

Hartford Charter board suggests new planning elements, publication requirements, council term limits

Public notice advertising requirements

The board's other major recommendation would change how the county publicizes information about public hearings, legislation and other government actions.

Instead of requiring public notice in at least two newspapers, the board recommends reducing the requirement to one newspaper, and including publication on the Internet.

The new charter section would read: "Public notice of documents and events shall include posting the notice and any pertinent documents prominently on an official site that is accessible to the public, and other means of communication as required by law."

The board noted in its final report that there are at least six specific instances in the charter that require publication of notices in at least two newspapers, even though similar state statutes require publication in one newspaper.

The board recommended those specific requirements be changed to publication in one newspaper. In addition, the Internet posting requirement would not superseded any state laws pertaining to Harford County that require notices to be published in a newspaper.