

17TH CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY &
HEALTH/EDUCATION/ETHICS COMMITTEE
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Jay H. Sandak, Chair

Members

CLARENCE R. GREBEY, III

MICHAEL C. JACHIMCZYK

GAIL S. OKUN

ROBERT S. ROBINS

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, February 14, 2012
7:00 p.m. – Democratic Caucus Room
4th Floor, Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06904-2152

The 17th Charter Revision Commission Public Safety & Health/Education/ and Ethics Committee was called to order by Chair Jay Sandak at 7:00. All committee members were in attendance: Jay Sandak, Clarence Grebey, Michael Jachimczyk, Gail Okun, and Robert Robins.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes from the meeting of February 8, 2012. a review of the items assigned to the committee from the Master Chart focused on ethics. Items 76 to 81 were deemed legislative. The committee then focused on the ordinance that created the Board of Ethics and whether the Board of Ethics should be in the Charter. It was questioned if the committee believed it was important enough to be included in the Charter. It was agreed that the Board of Ethics should be in the Charter, as a signal to the administration of the city that the government should rise to the highest level by providing such a vehicle for employees and elected officials. It was felt that the proper administration of government needs such a body in the Charter.

The Committee then considered the ordinance that created the Board of Ethics. In Sec. 19-14 section A. It was agreed that the Board should have five members and two alternates. Discussion followed on the role of political parties in the process, and a way to encourage more citizens to become involved. It was discussed whether to include a preamble to the chartered to address the issue of political parties in order to include qualified people to serve the best interest of the city despite their political affiliation. It was discussed that the appointment should be for five years with two years off. The value of historical perspective and institutional was acknowledged. It was suggested that in section A[2] that the language should be reconsidered and that the last sentence be eliminated. Section A[3] was considered a topic for legal counsel. The committee would leave section A[4] as is and consider using the wording from the Charter section C-6-001-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9. In section A[5] the role of the alternates was unclear. In

section B the last sentence raises a legal question. The committee would add the subpoena power to the Board of Ethics in page 62 of the Charter C6-140-7. The committee did not suggest independent investigatory power for the Board of Ethics.

In summary, the committee agreed to the creation of a Board of Ethics in the Charter, with specific membership, subpoena power, and the right to hire legal counsel as directed by the Corporation Counsel of the City. It also agreed that the Board of Representatives shall create a Code of Ethics by Ordinance.

The committee then discussed the fire service question and the concept of a combined service with volunteer and career professionals. There are still questions to be answered and the committee plans to invite people from other communities that have combined service to give insight into the matter.

The next meeting will be February 21, 2012 at 7:00 to discuss questions regarding the Health Commission.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Okun

This meeting is on [video](#).