

**MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing of the College Park City Council**  
**10-CR-02**

**A Charter Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland,  
Amending Article III “Mayor And Council”, §C3-1, “Elected Officers Of The City” To  
Change The Minimum Age At The Time Of Taking Office After Election Or Appointment As  
The Mayor, Or As A Council Member, To Eighteen Years.**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m. – 7:33 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Catlin, Perry, Stulich, Cook (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Afzali, and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Becca Lurie, Student Liaison; Aaron Zaccaria, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the Public Hearing on 10-CR-02 at 7:00 p.m. and read the title of the proposed Charter Amendment. Councilmember Afzali announced that a majority of the Council is against the Charter Amendment and it will not pass, so he and Councilmember Wojahn will table the proposal.

Councilmember Nagle said that the Council does want to hear from the residents and especially would like to know if residents want the Council to vote on this tonight or not.

Mayor Fellows invited public comment.

**Mary Cook, 4705 Kiernan Road:** She is opposed to the Charter Amendment. She doesn't see that maturity in an 18 year old that is needed for one to become a Councilmember.

**Samar Raza, 317 Berwyn House Road, Director of Government Affairs for the SGA:** She is in support for the Charter Amendment because it promotes diversification of viewpoints, student representation, and provides consistency and cohesiveness by giving students an opportunity to lead other students.

**Marcia Booth, 5208 Huron Street:** Presented the results of her research about state government laws regarding serving in state office and said that courts have determined that age is a reasonable basis of discrimination for holding elected office. She believes that an 18 year old may be qualified to sit on the City Council but that the age to be Mayor should remain 25 or be raised to 30.

**Leslie Booth, 5208 Huron Street:** He is against this resolution. Speaking from his own experience, he thinks the only thing most 18 year olds are thinking about is when and where is the next party. Minimum age for Mayor should be 25 and they should be a year round City resident for two years.

**David Milligan, 4902 Iroquois Street:** He is in support of the amendment. He gave examples of other jurisdictions where people can hold office at age 18. People grow up when they have to: 18 year olds can vote, serve in the military and marry at age 18; they should have the right to run for public office.

**Ruth Herbert, 5004 Cheyenne Place:** She is against the idea of having an 18 year old representing her. It is time for the Council to see her point of view.

**Cindy Lollar, 4607 Fordham Road:** She is opposed to this resolution. She believes it is perfectly democratic to put age requirements on public office. She does not think most 18 year olds have enough personal experience to vote on some very complex issues.

**Donna Weene, 9512 49<sup>th</sup> Place:** She is opposed to this resolution. She said her research indicates that the human brain does not fully develop until the age of 25.

**Diana Claburn, 5001 Cheyenne Place:** She is against this resolution. She does not think an 18 year old can handle the task of voting on budgets, development and redevelopment issues.

**Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road:** He is against this resolution. 18 year olds are in a learning phase of their life and he is not sure that students are qualified to run the City which is a \$13 million/year corporation.

**Larry Bleau, 4901 Niagara Road:** He is against this proposal. He said our City has special demographics that non-college towns do not. No legal rights are being trampled. The Council should be aware of unintended consequences, especially if at-large voting is passed in the future.

**Jack Robson, 4710 Harvard Road:** He is opposed to the proposal and cited research relating to capital punishment that between the ages of 18 – 25 the human brain continues to mature in the areas of judgment, reasoning and impulse control.

**Monroe Dennis, 8117 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue:** The Lakeland Civic Association is of the opinion that the Charter change should not take place for reasons stated by earlier speakers: residency, knowledge of city-wide issues and true interest in city-wide matters.

**Adele Ellis, 4608 Beechwood:** She is a 30 year resident and is opposed to this proposed amendment. Age brings experience that is necessary for this job. It is important to have the student perspective but that is accomplished with the student liaison. She sees no reason to change this.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Fellows closed the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved