, people really do -- they just tune it out.

So I'm asking you, I have no idea how you can do it, roll a couple of these up. Can you move a couple over to the Commissioners themselves to vote on?

But when I see this many, and, again, we have not

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even heard from the CRC yet, we're now talking about 15, 18 different proposals, and that truly is going to turn off the voters.

So I'm asking you to please reconsider what you're looking at.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: Is that (inaudible)? Bradette Jepsen? I don't know if I got the first name right or not. Or Jepsen?

MS. JEPSEN: Yes. Hi. I'm Bradette Jepson. I'm from Sunrise, 9847 Northwest 26th Street.

I do appreciate the short drive also tonight.

I'm not sure that I can add anything to the eloquent comments of my League sisters, but I do want to emphasize how important it is for our public officials, including you, to step up.

Congress refused to. The State Legislature has just refused to. But the League of Women Voters supports what Stoneman Douglas students have told us.

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They clearly see through all the distractions, and they know that we must reduce the number of guns in our society.

And the start of doing that is banning semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Also, what they're calling for is what we are calling for is universal comprehensive background checks for every gun purchased in the State of Florida.

Now, you're taking a risk if you put this ballot -- this amendment on the ballot. There's no question about it.

But it is time for us to take a risk. It's time for local officials to say, uh-oh, preemption have -- we have been prevented from doing what we know is right by the -- the law that is really unheard of in its -- its consequences.

I would urge you to put this on the ballot. Let the Broward voters decide what kind of county we want to live in and how we're going to protect our children and

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really protect all of us.

Other states, there are seven states in the United States that have banned these weapons, and their death rate, gun death rates, have gone down.

I read an interesting statistic, too. They have another -- they have other laws that allow them to take weapons from people who have protective orders, and they don't find just one weapon. They find lots of weapons in people who should -- should not have weapons at all.

So I urge you to please put this on the ballot, and let the Broward County voters let their will be known.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you very much.

Julie Morrall.

MS. MORRALL: Hi, good evening. My name is Julie Morrall, and I live at 2600 Northeast 21st Street in Fort Lauderdale.

And I'm here this evening, I'd like to thank those of you who met last week to discuss possible actions

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that can be taken to reduce gun violence in our communities. That alone took courage, and I appreciate your efforts.

Tonight, I'm here to ask you to place on the 2018 ballot a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles and high capacity magazines.

I know this would be restricted to Broward County. However, I'm convinced that individual actions taken by commissions and boards and organizations around the state will and can make a difference.

Does it take courage? Absolutely.

Do you know what the consequences will be? Probably not.

But I'm asking a lot, I know. But if not now, when? Our state and federal government is not going to make the change that's needed. It's up to you, the Commission, and commissions like yours, to lead the way.

The semi-automatic rifle and high capacity magazine has been used at a movie theater, a concert, a

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nightclub, workplaces, churches, and schools. This is the common thread in the large number of casualties when these events occur.

Most of you, I hope, read the article written by the radiologist who was on duty the day the patients from the Parkland tragedy arrived. She detailed in heartbreaking detail the difference in a wound by a high capacity assault rifle and an ordinary gun.

These weapons do not need to be available in our society. We need to ban these weapons.

I am a gun owner, a concealed weapon permit holder, and I will argue any day for my right to own personal safety weapons or hunting guns, but no one needs to own a weapon that can spit out 100 rounds in six minutes.

What happened in Parkland can happen to any of us at any time, and I want my family to be safe.

So I ask you to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide.

Thank you.

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MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

I have Carlos Naranjo -- Naranjo?

MR. NARANJO: Hello, everybody. I didn't prepare anything, but I just want to echo what everybody has been saying, that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas --

MR. VERNEY: Could -- could you just state your name for the record?

MR. NARANJO: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Carlos Naranjo. I live in 2741 Polk Street in Hollywood.

And, again, I want to emphasize the sentiments of basically everybody here. We are simply asking for righteous and beautiful actions in the face of catastrophe. (Inaudible) we have -- we have this catastrophic (inaudible) happen, and we are simply asking for all of you to let us vote, to let us have a say, to inject a little bit of justice into this process when it comes to this issue of gun legislation.

We know, for example, the environment that we find ourselves in. We know the lack of social spending on

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mental health. We know of the -- of the horrible catastrophe in our community. We know of the millions of white supremacist groups. We know this -- this anxious (inaudible) by many in our society for (inaudible). I see -- see that as a very serious problem in society, and something that is, you know, made greatly worse, because of guns like that.

And on top of that, we also have the immense commercial interest that the gun pushers they represent. That's a big fact of the matter. There's a lot of people making money out of these weapons. And they want to frame it as a constitutional issue, but they forget about the horrible catastrophe of kids dying.

And so, again, the -- the righteousness of common sense has to prevail. Again, the righteousness of common sense has got to prevail.

This is something very simple. We're simply asking let us vote for it and let's see what happens.

And lastly, again, let history (inaudible). Please

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take the right path and please allow these efforts to include that in the ballot (inaudible) in 2018 in November.

And the consequence, the -- the consequence of this horrible catastrophe, the consequence of those kids going all over the nation and -- and all over America, the consequence of all of that cannot be that in Broward County (inaudible) that we are (inaudible) professors.

We cannot allow that to be a consequence of all of this wonderful activism of our students.

And so simply that please allow us to have.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

Richard Wooley.

MR. WOOLEY: I'm Richard Wooley, 5851 Holmberg Road, Parkland, Florida 33067.

I'm a teacher at Fort Lauderdale High School. It's a Social Studies magnet program, and so even though it's not right in Parkland, some of my kids went to funerals

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of their friends, because they're from Parkland.

We have to wear these IDs now every day. I have to tell you these feel like dog tags to my kids. Right. I didn't join the Army. I didn't become a cop. I didn't sign up to be a security guard. I want to teach kids about U.S. history, government and politics, and economics. That's what I'm supposed to do.

My kids are scared to come to school.

Now, I've been begging my national representatives and senators, I've been begging my state representatives and senators, and only so many of them seem to care.

I am hoping that this is local enough to where you all care to at least let us have a say on it.

I mean, I teach my kids that that's what this country is about. You don't always get what you want, but you at least get a say in what you want.

I -- I don't even know what else to say. I mean, I don't know how this can go on. More guns leads to more deaths. It's that simple.

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And we need you guys to do something about it, or at least let us do something about it.

Sorry.

MR. MCDONALD: Take your time.

MR. WOOLEY: I just want my kids to be safe at school, feel safe at school. Is that really so hard to ask? Does somebody's Second Amendment right trump our right to feel safe in the streets? Not just in school, at concerts, at City Commission meetings, at churches?

Where does the public feel safe in America? And what are you going to do about it?

Thank you for your time.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

Bonnie Gross.

MS. GROSS: Hello. I'm Bonnie Gross, 1907 Northeast 21st Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

And for a change of pace, I want to speak in support of the amendment that creates the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

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MR. TOLCES: Can you just pull that mic down a little?

MR. MCDONALD: Can you pull the mic down a little bit?

MS. GROSS: Okay. So I want to thank you for addressing a crisis in our community that is only getting worse, and which is not being addressed by other levels of government.

I'm happy that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund created by this amendment would fund housing for those at the poorest end, all the way through our middle class workforce, which is being squeezed out.

We are a healthier community if we have housing for people of all income levels.

So I urge you to put that on the ballot in the language that you have proposed.

Secondly, I am also here to urge you to put a provision on the Broward County ballot to -- to ban assault -- the sale of assault weapons and high capacity

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magazines.

This is not the ultimate solution, obviously. We all know that. But this is a thing we can do, you can do. It's a place we can start.

And you are so lucky that you are -- that you have this opportunity, that you have this power at this moment to make this difference, to do this thing for this community.

So I hope you take that opportunity and -- and take what we know is a very bold step.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

I have no more sheets here. Was there anybody else that wanted to speak tonight? Okay.

This was the first of five Public Hearings that we scheduled. The next one will be next Wednesday at the City of Hollywood, I believe?

MR. VERNEY: Right.

MR. MCDONALD: And the resolutions, the CRC

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amendments that we have, the full board voted on all these before the shooting at Marjory Stoneham Douglas.

We called an emergency meeting a few days after Valentine's Day and -- at the asking of one of our Commissioners, Cindy Guerra, who couldn't be here tonight, and we discussed what we can put on the ballot.

We were given some warnings by our attorneys what we could and could not.

We did not have a quorum, so we couldn't do anything.

We are scheduling a meeting for March 16th at 10:00 o'clock; is it?

MR. VERNEY: That meeting is -- we're going to release that agenda on Friday, this Friday, March 9th, and it would be scheduled, as the Chairman said, he's correct, that it's for Friday, March 16th, at 1:30 p.m.

MR. MCDONALD: And it's in room -- what room?

MR. VERNEY: That room is in -- it's -- it's going to -- the meeting will take place on Friday, March 16th,

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at 1:30 at the Broward County Governmental Center, Room 430. That's 115 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

MR. MCDONALD: Okay. And is there any comments by any of the board members right now?

We can't vote on anything tonight.

We appreciate everybody coming out. We appreciate your comments.

MR. PETTIS: Mr. Chair?

MR. MCDONALD: Yes, Mr. Pettis.

MR. PETTIS: Even though we can't vote and -- and so many people have come out and spoken, my --

MR. MCDONALD: Right, but you can --

MR. PETTIS: -- we -- we've heard you, the passion, the emotions, the -- the real emotions that -- that all of you spoke on the violence that we see.

I don't want it to appear that we're getting ready to walk away from here and that's the end. We're going to continue the discussion.

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I'm born and raised here in Fort Lauderdale. I represent the School Board of Broward County. I'm spending tomorrow on this matter.

It's real. It's touched as close to home as any of us could have ever had a nightmare about.

So I just didn't want to walk out of here and seem like your voices were not even heard.

They were heard. They'll be recalled. And we'll continue the conversation. Hopefully you can be a part of it. But if not, we've heard you. And we're going to do what we can within the confines of -- of the law, because this is a community that we all have family, friends, and desire a safe community.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. VERNEY: Yes, for those of you who would like to -- to get more information or provide more information in writing and attend our meetings, our contact information is on the screen. They're also on the agendas. Please help yourself to one.

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Also, if you would like to know when the next Public Hearings are, they're on our website, broward.org\charter.

And you can also pick up the Public Hearing schedule which is also at the podium.

And our next one, as Chairman McDonald stated, is going to take place in the City of Hollywood City Commission chambers on March 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you.

AGENDA ITEM VII - ADJOURNMENT

MR. MCDONALD: Any other Commissioners have any comments?

If not, we'll see you at the next Public Hearing. Hopefully, we'll see you at the March 16th special meeting in the Government Center.

Thank you.

Meeting adjourned.

(The meeting concluded at 7:21 p.m.)