

June 6, 2022

To Broward County Mayor & Commissioners:

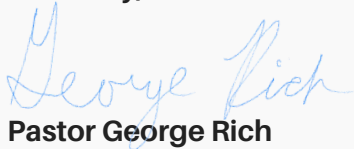
This letter is about Agenda Items #69 & #70 concerning a county-wide elected Mayor. As one of many voices of the African-American community, we believe it would be most prudent for this elected body to hold a public Workshop to include the various and diverse communities that would be impacted by such decision. Though there are many perceived pros to this move, there are equally as many perceived cons.

Several African-American leaders, pastors and organization heads met recently to discuss. Collectively, we have a few reasons why Agenda Items #69 & #70 should be tabled and moved to a Workshop are as follows:

1. Due to the impact of the major change to the governmental structure of Broward County, the community (at large, beyond a single Commission Meeting) should be afforded the opportunity to hear about the change and provide relevant feedback to better inform the Commission on its decision.
2. The decision to change leadership may further, in some estimations, disenfranchise minority residents/voters from equitable representation on the dais. Broward County is a “minority-majority” county, yet the current dais does not reflect such. As of 2019—per <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/broward-county-fl/>—Broward County is at least 53.7% minority (African American & Hispanic) and 34.5% White (non-Hispanic).
3. Furthermore, due to Reason #3 above and the mere size of Broward County, the change to a county-wide elected Mayor could be “premature” without adding additional Commissioner seats for equitable representation. We believe Additional Commissioner seats needs to be added to a Workshop as well.
4. The cost of such a change is sizable enough that “good government” would suggest Workshop’ing such an item to allow each Commissioner and the community time to review, analyze and give relevant feedback to better shape the future of Broward County.

I thank you for your consideration and support in this matter.

Sincerely,



Pastor George Rich
PRESIDENT