From: Derrick Terry
To: Christina Elkins

 Subject:
 Public Comments_5/7/2024

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It is so exhausting to continue advocating for the Charter Board, who, technically are Charles County employees, but in principle are not. This all-volunteer Board still can't do its job without the constant blasting of misinformation on social media and at town halls led by the District 1 Commissioner.

- 1) As humans, we all have personal convictions WE believe to be true yet have NO supporting Truth.
 - a. Some examples are religion...which is based on faith
 - b. Things that could happen in the future...which one can't predict
 - c. Personal convictions...self-explanatory
- 2) Then there are facts
 - a. Home rule doesn't require mandatory attendance of Commissioners
 - b. Home rule doesn't require mandatory town halls
 - c. Home rule doesn't require term limits

When given the opportunity to present residents with facts, the Commissioner refuses to invite the Charter Board Chair or have an open dialogue. His excuse, he won't debate until the final draft is submitted to the Commissioners in June, however, he has been debating with me, some in the general public and members of the Charter Board via social media but too intimidated to invite the Charter Board Chair for the fear of getting checked. The Commissioner has been directly attacking the integrity of the charter board process which is a reflection of the Charter Board. I find it unethical for any sitting commissioner to interfere with the Charter Board process as they are technically Charles County employees.

For example, the Commissioner uses Hashtags such as #notchartercharles #keephomerule #nocharter as well as posted the following:

When asked how Fascism starts, Betrand Russell replied: "First, they fascinate the fools. Then they muzzle the intelligent." I am pro-charter as well as others so.... who in the hell is the Commissioner you referring to as a fool and who are the muzzled intelligent?

- 1) Is it the 51% African Americans who make up the 3rd largest African American population in MD and the largest in Charles County?
- 2) Is it our neighbors to the North which the Commissioner chose to stay employed with for over 20 years or so and two other sitting commissioners were or are employed with?
- 3) Or is it the 12 Charter Counties (to include Baltimore City)

I find the reference of fascism and its correlation to Charter government not only deplorable, but highly offensive/insensitive considering this morning he presented a citation in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month.

Words do have consequences and I agree we all should lead by example not by words but at some point, we all will have to either man up...or respectfully, shut up.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Terry
Waldorf Resident