



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

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BILL FOSTER, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

June 7, 2010

Mr. Ronnie Duncan
Chair
Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Dear Chairman Duncan:

I have been advised that the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission took action at the May 24th meeting to have a Special Act created and presented to the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation. It is my understanding that this course of action involves the creation of language that would allow for the repeal and replacement of the existing Pinellas County Charter.

I want to take this opportunity to advise the Charter Review Commission that I am not in support of creating a Special Act for this purpose. I am not aware of this issue being an area of concern by any community groups or organizations within our city. I am also sensitive to the history of discussions stemming from this issue and do not feel it is necessary to revive it.

The Charter Review Commission has only identified two amendments to bring forward to County residents. Both of these are relatively minor in scope and involve timing issues associated with the Charter Review Commission conducting its business. With the near completion of six months of work, these two issues do not suggest that it is necessary to make major changes with the current Pinellas County Charter. Therefore, I would urge the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission to rescind its action.

Additionally, since the amendment must be put to a vote by referendum, I firmly believe that the combining of the language to repeal and the language to replace the existing Pinellas County Charter is a violation of the single subject rule. By combining these questions, you are disenfranchising those citizens who would like to repeal the Charter with no replacement and live in a non-charter county. If you insist on going forward with this proposed amendment, it should be split into two distinct questions. Otherwise, you are holding the question of repeal hostage by linking it to a mandatory acceptance of a replacement charter.

Sincerely,


Bill Foster
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Chair and Members of the St. Petersburg City Council
The Honorable Chair and Members of Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners