TOWN OF ASTATULA

Statement Regarding the Appointment of the Charter Review Committee

November 11, 2026

At the November 10, 2026, Town Council meeting, the Town of Astatula appointed members to serve on the Charter Review Committee. This committee has an important responsibility: reviewing our Town Charter, identifying provisions that may be outdated or unclear, and recommending changes that will better serve our residents and future generations.

I believe the individuals selected bring a valuable combination of experience, knowledge, community involvement, and common sense to this process.

Vic Stone — A longtime Astatula resident who has consistently demonstrated his commitment to our community. Vic has volunteered his time and energy to numerous town events and activities, including our Easter celebrations, backpack giveaways, holiday events, community dinners, and patriotic ceremonies. His years of involvement, dedication to our residents, and firsthand knowledge of our community make him a valuable voice on this committee.

Cheryl Marinelli — A former Vice Mayor of Astatula with 25 years of experience as a paralegal and currently employed at a prestigious university. Cheryl brings extensive legal administrative experience, familiarity with municipal government, and an understanding of how the Town operates. Her attention to detail and experience reviewing legal documents will be valuable throughout the charter review process.

Kelly Meeks — A conservative Republican with strong personal values, a blue-collar perspective, and a commitment to faith, honesty, and accountability. Kelly brings the perspective of everyday working residents who believe government should operate transparently, responsibly, and with common sense. That perspective deserves representation when reviewing the document that governs our town.

Mitchell Mack — A former Mayor and Town Council member with approximately 13 years of municipal government experience. Mitchell understands the responsibilities and challenges of local government from firsthand experience. Married to an Astatula police officer, he also has a close connection to the public safety community. His practical, common-sense approach and knowledge of Astatula's history will provide valuable insight.

Donna Pitts — An educator at Astatula Christian School and a former member of the Charter Review Committee involved in revisions to the Town's original charter. Donna brings educational experience, historical perspective, and direct knowledge of the charter review process. Her previous involvement will be especially helpful in understanding why certain provisions were established and whether they continue to serve their intended purpose.

Looking Ahead

The Town Charter is more than a document. It establishes the foundation of our municipal government, defines the responsibilities and limitations of elected officials, and protects the interests of our residents.

This review should not be about personalities, political disagreements, or protecting the authority of any particular elected official. It should be about making sure Astatula has a clear, fair, legally sound, and workable Charter that will continue serving our community long after any of us have left office.

I am particularly pleased that this committee includes individuals with experience in municipal leadership, legal matters, education, community service, and the everyday concerns of working families.

I encourage the committee to ask difficult questions, challenge outdated provisions, seek public input, and make recommendations based on what is best for the Town of Astatula.

Our Charter should serve the people of Astatula, not the political interests of those temporarily holding office.

I appreciate each of these individuals for their willingness to serve our town and undertake this important responsibility.

Zane A. Teeters Jr.
Mayor, Town of Astatula