MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the County Council
FROM: County Executive Steve Ehlmann
RE: Proposed Charter Amendment
DATE: 1/8/2021

I believe it is in the interests of County residents to provide for the largest pool of highly qualified applicants for certain heads of County departments, especially for those department heads who are required to maintain certain professional licensure and/or demonstrate certain highly technical expertise.

In order to create this larger pool of highly qualified applicants, I believe that it is necessary to adjust the current Charter qualifications to serve as Director of the Finance Department, the Director of the Information Systems Department, and the County Counselor by removing the residency requirement. When these positions have been open highly qualified professionals living in the area are often homeowners with their children in school and they are reluctant to have to sell homes.

I further believe that it is similarly in the best interests of County residents that, in order to serve as the Director of Administration, the principal managerial aid to the County Executive, County residency should be required, and that this requirement should be added to the Charter.

This proposed Charter amendment bill must be passed on or before January 26, 2021, in order to meet the statutory timeline to have this proposed Charter amendment appear on the April 6, 2021, ballot.

For questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me.