

## Carol DeSoto

---

**From:** Crystal Hunt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:51 AM  
**To:** Carol DeSoto; Christina Elkins  
**Cc:** Julie M. Bryson  
**Subject:** Fw: Clarification needed for the public on Bill 2022-14 Amendment and Hearing

---

**From:** Alexandra Rak <alexandra.petti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:58 PM  
**To:** Gilbert "B.J." Bowling <BowlingG@charlescountymd.gov>; Reuben B. Collins, II <CollinsR@charlescountymd.gov>; Amanda Stewart <StewartA@charlescountymd.gov>; Thomasina Coates <CoatesT@charlescountymd.gov>; pattersonr@charlescountymd.gov <pattersonr@charlescountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Wesley Adams <AdamsW@charlescountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Clarification needed for the public on Bill 2022-14 Amendment and Hearing

**[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.**

Good afternoon, Board of County Commissioners,

As you are likely very aware, the public at-large is greatly interested in the public hearing scheduled for 6pm tomorrow on the prohibition of firearms on County owned and operated property (Bill 2022-14). You have just approved substantive changes to the bill at your meeting.

(reference: [https://granicus\\_production\\_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com/charlescountymd/6d9382c8fe355438fa30d4651d0fb1a10.pdf](https://granicus_production_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com/charlescountymd/6d9382c8fe355438fa30d4651d0fb1a10.pdf))

This would be less than 24 hours before the public hearing on that law, which the public has been preparing testimony and opposition for since the end of December. Reference, your public notice: <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10337/763>

However, the proposed amendments substantively change the bill and the public needs to be afforded time to review. Furthermore, according to the Code, amendments need to be provided to the public for inspection: [View Document - Maryland Code and Court Rules \(westlaw.com\)](#) It also needs to be reprinted as amended before final passage.

There is no way that if you adopt those amendments tomorrow, January 10, the public will be able to review them before the hearing scheduled January 11 at 6pm. At this very moment, the agenda for January 11 references the Public Notice and unamended version of the Bill. How will the public receive adequate notice of the amendments prior to the hearing? We've all been preparing testimony based on the November 29 introduction.

In **my** reading of the Code, the 7 day timeline for a hearing should be reset based on the new language of the bill. It is appreciative that you have amended the bill in response to feedback - but this is now an officially proposed piece of legislation. You are in danger of a procedural challenge if you pass a bill with no time for the public to read, review, and decide if/how the new law would impact them.

Please advise to the legality of attempting to hold a hearing on bill text that the public will have been given no notice. I believe the public hearing needs to be postponed for at least 7 days.

Respectfully,

Alexandra Rak  
Charles County Resident  
Port Tobacco, MD