



# BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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HOME RULED CHARTERED  
IN 1989

May 19, 2014

Ronald Bergstrom, Speaker  
Assembly of Delegates  
First District Courthouse  
3195 Main Street  
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Speaker Bergstrom:

The Board of Regional Commissioners acknowledges and appreciates the recent discussion by the Charter Review Committee recommending that the Assembly of Delegates hold joint meetings with Commissioners regarding the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter. Per discussion by the Commissioners at their May 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, it was determined that these joint meetings could provide a venue for open and effective dialogue among both elected bodies.

With the brevity of changes that have occurred in Barnstable County since the Charter's original adoption in 1988, it is easy to understand the importance of an up-to-date formal review by both parties simultaneously. The Board also appreciates the difficult work undertaken by the Charter Review Committee culminating in its final report soon to be issued to the full Assembly of Delegates.

As part of this effort, the Commissioners support the use of a "Facilitator" to moderate these discussions. A "Facilitator" would serve as an effective intermediary to reduce potential conflicts and keep the process moving forward without having a bias toward either body.

Understanding the need to complete the FY 15 budget process, the Commissioners are recommending that these joint meetings begin sometime after July 1, 2014 when the adopted

FY 15 budget goes into effect. This timeframe would also occur after the final report has been issued by the Charter Review Committee to the Assembly of Delegates for final consideration. Subsequently, this would also allow for the selection and formal acceptance of a "Facilitator" candidate by both the Board of Regional Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Assembly on this important matter and believe that effective revisions to the Charter can be jointly recommended during this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Pat Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mary Pat Flynn  
Chair

Cc:

Board of Regional Commissioners  
Assembly Clerk Janice O'Connell