

Charles County Commissioners,

The leadership of Charles County has completely overstepped their bounds regarding many of the recent past restrictions that they have implemented in response to COVID-19. This is especially true of the Charles County Department of Health, and its unelected leader, Dianna E. Abney. You all are drunk with power, and have caused immeasurable suffering and financial harm to this great county by these completely overburdensome restrictions. Now, after nearly 2 years of lockdowns, and mask mandates, you want to continue with a mask mandate indefinitely.

Enough is enough. Over 90% of the most at-risk residents have been fully vaccinated, with almost 75% of all adults fully vaccinated. With those numbers, it is time to make all measures voluntary. Let the intelligent, honorable, gracious citizens of Charles county make their own voluntary decisions regarding all protective measures from now on. There is no need to make anything mandatory. If a business wants to require masks to enter, they have every right to do that. If people are not comfortable being in public without a mask, they have every right to voluntarily wear a mask. Let the people decide. Not the government. You act as though, if you don't tell Charles county residents what to do, they will just act like complete morons. Your lack of faith in your constituents is insulting and disrespectful, and if you continue with this disrespect, you do not deserve to be a commissioner.

If you reinstitute a mask mandate, I will do everything in my power to shop for EVERYTHING outside of Charles County. I have been doing this throughout the entire COVID 19 situation. I will continue to take all my business to St. Mary's and Calvert counties. If those adjacent counties institute a mask mandate, I will do all my shopping across the river in Virginia. The lower gas prices make it well worth the time, gas, and toll to shop their anyway. Any mandates will do nothing to reduce the risk of infection, but will definitely risk the financial well being of all businesses in this county, and consequently, your tax revenue.

This is all without mentioning the fact that masks have not been proven to reduce transmission by any amount at all. Do not ignorantly say that science is behind your claims. It is not. I dare you to reference any real, long term studies regarding the wearing of simple single layer face cloths, bandanas, or handkerchiefs in reducing COVID transmission. You cannot. They do not exist.

And, to top it all off, you continue to refuse to have in-person public meetings. This must stop. You need to be held accountable for your actions, in person. Virtual meetings need to stop.