

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**06/22/2020 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY
COMMISSION**

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

FROM LAURA SANTIAGO

Good evening Mr Mayor , Commissioners

You might recall a famous line from a well known speech, "government of the people, by the people, for the people".

By the people, not "by the the commissioners and the mayor". We determine who represents us, not you.

It is inconceivable that you would think that taking away our right to elect our representative is something even worth discussing.

You want to know what should be discussed, TERM LIMITS. You're all way to comfortable up there on that dias.

I trust that you will all vote against "Proposed Ordinance 2020-08 Charter Amendment on Commission Vacancies".

Laura Santiago
631 NW 182 Way
Pembroke Pines, FL
District 3

FROM RYANN GREENBERG

Good Afternoon Mayor, Commission, City Manager, City Attorney -

This email is to inform you that I am absolutely against any change to the city charter as suggested by Proposed Ordinance 2020-08.

First, this is not a timely item. Voters are forced to write our objections to you, instead of attending a meeting due to the current pandemic. This is the antithesis of democratic government to try and make changes under the cover of a pandemic and governor's order for virtual meetings. This is an important topic that should've been brought forward when we are able to discuss it face to face and also involve other members of our city, and the charter review board.

In addition, the fact that this item is in response to a former commissioner wanting to seek higher office seems to be retaliatory in nature and unbecoming of a commission who is interested in good governance. Having a democracy and open elections costs money which I would rather pay as a taxpayer than have a draconian process of having the commission favored appointment for an entire term. The argument that this is being done as a way to prevent future costs to the city is a straw man argument. Rather, this is a device to attempt to thwart our democratic institutions and disenfranchise the voters

in Pembroke Pines from being able to appoint their own commissioner through a timely vote of the electorate.

The argument over the cost for the election with the Supervisor of Elections would be why do we have to pay for a special election when we are piggybacking onto an already scheduled election. This is simply NOT a stand alone special election. That question should be asked of the County Commission and Supervisor of Elections instead of trying to institute such a authoritarian process on our voters in Pembroke Pines.

I do hope you ALL will vote tonight to not move forward with this Charter Amendment before this becomes an embarrassment for our city and our democracy.

Thank you,
Ryann Greenberg
Pembroke Pines Super Voter

FROM ROBERT YOUNG

Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Commission and Staff

Reference item 2020-08. My objection to depriving the voting residences of Pembroke Pines their right to replace those who leave the commission, for any reason, should remain in its present structure.

I know I am preaching to the choir, but the right to govern ourselves is a basic right of citizenship in this country, including Pembroke Pines. Granted some people describe elections as expensive and a nuisance, nevertheless - they are important to all persons in this country.

I pray you all vote against this move, regardless of its convenience and economies.

Robert Young
18445 NW 13th St
Pembroke Pines FL 33929

FROM STEVE GOLDMAN

Pines Commissioner Jay Schwartz proposing to take away fair representation from citizens of Pembroke Pines!! We as citizens of Pembroke Pines have the right to elect officials to the city commission. It is at the core of our rights as Americans to have representation if we have taxation as we certainly do in Pembroke Pines. Here's an interesting quirk of local politics. Jay Schwartz of District 2 wants to limit citizens from having the right to vote in a special election for future commission seats. So here's the deal, according to the city charter if a commissioner seeks the office of Mayor like in the

recent election, said commissioner then has to give up their seat on the commission if they lose. After the March election, the commission chose a new representative for all of us in District 4 (West Pines). We as citizens did not have a say in this matter, a representative was chosen for us. Stay with me. Jay Schwartz wants this chosen representative to stay in that seat for the full term, rather than having a special election in November to vote for the commissioner that we want. Let me repeat Jay Schwartz of (District 2) is proposing to change the city charter so that the commission could in principle choose the representative for (District 4.) That's not fair to the residents of District 4. I'm not promoting one person or another, nor do I have anything against the temporary commissioner who was chosen for us. But this stinks of something bad and unconstitutional, just like when the British chose a representative for the colonies, why would Jay Schwartz propose something like this? I know for many this may seem like no big deal, but our representation at the local level could actually be seen as the most important input we have because this is where we work and live, and decisions made by the commissioners affects our "real" everyday lives. On top of everything else, we do not currently have the ability to voice our opinions in person in front of the city commission because of this pandemic.

Steven Goldman
18284 NW 21st Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Sent from my iPhone

FROM ARLEN ZINN

I am completely disappointed and vehemently opposed to Commissioner Schwartz's intent to file a resolution curtailing my right to exercise a vote on who will in future venues represent me and other residents of Pembroke Pines. How dare the three commissioners/mayor even consider such a disenfranchisement of the electorate. I trust all so inclined will reconsider and veto such undemocratic nonsense. You may be aiming at Castillo but, you are shooting yourselves in the foot.

Sincerely,

Arlen Zinn
718 NW 177th Ave
Pembroke Pines

FROM LAURA GREENE

I am writing to speak against the
AUGUST 5, 2020 Commission Meeting wherein the Commissioner wishes to amend the wording to remove the Special Election.

There is no DEFECT in the city charter.

I, as a resident, demand that no NEW LANGUAGE be added to remove the REQUIREMENT of a SPECIAL ELECTION. The SPECIAL ELECTION should be held if and when there be a VACANCY of a COMMISSION DISTRICT SEAT.

The INTERIM can stay for no more than 180 days. Only a person who has been voted by the citizens/members of the city should serve the term. Interns should be just as the name implies — temporary!!!

If there is a vacancy, we, the people, should vote. I don't need one politician picking another. That is MY vote!!

Voters, those who pay for these services, should decide who represents them beyond 180 days. Again, that is MY vote. Keep the Special Election.

I do not want to give up my vote!

FROM CHRIS CAPPANNELLI

Greetings:

I am writing to express my concern and displeasure at the proposed change to the city's governing documents (Proposal No. 20-0489) with respect to eliminating the necessity for a special election within 180 days for commission seats vacated due to death, resignation or removal for cause.

Democracy is the paramount element of governance, and this proposal does ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to enhance it; indeed, it denigrates it and subjects the citizenry to the risk of tyranny by a small group of elected officials in other districts who have nothing in common with my interest or those of my neighbors in my district, or any other district this proposed change might affect.

I will be very blunt here - I am NO fan of appointed officials who would otherwise be subject to election. While not naming names, I will simply state that we have all seen how the taint of a certain high-profile official appointed by the Governor has recently been brought to light, with rushed and sloppy vetting; that just reinforces my suspicion regarding officials not subject to public scrutiny by the conscience of the electorate, informed by all available information about the individual seeking office.

The voters of ANY district in this city should not run the risk of being disenfranchised simply due to a stroke of bad luck or criminality. I will work to oppose this proposal at the ballot box, and I will expect your individual responses to this e-mail within seven (7) business days; the electorate should know who of their elected officials support this chicanery and tomfoolery. By the way, the argument regarding cost for a special election will not pass muster with this or many other voters.

Please enter these comments as part of the official public record.

V/R,

Chris Cappannelli, Ed.D.

Founder and Principal
Provident Grace Enterprises LLC

FROM SOWA1900

Well Jay...are you a graduate of the Trumpian School of Deceptive Practices. What ulterior motives do you have in wanting to stifle the voice of THE PEOPLE in our ability to pick our PP representation..... As a public servant of THE PEOPLE, we are asking you to publicly explain YOUR SELF!!!! Do you have a good reason to change how Commisioners are voted in Pembroke Pines has rules in place for a reason....to keep over zealous, greedy politicians/Commisioners in check. Removing/firing these politicians when they become ineffective or too self serving. Give us a good reason as to why you want to change the process....WE THE PEOPLE will.be listening..
WE THE PEOPLE need a stronger voice...not a more muffled

Thank you,
A Constituent of District 3
JMS

FROM JESSICA CHONG

Good afternoon. I recieved a Notice of Variance Request regarding the Burlington at Pines and Flamingo. Burlington would like to have their signs higher than what the current city guidelines are.

I do not want the signs to be bigger. There are guidelines in ace so that our city stays beautiful and does not become an eyesore. Please take my comments into consideration when making a determination.

Jessica Chong
383 sw 122 terrace
Pembroke Pines 33025
9548291590

FROM JOHN SHEARER

Honorable Mayor and Commissioners,

It has been brought to my attention that the City, through Commissioner Schwartz is proposing a change in the City charter. This change would restrict the ability of the residents in their choosing of a just representative. As a 28 year resident of the City, I strongly oppose such change. The residents of the City; and a particular district have a right to choose who represents them, in "their" district. This representation should not be made or determined by others. Again, I am strongly against this motion by current District 2 commissioner Schwartz.

John Shearer
19741 Nw 8 st.
Pembroke Pines, Fl. 33029

FROM SCOTT BARNETT

Commissioner Schwartz,

In fairness to your motion, I watched the entire discussion and I'm glad Commissioner Good brought up the fact that this was a serious issue and should not be on a "bullet train" to the November ballot. You yourself mentioned the term the "People's Seat" and that is what it should be. I find it interesting that you made the motion and interim Commissioner Chanzas not only made a second to the motion, but also voted in favor. In my opinion, I think that the very person in the interim seat should abstain on voting in these matters, I find this to be a conflict of interest. An interim Commissioner appointed by the Commission itself, should not be speaking for people that did not elect him/her, again nothing personal against Commissioner Chanzas, it's just about the principle. This is about changing the actual Charter of this city and steamrolling this issue through the city attorney's office does not seem practical at this time. I am disappointed that the Mayor and Vice Mayor voted in favor of this blatant attempt to usurp fair representation determined by the people of any particular district. If a commissioner decides to vacate office, then an appointed interim should not remain for the duration. These commission seats were created for the people, not the commissioner's appointees.

Scott Barnett

FROM SCOTT BARNETT

Commissioners,

In a recent commission meeting Commissioner Jay Schwartz was intending to propose a resolution to abolish our rights as citizens to elect commissioners in special elections. The city commission should not be in a position to choose our

representatives for us, we should be able to do that for ourselves, no matter the costs or infrastructure involved. In fact I believe we should reverse this proposal and actually give commissioners the ability to fulfill their terms even after an election as we the people elected them as such. Please review this proposal carefully and with great heed as this proposal impedes our rights as tax paying citizens to have fair representation. This appears to be a serious infringement of our constitutional rights.

Scott Barnett
19346 SW 5 Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
786-395-6930

FROM REBECCA STATON

Please leave the selection process as it is now and allow constituents to vote to fill vacant positions. The point of local government is that you are local. Pembroke Pines is still small enough we can know and meet our commissioners and we must be consulted through the ballot box to choose our representatives.

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Rebecca,
Rebecca Staton-Reinstein, Ph.D., President
Advantage Leadership, Inc.
320 S. Flamingo Road, Suite 291
Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
Phone: 305-606-9312 <http://www.AdvantageLeadership.com/>