

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA

The City of Bright Opportunities



CHARTER REVIEW BOARD Agenda

**Thursday, March 5, 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 Brea

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.

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

AGENDA
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD
March 5, 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 — February 5, 2026

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Please limit to no more than three (3) minutes
8. **DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER AMENDMENTS:**
 - A. **Continuing Discussion on Opa-locka Charter Section 2.1.1 - Term Limits**
9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

Next Meeting Date — Thursday, April 2, 2026
10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 5, 2026
6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at the City of Opa-locka Government Center Commission Chambers, 780 Fisherman Street, 3rd Floor, Opa-locka, Florida.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following members of the Charter Review Board were present: Chairwoman Sarah Allen; Board Member Brian Dennis; and Board Member Naomie Brea. Also, in attendance were: Assistant City Attorney Candice Cobb and Assistant City Clerk Floralba Valdes-Wright.

3. INVOCATION:

The invocation was delivered by Board Member Dennis.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.

5. ADDITIONS/CHANGES/DELETIONS

Board Member Brea expressed the desire to remove insurance considerations entirely from the proposal and stated that insurance should be provided to elected officials as a benefit of service, regardless of whether the position is considered part-time or full-time.

It was moved by Board Member Brea, seconded by Board Member Dennis, to add discussion regarding removal of insurance from the compensation proposal to the agenda.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve the addition passed by a 3-0 vote.

Board Member Brea Yes
Board Member Dennis Yes
Chair Allen Yes

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Opa-locka Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2026

It was moved by Board Member Dennis, seconded by Board Member Brea, to approve the January 8, 2026, Regular Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve the minutes passed by a 3-0 vote.

Board Member Brea Yes
Board Member Dennis Yes
Chair Allen Yes

7. PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Allen opened public input. No one came forth to speak. No virtual comments. Chair Allen closed public input.

8. ACTION OF BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER AMENDMENTS:

A. Opa-locka Charter Section 2.1.1 - Term Limits

Chair Allen opened discussion on Charter Section 2.1.1 related to term limits and stated that review of the language raised questions regarding consecutive service, movement between Commission and Mayor seats, and the impact of partial terms.

Assistant City Attorney Cobb explained that the existing language focuses on eight consecutive years of service and clarified that the provision does not create a lifetime ban. She stated that a break in service is required once eight consecutive years are reached, regardless of the position held, and explained that the provision applies to incumbents seeking reelection.

Board Member Dennis raised concerns regarding scenarios in which a Commissioner ascends to the Mayor position during an unexpired term and questioned whether time served as a Commissioner should count toward term limits once a different seat is assumed. He described several hypothetical scenarios illustrating how partial terms, staggered elections, and advancement to the Mayor position could result in an elected official being unable to complete a term due to reaching the eight-year threshold mid-term.

Board Member Dennis emphasized that the current language could unintentionally penalize individuals seeking advancement and could result in unfinished terms, vacancies, and potential legal challenges. He expressed concern that the Charter does not sufficiently differentiate between Commission and Mayor seats and stated that other municipalities allow advancement without combining service time across positions.

Chair Allen discussed the original intent of term limits, noting that they were adopted to prevent individuals from holding office for extended periods without opportunity for new leadership. She stated that while term limits remain necessary, the language must be clear, fair, and understandable to voters without requiring legal interpretation.

Board members discussed whether partial service resulting from appointment or special election should count toward the eight-year limitation. Several members expressed concern

that appointed service or service filling a vacancy should not be counted in the same manner as a full elected term.

Assistant City Attorney Cobb stated that clarifying language could be drafted to address scenarios involving advancement, partial terms, and breaks in service. She confirmed that comparative information from Miami-Dade County and other municipalities could be provided for review at a future meeting.

Board Member Brea requested that staff bring back examples of term-limit language from the County and nearby cities, as well as draft clarifying language that addresses advancement between seats, partial terms, and required breaks in service.

There was consensus that additional language is needed to close loopholes, prevent seat-switching to avoid term limits, and ensure fairness and clarity for both elected officials and voters.

**9. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:
Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, March 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM.**

Chair Allen announced the next Charter Review Board meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Assistant City Attorney Cobb noted a discussion item regarding insurance was added earlier in the meeting.

Board Member Brea then reiterated concerns regarding the inclusion of insurance in the proposed compensation structure and stated that insurance should be treated as a benefit rather than deducted from compensation. She stated that elected officials should not be penalized for electing insurance coverage.

Board members discussed whether insurance should be addressed through administrative processes rather than Charter language. Questions were raised regarding where compensation determination would reside if removed from the Charter.

It was moved by Board Member Dennis, seconded by Chair Allen, to recommend removal of the insurance component from the proposed \$1,000 compensation amount for the Mayor and Commissioners.

There being no additional discussion, the motion to approve passed by a 3-0 vote.

Board Member Brea Yes
Board Member Dennis Yes
Chair Allen Yes

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Charter Review Board, it was moved by Board Member Dennis, seconded by Board Member Brea, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Sarah Allen, Chair

ATTEST:

Joanna Flores, Board Clerk

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

DRAFT