

From: [Carrie Peterson](#)
To: [Gilbert "B.J." Bowling](#)
Subject: Oppose resolution 2021-22 as a Health Ordinance in Charles County
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 9:36:26 AM
Attachments: [no mask.docx](#)

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I STRONGLY OPPOSE resolution 2021-22 as a Health ordinance in Charles County.

Please see attached letter.

I respectfully ask that you withdraw it from consideration or vote no on December 15.

Thank You,
Carrie Peterson
107 Lelia Court
La Plata, MD
20646
301643882

Dear Commissioners Bowling, Rucci, Stewart, Coates, and Collins,

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the adoption of Resolution 2021-22 as a Health Ordinance in Charles County.

I am **OUTRAGED** and **DISAPPOINTED** that a resolution with unlimited powers to impose masks on private citizens is even being considered and don't even get me started about how it was brought about using such *underhanded politics*. Doing so would be an outright refusal to listen to many of your constituents. I **STRONGLY** believe in personal freedom of choice!

My father was one of the first in Calvert County to contract Covid-19. He was diagnosed with pneumonia on Tuesday March 17th, 2020 and went to the Calvert ER via ambulance on Sunday March 22nd. By the end of the day on March 22nd he had been placed on a ventilator. He remained on a ventilator for 3 days and in the hospital for another 5 days. So, I personally know the fear that I experienced at that time was real and crippling. I cried a lot! By God's grace, my dad recovered and was able to come home on Monday March 30th 2020. It was easy to be afraid of Covid back in March 2020 because of the unknown, it was new, and we didn't know much about it. Now in December 2021, we have learned so much more about Covid-19 (how it's transmitted, how to treat it, etc.) that people don't need to fear it like we did in early 2020. It's here to stay and we must learn how to live with it.

When people go through such traumatic events, they typically have a different perspective on things than those that have not gone through such events. Having almost lost my father, my outlook on the whole pandemic changed. Family is everything to me. I was furious that I was not able to go to the hospital to see my dad and that he could have died alone. I was furious that I was not able to be by my mom's side as we were going through this. I was furious that I allowed the fear the news/media had instilled in me to control me. I was afraid to be by my mom's side during all of this!! How crazy is that?! Never again! Never again will I let fear control my life.

Don't govern the citizens of Charles County with fear.

Summer of 2020 was quickly approaching, and my family had a long awaited and planned cross country vacation where we would visit South Dakota, Yellowstone, Oregon, Washington, Glacier National Park and many other places. Much of the country was still living in fear and cancelling summer trips but my family decided the best thing for us was to live. So, we embarked on an almost 3-week cross country vacation in the middle of the pandemic. It was one of the best vacations we have ever taken! Memories that are worth more than anything in the world. We did not let fear control our life.

We did it again during the Summer of 2021, just a few months ago. My family took another long awaited and planned cross country vacation to Utah and Colorado. No masks worn the entire 3 weeks by the way. We did not let fear control our life.

Don't govern the citizens of Charles County with fear.

The wonderful thing about traveling is seeing and learning how other people live. Seeing and learning how other states were dealing and handling the pandemic made me sad, disappointed and angry to live in Charles County. As a life-long Maryland resident and over 21 years Charles County resident I no longer feel proud of the county in which I live. If this resolution passes and masks are required indoors, I **WILL** take my money and business outside the county and will continue to do so until there is no indoor

mask mandate. I WILL take my money to counties that respect my personal freedom of choice. I WILL take my money to businesses that won't harass me to wear a mask as I try to buy food for my family to eat. It won't be my fault if the businesses in the county suffer due to a mask mandate, it will be YOURS.

The past two weeks have been wonderful with no indoor mask mandate. Those who wanted to wear a mask have done so and those that don't want to wear a mask, didn't. I have been able to shop anywhere in the county, not wear a mask and not get harassed at the entrance. This is as it should be. This is how it is in Calvert County, St. Mary's County and even across the bridge in King George County, VA. As the rest of the state and the country is evolving and moving on, the Charles County commissioners are staying stagnant and trying to remain back in the mindset of March 2020, and by preying on this fear wants to gain unfathomable and unrestrained control over their constituents. We need to be moving forward not backwards.

Don't govern the citizens of Charles County with fear.

I could argue all day about the efficacy of masks but the real issue at hand is personal freedom of choice.

This regulation is **BAD** for our county and **BAD** for our future. I respectfully ask that you withdraw it from consideration or vote **NO** on December 15th.

Sincerely,

Carrie Peterson

107 Lelia Court

La Plata, MD 20646

3016438822