

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA

The City of Bright Opportunities



CHARTER REVIEW BOARD Agenda

**Thursday, December 4, 2025
6:30 PM**

*Commission Chamber
780 Fisherman Street, 3rd Floor
Opa-locka, FL 33054*

Board Members

Chair Sarah Allen

Vice Chair Veronica J. Williams

Board Member Brian Dennis

Board Member Yulissa El Hassan

Board Member Naomie Brea

Pursuant to F.S. 286.0105, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, Agency or Commission with respect to the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 953-2800 for assistance at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting to request such accommodation. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by using the following numbers: 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Procedures for Public Participation

Participation at Charter Review Board Meetings

The Charter Review Board will meet in-person while allowing virtual participation via Zoom.

Charter Review Board Meeting location for in-person meetings

Charter Review Board Meetings are held in Commission Chambers, Opa-locka Government Center, 780 Fisherman Street, 3rd FL, Opa-locka, Florida, with offsite participants joining by Zoom.

How to watch the meeting

Members of the public are encouraged to watch the public meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofOpaLocka>

How to participate

Charter Review Board Meetings are held in-person with virtual participation; members of the public wishing to address the Commission on any agenda item may do so in person or virtually.

To participate virtually, please register prior to the start of the meeting at www.opalockafl.gov.

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA
"The City of Bright Opportunities"

AGENDA
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD
December 4, 2025
6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **ROLL CALL:**

3. **INVOCATION:**

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Opa-locka Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes — October 2, 2025

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Continuing Discussion: Elected Officials' Salaries and Benefits

Review of compensation, benefits, and expense allowance for the Mayor and Commission

B. Revisions to Section 2.5 (11) — Powers

Review of current language in Section 2.5 (11):

"Adopt, modify and carry out plans proposed [for] the clearance of slum districts and rehabilitation of blighted areas"

Possible amendment language for consideration

"Adopt, modify and carry out proposed plans for improving areas in need of rehabilitation"

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Public Input Session — Proposed Charter Amendments

Discuss the opportunity for the public to provide input, comments, or recommendations regarding proposed Charter amendments at a future meeting

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Please limit to no more than three (3) minutes

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA / NEXT STEPS:

Next Meeting Date — Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Pending rescheduling/canceling due to holiday

10. ADJOURNMENT:

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA
“The City of Bright Opportunities”

CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 2, 2025
6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sarah Allen called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at the City of Opa-locka Government Center, 780 Fisherman Street, 3rd Floor, Opa-locka, Florida.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following members of the Charter Review Board were present: Chair Sarah Allen; Vice Chair Veronica J. Williams; Board Member Brian Dennis; and Board Member Yulissa El Hassan. Also in attendance were Assistant City Attorney Lisa Crawford and City Clerk Joanna Flores.

3. INVOCATION:

The invocation was delivered by Board Member Dennis.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Opa-locka Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2025

It was moved by Board Member Dennis, seconded by Vice Chair Williams, to approve the July 24, 2025 Regular Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve the minutes passed by a 4-0 vote.

Board Member Dennis Yes
Vice Chair Williams Yes
Board Member El Hassan Yes
Chair Allen Yes

6. OLD BUSINESS:

City Clerk Flores confirmed the Board’s regular meeting schedule for the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed Board Member El Hassan, recently appointed by Commissioner Santiago.

7. NEW BUSINESS – BOARD DISCUSSION AND INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Board Discussion and Initial Recommendations

City Clerk Flores presented the 2026 ballot issue deadlines from the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections. The primary election is scheduled for August 18, 2026, with ballot question submissions due by May 22, 2026. The general election is on November 3, 2026, with submissions due by July 24, 2026. She explained that any proposed charter amendments must be approved by the City Commission before submission to the County.

City Clerk Flores distributed Resolutions 22-007 and 22-008, both related to elected official compensation and benefits, which were rejected by voters in 2022.

Board Member Dennis requested review of the prior proposals due to the City's improved financial condition and leadership stability. He stated that the current City Commission, Mayor, and staff have demonstrated accountability and progress and deserve fair compensation for their service

Board Member El Hassan agreed, noting visible improvements in community engagement and city operations. She supported reconsidering compensation increases given the City's positive trajectory.

Vice Chair Williams, who previously served as Mayor, provided historical context. She explained that the City Commission's monthly compensation of approximately \$491 has remained unchanged for decades and that former insurance benefits were eliminated by a prior administration. She suggested combining compensation and benefit proposals into one resolution for clarity and stronger voter support, recommending a focused marketing effort to improve public understanding

The City Attorney stated she would research whether the compensation and benefit items could be consolidated into a single resolution and whether language could be included to allow the City Commission to approve adjustments if a referendum failed.

Chair Allen asked about differences between the two prior resolutions. City Clerk Flores explained that Resolution 22-008 included an additional \$300 monthly vehicle stipend not contained in the other proposal.

Vice Chair Williams and Board Member Dennis supported maintaining the vehicle stipend, citing that commissioners use their personal vehicles for official duties since the City no longer provides cars. They emphasized that the City Commission's total compensation remains significantly lower than nearby municipalities.

Board Member El Hassan suggested the proposal move forward for the 2026 ballot once the City Attorney confirms whether the items can be merged. She also asked whether the increase would take effect immediately or in the next fiscal year. City Clerk Flores noted that implementation timing could be specified in the resolution, referencing prior language delaying enactment until after state financial oversight ended.

Vice Chair Williams added that budget amendments could accommodate mid-year implementation and reiterated that the proposed \$1,000 monthly increase would still keep Opa-locka among the lowest-paid City Commissions regionally.

The Board discussed insurance options, clarifying that elected officials may opt out of city-provided health coverage if they have other plans. Vice Chair Williams proposed that future drafts include cost comparisons between salary and benefit value to ensure equitable compensation across City Commissioners.

City Clerk Flores agreed to provide at the next meeting: The estimated cost of insurance per commissioner; salary and benefit comparisons from neighboring cities; and budget references for event funding and commissioner reimbursements.

Chair Allen proposed revising outdated language in Section 2.5 of the City Charter, which refers to “clearance of slum districts.” She suggested updating the phrase to reflect positive redevelopment goals, such as “improving areas in need of rehabilitation.”

Vice Chair Williams explained that “slum and blight” terminology originates from federal HUD community development definitions tied to grant funding. City Clerk Flores recommended that her office consult with the City Attorney to research potential alternative wording consistent with federal and state statutes.

Vice Chair Williams asked about election costs and candidate fees. City Clerk Flores explained that County-run elections cost about \$5,000–\$7,000, while standalone elections can reach \$35,000. She said the qualifying fee is \$250 plus a 1% state assessment (about \$66), totaling \$316, and agreed to compare fees with nearby cities.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

9. NEXT STEPS:

The Board agreed to review the City Attorney’s findings and City Clerk’s compensation comparison data at the next meeting scheduled for November 6, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Board, it was moved by Vice Chair Williams, seconded by Board Member Dennis to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Sarah Allen, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Joanna Flores, Board Clerk

[Minutes prepared by T. Baclawski, Prototype-Inc.]