

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on Local Government
Public Hearing
City of Falls Church – Fairfax County
Voluntary Settlement Agreement
7:00 p.m., July 8, 2013
Falls Church City Hall
Council Chambers
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Members Present

John G. Kines, Jr., Chairman
John T. Stirrup, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Cole Hendrix
Harold H. Bannister, Jr.
Bruce C. Goodson

Members Absent

Staff Present

Zack Robbins, Senior Policy Analyst
Ed Lanza, Senior Public Finance Analyst

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

Chairman Kines called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on July 8, 2013 in the Council Chambers at Falls Church City Hall in Falls Church, Virginia. Mr. Kines announced that the Commission is present to review a proposed voluntary settlement agreement between the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County. He further explained that the proposed agreement provides for the annexation to the City of Falls Church of approximately 42.4 acres of territory located in Fairfax County; requires a portion of the proposed annexation area to be utilized for school-related purposes for a period of 50 years; and other matters.

B. Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Next, Mr. Kines introduced the members of the Commission and provided biographical information on each member and introduced the Commission staff.

C. Commission's Review

Mr. Robbins explained that the Commission on Local Government is directed by law to review proposed annexations and other local boundary change and transition issues – as well as negotiated agreements settling such matters – prior to their presentation to the courts for ultimate disposition. Upon receipt of notice of such proposed action or agreement, the Commission is directed to “hold hearings, make investigations, analyze local needs and make findings of facts and recommendations” regarding the issue to the affected local governments. With respect to a proposed agreement that is negotiated under the authority of Section 15.2-3400 of the *Code of Virginia* – such as the one proposed here – the Commission is required to report, in writing, its findings and recommendations as to whether the proposed settlement is in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

D. Advertisement

Mr. Robbins indicated that the oral presentations were advertised by notice published in the *Washington Times* on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 and again on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 and in *Falls Church News-Press* on Thursday, June 13, 2013 and again on Thursday, June 20, 2013. In addition, notice of the oral presentations was mailed to the local governments contiguous to, or sharing functions, revenue or tax sources with, the City and County.

E. Closing of Record

Mr. Robbins stated that this public hearing is intended to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed voluntary settlement agreement, and further that the Commission has agreed to keep its record open for the receipt of additional information and citizen comment through July 22, 2013.

F. Commission’s Report

Mr. Robbins noted that the Commission’s report should be issued by the end of September 2013, and that the Commission is currently scheduled to meet on September 9, 2013.

II. Receipt of Testimony

Of the approximately 19 persons who attended the public hearing, the following three persons addressed the Commission during the public hearing:

- Susan Kearney (Chairman, Falls Church City School Board)

- Ryan Scarborough (Fairfax County resident)
- Dave Snyder (Vice-Mayor, City of Falls Church)

The speakers all offered comments in support of the agreement.

III. Closing Remarks

Mr. Kines expressed the Commission's appreciation to the speakers for the comments they provided. He reminded participants that the record will be open for receipt of additional written comments from the public through July 22, 2013.

Mr. John Foster, Falls Church City Attorney approached the Commission and asked if it were necessary for either of the parties to be present for the Commission's regular meeting that would be held the following morning. Mr. Kines responded that it was not necessary. Further, Mr. Foster asked if the City and County should prepare proposed findings of fact for the Commission. Mr. Kines and Mr. Robbins responded that it was not necessary, though the parties were welcome to submit additional supporting materials through the public comment period.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Bannister made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Goodson, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

John G. Kines, Jr.
Chairman

Zachary Robbins
Senior Policy Analyst