FW: Public comment

Charter Board <CharterBoard@charlescountymd.gov>

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To:Jesse L. Bungcayao <BungcayJ@charlescountymd.gov>

From: Jim Crawford < ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ >
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:40:16 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Charter Board <CharterBoard@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: Public comment

There are those in Charles County who are adamantly opposed to a charter because they legitimately fear it will give us conditions and problems like Prince George's or Montgomery. So this Charter Board should take heed and make sure the proposed charter is more like Frederick or Harford and fits Charles County.
 There are some crucial items that our charter must include. We need a clearly written section prohibiting an executive or council from creating a police force separate from the Sheriff's office. This is highly supported judging by the comments in the public safety survey.
 We need council members elected by district, with term limits, and a NON-PARTISAN nine (9) member part-time council with balanced powers between an executive and including a super majority defined as 6 votes.
 Additionally, it should include provisions for simple, public referendums, a periodic review committee, an inspector general, and public meetings requirement. Importantly, the charter must also have a preamble and/or an introduction, explaining and justifying the significant portions. Some of these, but not all, have been included in the draft charter, although these are all important to its ultimate acceptance by the voters.
 These are key differences between P.G. charter provisions and the Charles draft, which differences could serve Charles County well as we grow.
The Charter Board should not make a critical mistake of omitting these items and perforce dealing with the consequences.
Respectfully submitted,
Jim Crawford
Charter Board, Alternate member