

## Public Comment regarding the presence/threats from White Power groups and the KKK in Charles County

I find this very concerning and disturbing! The following statement was extracted from a Press Release distributed by Rev. Bruce Branch, Community Activist and Executive Director of the Maryland Business and Clergy Partnership which includes more than 700 churches and businesses in the state, including dozens in Charles County “Commissioner Coates has had to hire security because of threats from white power groups, including the Ku Klux Klan”

I am very concerned about this statement by Rev. Branch. A statement of this magnitude can cause citizens to live in fear, act out on this stated threat and it is very divisive for the Charles County community!

Out of deep concern for our County, I spoke with Sheriff Troy Berry about this and he was unaware of any such threat for any calls for protection from Commissioner Coates or of any active Ku Klux Klan presence prior to this Press Release. Why would this even be mentioned?

Where did Rev. Branch get this information?

Does he realize the impact on the community of this type of statement?

Did Commissioner Coates approve this Press Release prior to its release?

Did Rev. Branch act in isolation?

Does she understand the impact of releasing such information?

Where were the Clergy in Charles County at the Press Conference?

This is not responsible leadership and statements could have been made to bring the Charles county community together, not further divide our community!

We must do better Charles County leadership. We, the citizens deserve better!

Janice Wilson