

May 24, 2023

Public Comment Submission for Dr. Karla Kornegay, MBA

Good evening Commissioners. Thank you so much for continuing to allow for public comment. I certainly hope that you are listening, comprehending and actually attempting to properly address voter concerns as you should.

I have numerous concerns but because I have been marginalized in the County and by some of our State Legislatures for speaking out against the wrong being done by some in leadership, I first thought to limit my comments regarding said concerns. However, it didn't take long for me to dismiss that thought given I have a right as a private citizen, voter and taxpayer to question the actions of elected officials, but with truth and not lies.

With that being said, please be so kind and address ( in some form or fashion) why there is a need for a new courthouse. I understand that, at times, there is a need to replace, renovate or retrofit public buildings. However, our current courthouse actually serves its purpose safely. Where will the funding stem from? Will taxpayers have to foot the bill? Tell us, the voters/taxpayers, why a new courthouse is needed. As a Project Manager, I know that many issues can be corrected with a renovation and not a new structure. Is the courthouse in danger of sliding into a river? Are there mold or infrastructure concerns that can't be properly addressed without building a whole new courthouse? Is there a security challenge in the current courthouse? Are there mechanical, electrical and plumbing issues that just can't be repaired?

I understand that there are more folks in Charles County now, but that doesn't justify the continued waste of money on different projects like this that we, as taxpayers, are not asking for. A handful of people don't represent all of Charles County. Are you, as a collective, considering asking voters to pay for this in the form of a construction bond? That's a very common way that municipalities pay for big capital projects. If so, that is not fair and when will there be an opportunity for public input that you will actually listen to and act on because many times it feels that we, the voters, work for you all instead of it being the other way around. Many of us are resistant to our property taxes being raised to pay for a courthouse that we REALLY do not need. Will this be a public-private partnership? Regardless, the taxpayers will be being for a structure that is not needed right now in 2023.

It's the personal responsibility of ALL people who are elected by their constituents to answer and be responsible to their constituents. In public service, you should really try to listen to all sides at all times, and go forward, and make the best decision for the greatest good of everyone, not just for those who personally support you. I am, personally, willing to work with each of you as time allows, but you owe us consistent honesty, transparency, communication, fairness, no bias and a full stake in the political process.

Things are better when we work together in complete honesty and fairness. I appreciate Commissioner Bowling and Commissioner Stewart for trying to explain issues to the public when they feel that we may not understand what is going on and I, kindly, ask that our other Commissioners do the same thing. With Charter Government, I am more than sure that, that will not happen and that is not fair, to say the least. We don't always get the truth and that must change. I understand that your job can be challenging, but some of you make things more challenging when you don't tell the truth with transparency and fairness.

Respectfully,

Karla Kornegay