

This letter is to be read during the Public Forum hosted by the Charles County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. I will review the recording for verification of it being read.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Zalee Harris

Dear Commissioners:

I am very concerned with the Press Conference that was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, by and for the District 2 Commissioner, Thomasina Coates.

The following is a highlighted list of my concerns:

1. Why is it that the District 2 Commissioner felt that a press conference was needed? In recent meetings and public hearings, the District 2 Commissioner only attended meetings and hearings virtually. However, she was present and did speak at her strategically planned Press Conference. Why did she ask her pastor and a group of church members, most of whom were from Prince George's County and not voting residents from Charles County, to attend the Press Conference?
2. According to the press release, the Commissioner has been embroiled in a fight with two non-elected, at-will employees. This led to her censure on the Charles County Board of Commissioners in 2020, thus rendering her powerless to represent her constituency. Had this censure been made known to her constituency, maybe the Commissioner would not have been re-elected in November 2022. The question I have for the Commissioner President, the District 1, the District 3, and the District 4 Commissioners is: Do you believe that you had a legal right to censure this Commissioner on the grounds that she committed acts of racism, discrimination and harassment when she did not want the County Administrator to keep his job because he is Caucasian? If you do not believe that you made the right decision to censure your colleague, then why weren't you present at the Press Conference to support your colleague? Are you willing to restore her power to vote and make hiring and firing decisions in matters involving employees who are white?
3. I am deeply concerned that the District 2 Commissioner had to hire security because of threats from white power groups like the Ku Klux Klan. I join members of my community in stating that if the KKK has made threats against this Commissioner, then why is it that no police report was filed? Why wasn't the FBI or the Dept. of Homeland Security contacted given this group is considered a domestic terrorist group. Where is the

statement from the police that proves she filed a police report and that there is an open investigation in the matter?

4. Finally, in her press release, the District 2 Commissioner declares that she is the victim of a smear campaign. She regrets that some of her supporters have also been threatened and harassed as she has. But she promises to work hard for the people of her district. She claims that Charles County is being held hostage and she will not back down. My issue with this statement is that if she is a victim of a smear campaign, then why is it that seventeen other county government employees have joined the County Administrator in filing a complaint/lawsuit, thus spending more than eight hundred thousand dollars in taxpayer's money because of Commissioner Coates' discriminatory/harassing behavior?

Thank you,

Zalee Harris.

I am a voting resident of Charles County

Feel free to call me at 301-980-8263 or email me at [zaleeharrisforccmd@gmail.com](mailto:zaleeharrisforccmd@gmail.com)