

# **CITY OF OPA-LOCKA**

*The City of Bright Opportunities*



## **CHARTER REVIEW BOARD Agenda**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026  
6:30 PM**

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

### **Board Members**

**Chair Sarah Allen**

**Vice Chair Veronica J. Williams**

**Board Member Naomie Bria**

**Board Member Brian Dennis**

**Board Member Yulissa El Hassan**

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](http://www.opalockafl.gov).

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

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**AGENDA**  
**CHARTER REVIEW BOARD**  
**January 8, 2026**  
**6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**3. INVOCATION:**

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**5. ADDITIONS/CHANGES/DELETIONS:**

Request to add, change or delete items from the agenda

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Opa-locka Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes — December 4, 2025**

**7. PUBLIC INPUT - PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS:**

Opportunity for the public to provide input, comments, or recommendations regarding proposed Charter amendments

**8. ACTION ON BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER AMENDMENTS:**

Action on Board's Recommendations for Charter Amendments relating to Elected Officials' Salaries and Benefits

**9. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

**Next Meeting Date — Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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**CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 4, 2025**  
**6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the Opa-locka Government Center, 780 Fisherman Street, 3rd Floor – Commission Chambers, 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; Board Member Yulissa El Hassan; and Board Member Naomie Bria. Also, in attendance were: Assistant City Attorney Samour Suckram and Board 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 – October 2, 2025

It was moved by Board Member Dennis, seconded by Vice Chair Williams, to approve the October 2, 2025 Regular Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve the minutes passed by a 5-0 vote.

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

**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"**

City Clerk Flores provided an update on all materials previously requested by the Board, including the Miami Beach 2023 Salary Survey, Florida League of Cities salary data, Miami-Dade County Ethics compensation information, State constitutional officer salaries, estimated benefit costs for elected officials, qualifying fees from Miami-Dade and Broward municipalities, the FY 2026 Parks and Recreation Special Events Budget, and the 2022 compensation referendum resolutions. She confirmed that elected officials currently receive \$550 per month, or \$6,600 annually, with all members receiving the same amount.

Board members discussed whether a salary adjustment during FY 2026 would require a budget amendment, noting that the City Commission must determine the implementation timeline.

Board members emphasized avoiding any perception that salary increases would reduce departmental budgets and stressed the need for ballot language that is clear and easy for voters to understand.

Regarding revisions to Section 2.5 (11), Assistant City Attorney Suckram explained that the current wording reflects terminology found in Florida Statutes Chapter 163 and that any revised language must remain legally tied to those definitions. The City Attorney's office provided two alternative wording options aligned with statutory requirements and modern redevelopment terminology.

Board members discussed potential compliance concerns to which Assistant City Attorney Sam addressed.

Board Member Dennis highlighted the importance of finalizing recommendations soon to allow the City Commission sufficient time to place the measure on the 2026 ballot.

Board Members discussed equity considerations regarding health insurance and agreed that insurance elections should remain an internal HR matter rather than part of the ballot measure.

Following discussion, Vice Chair Williams proposed two salary recommendation options: a flat \$12,000 annual salary increase for all elected officials regardless of insurance choice, and a flat annual salary increase with the cost of any elected official's insurance premium deducted from that salary.

Board Member Bria noted that ballot language can be difficult for voters to understand and emphasized the need for clear, simple wording. She asked whether the Board has input on how

the language appears on the ballot. It was clarified that the City Commission, City Attorney, and Clerk's office prepare and finalize the ballot language.

Board Member Dennis noted that the City is far more stable and productive than in past years, with significant growth, improved management, and stronger financial footing. He emphasized that past and present Commissioners have worked without benefits and contributed greatly to moving the City out of oversight. He stated that compensation should reflect the City's progress and the work performed by elected officials and stressed the importance of clearly communicating any proposal to voters.

Board Member El Hassan agreed with the concerns about ballot language, noting that legal terminology can make it difficult for voters to understand what they are approving.

It was moved by Vice Chair Williams, seconded by Board Member Bria, to recommend the two proposals to the City Commission for consideration.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve passed by a 5-0 vote.

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

**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.**

City Clerk Flores noted that the Board historically holds a designated public input session before finalizing recommendations. She suggested creating a flyer summarizing the proposed amendments to encourage community participation at the next meeting.

The Board agreed that a public input opportunity should be included at a future meeting once the proposed amendments are finalized.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was no public comment.

**9. NEXT STEPS:**

City Clerk Flores outlined the next steps, explaining that the City Attorney's office will prepare draft charter amendment language for both the salary proposals and the revisions to Section 2.5(11). The Board will review and vote on these recommendations at the next meeting, and a

public session notice may be created to encourage resident feedback. Once the recommendations are finalized, the Clerk will prepare the Charter Review Board report for presentation to the City Commission.

The Board confirmed the next meeting date will be held Thursday, January 8, 2026.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Vice Chair Williams, seconded by Board Member Dennis, to adjourn the meeting.

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 7:49 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Allen, Board Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanna Flores, Board Clerk

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE CITY CHARTER SHALL BE AMENDED TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS FROM FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS PER MONTH TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER MONTH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF STATE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT; STATING THE REFERENDUM QUESTION; STATING THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT; STATING THE DATE ON WHICH THE REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE CHARTER AMENDMENT, IF APPROVED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, during a City Commission meeting held on           , 2026, the City Commission of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida approved a recommendation of the City's Charter Review Board for a referendum question to go before qualified voters of the City of Opa-Locka for the Mayor and City Commission members to receive an increase in compensation from Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$550.00) per month to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida further accepts the recommendation of the Charter Review Board that if approved by the qualified voters, that changes to the Charter, as set forth herein, will only become effective thirty (30) days following the conclusion of state financial oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires that compensation for the City's elected officials be increased in order to be in standing with the amount of work provided to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that the proposed amendment to the Charter is worthy of being placed on the ballot at the next City election for approval, or not, by the electorate of the City.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.**    Adoption of Representations.

The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

**Section 2.**    Submission of Proposed Charter Language.

Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A", is a proposed amended section of the charter of the City of Opa-Locka. The amended charter is done in strike through/underscore format. All language shown as being struck through is language of the existing City of Opa-Locka charter which will be deleted from the current charter if the amendment is approved. All language shown as underscored in the proposed charter is language which will be added to the charter if the amendment is approved.

**Section 3.**    Approval of the Ballot Statement.

The following statement is hereby approved as the explanatory statement to be placed upon the ballot:

Shall the City of Opa-Locka charter be amended, by increasing compensation for the Mayor and City Commission members?

**Section 4.**    Ballot Title.

The following is hereby approved as the ballot title as required by Section 101.161, Florida Statutes:

Amending compensation for Mayor and City Commissioners.

**Section 5.**    Ballot Summary.

Shall the City of Opa-Locka's Charter be amended to increase compensation for the mayor and commissioners from \$550.00 per month to \$1,000.00 per month?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, for the Amendment

\_\_\_\_\_ NO, against the Amendment

**Section 6.**    Approval of Amendments.

If a majority of the qualified electors of the City of Opa-Locka voting on the referendum question vote for approval of the proposed, then the approved amendments shall go into effect thirty (30) days after the City is no longer under state financial oversight.

**Section 7.**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, except that the proposed amendment to the City Charter shall become effective as provided herein following referendum. Sections of this Resolution may be renumbered or re-lettered and corrections of typographical errors which do not affect the intent may be authorized by

the City Attorney or designee, without need of public hearing by filing a corrected copy of the same with the City Clerk.

**Section 8.**    Submission to Qualified Electors.

The proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Opa-Locka (hereafter City Charter) set forth herein shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City for approval at a referendum to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Section 9.**    Coordination.

The City Clerk is hereby authorized to coordinate with the office of the Supervisor of Elections in order to do those things necessary to have this proposal placed on the ballot for the City of Opa-Locka election scheduled on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Section 10.**    Proposed Amendments.

The proposed amendments to the City Charter is set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof. (Proposed new text is shown in underline and proposed deleted text shown in strike through.)

**Section 11.**    Severability.

If any provision of this or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the Code or applications of this Resolution that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

**Section 12.**    Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage and adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Taylor, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanna Flores, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, P.A.  
City Attorney

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:

Commissioner Santiago	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Commissioner Bass	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Commissioner Ervin	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Vice Mayor Kelley	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Mayor Taylor	(Yes) _____	(No) _____

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**Section 2.3. - Mayor and commission compensation.**

Compensation for the mayor and commissioners shall be set at One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) ~~five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00)~~ per month.

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE CITY CHARTER SHALL BE AMENDED TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS FROM FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS PER MONTH TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER MONTH; PROVIDING FOR THE COST OF MEDICAL INSURANCE TO BE INCORPORATED WITHIN ANY INCREASE UP TO THE COST OF THE SALARY INCREASE AND AT THE SOLE OPTION OF THE MAYOR OR CITY COMMISSIONER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF STATE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT; STATING THE REFERENDUM QUESTION; STATING THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT; STATING THE DATE ON WHICH THE REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE CHARTER AMENDMENT, IF APPROVED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, during a City Commission meeting held on                     , 2026, the City Commission of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida approved a recommendation of the City's Charter Review Board for a referendum question to go before qualified voters of the City of Opa-Locka for the Mayor and City Commission members to receive an increase in compensation from Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$550.00) per month to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month; to further provide for medical insurance for the Mayor and City Commission members to be incorporated within the increase at the sole option of the Mayor or City Commissioner receiving the benefit up to the amount of the One Thousand Dollar (1,000.00) increase; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida accepts the recommendation of the Charter Review Board that if approved by the qualified voters, that changes to the Charter, as set forth herein, will only become effective thirty (30) days following the conclusion of any state financial oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires that compensation for the City's elected officials be increased in order to be in standing with the amount of work provided to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that allowing the Mayor and City Commissioners an increase to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), with the option for health insurance to be incorporated within the salary increase, at the sole option of the Mayor or City Commissioner, up to the total salary increase amount of \$1,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that the proposed amendment to the Charter is worthy of being placed on the ballot at the next City election for approval, or not, by the electorate of the City.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.**    Adoption of Representations.

The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

**Section 2.**    Submission of Proposed Charter Language.

Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A", is a proposed amended section of the charter of the City of Opa-Locka. The amended charter is done in strike through/underscore format. All language shown as being struck through is language of the existing City of Opa-Locka charter which will be deleted from the current charter if the amendment is approved. All language shown as underscored in the proposed charter is language which will be added to the charter if the amendment is approved.

**Section 3.**    Approval of the Ballot Statement.

The following statement is hereby approved as the explanatory statement to be placed upon the ballot:

Shall the City of Opa-Locka charter be amended, by increasing compensation for the Mayor and City Commission members from Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$550.00) per month to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month to incorporate the cost of health insurance within the salary increase up to the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and at the sole option of the Mayor or City Commissioner receiving the benefit?

**Section 4.**    Ballot Title.

The following is hereby approved as the ballot title as required by Section 101.161, Florida Statutes:

Amending compensation for Mayor and City Commissioners, providing option for medical insurance within increase.

**Section 5.**    Ballot Summary.

Shall the City of Opa-Locka's Charter be amended to increase compensation for the mayor and commissioners from \$550.00 per month to \$1,000.00 per month? Further, shall the Charter be amended to incorporate the cost of health insurance up to the salary increase amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) at the sole option of the Mayor or City Commissioner receiving the benefit with all provisions, if approved, to become effective thirty (30) following the conclusion of state financial oversight?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, for the Amendment

\_\_\_\_\_ NO, against the Amendment

**Section 6.**    Approval of Amendments.

If a majority of the qualified electors of the City of Opa-Locka voting on the referendum question vote for approval of the proposed, then the approved amendments shall go into effect thirty (30) days after the City is no longer under state financial oversight.

**Section 7.**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, except that the proposed amendment to the City Charter shall become effective as provided herein following referendum. Sections of this Resolution may be renumbered or re-lettered and corrections of typographical errors which do not affect the intent may be authorized by the City Attorney or designee, without need of public hearing by filing a corrected copy of the same with the City Clerk.

**Section 8.**    Submission to Qualified Electors.

The proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Opa-Locka (hereafter City Charter) set forth herein shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City for approval at a referendum to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Section 9.**    Coordination.

The City Clerk is hereby authorized to coordinate with the office of the Supervisor of Elections in order to do those things necessary to have this proposal placed on the ballot for the City of Opa-Locka election scheduled on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Section 10.**    Proposed Amendments.

The proposed amendments to the City Charter is set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof. (Proposed new text is shown in underline and proposed deleted text shown in strike through.)

**Section 11.**    Severability.

If any provision of this or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the Code or applications of this Resolution that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable.

**Section 12.**    Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage and adoption.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Taylor, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanna Flores, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, P.A.  
City Attorney

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:

Commissioner Santiago	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Commissioner Bass	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Commissioner Ervin	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Vice Mayor Kelley	(Yes) _____	(No) _____
Mayor Taylor	(Yes) _____	(No) _____

## EXHIBIT "A"

### Section 2.3. - Mayor and commission compensation.

Compensation for the mayor and commissioners shall be set at One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) ~~five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00)~~ per month. Further, health insurance shall be incorporated within the compensation amount up to the amount of One Thousand Dollars, to be utilized for salary or health insurance at the sole option of the Mayor or City Commissioner receiving the benefit.

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