This proposed Charles County law (2022-14) encumbers the U.S. Constitutional and State of Maryland right to concealed carry to the point of revocation and should not be passed as is.

I and John McConnell both did site surveys of the 100 feet from the building rule and in 100 percent of the surveys, a person including a disabled person, could not drive into the parking lot, leave said gun/ weapon properly disabled in the vehicle, and then go into the building to conduct business. As soon as they drive into the parking lot, because of the 100 foot part of the as written ordinance, they are subject to violation, arrest, conviction, imprisonment, and a permanent criminal record.

Mr. Bowling relies on the notion that if Charles County ordinances are no worse then Federal and State rules on concealed carry, then all is OK and there is no additional burden to the citizens. Federal and State laws as well as county laws are today in opposition to each other, so should not be relied upon as a baseline because two wrongs don’t make a right, three wrongs even more so.

According to Mr. McConnell, the ostensible purpose of this new Charles County law is to prevent intimidation of citizens who are entering the building, due to seeing persons with a gun. The proposed law does not achieve this because from 10, 100, or even 300 feet a person can still be intimidated because they can still see the guns, though concealed carry would not be visible. There is no value gained for citizens while the costs to citizens, as soon as they drive into the parking lot, of being a crimnal are unacceptably high and far outweigh any potential perceived benefit from such a law.

The law should not be passed. Baring any other nefarious intent of this law, if the political integrity and courage can not be summoned to right this wrong, then at least take away the repressive costs and threats to lawful citizens and change the ordinance to prevent the unlawful open display of any gun or weapon near the buildings, or remove the distance limitations to the building rules, or change the distance limitation rule to 10 feet.