

From: [Derrick Terry](#)
To: [Christina Elkins](#)
Cc: [Julie Losh](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment Session Statement - 5/21/2024 BOCC Public Comment Session
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:44:19 PM

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Good Morning Ms. Elkins,

My apologies.

Please see my testimony below:

We keep hearing from certain people that Home Rule should stay because a Charter Form of government would be corrupt, bring more crime, raise taxes, or simulate as Commissioner Bowling has stated without any public apology....fascism.

Well let's look at what happen or is happening under Home Rule

1) CCPS, CCSO, CC State's Attorney's Office, The Courts, or any other government agency or organization has never sought a decrease from the previous years' budget. In fact, the FY25 Operating Budget is approximately \$561,000,000 operating budget is the highest in Charles County History with a 6.4% increase from FY24

2) During the Murphy Administration, Commissioners Robinson, Stewart, and Murphy voted in favor of the following despite strong public opposition, no verifiable quantitative data, or public hearings while Commissioners Davis and Rucci voted the opposite and/or abstained

- a. Passed the Watershed Conservation District, which robbed Western Charles County property owners of their true property values
- b. Took away actual true ownership of their land
- c. Gave land intended for economic development and owned by the taxpayers to conservation groups whom some, didn't reside in Charles County
- d. Spent approximately \$4.3 million taxpayer dollars to buy a building (in secret) and cited for violating the State Open Meetings Act.
- e. Voted (in secret) to pay legal bills for a criminal vs civil offense for two former County officials, one being former Commissioner President Candice Kelly between December 2015 and February 2016.
- f. Sued two citizens for daring to expose the payments through a public information act request and lost.
- g. Commissioner Stewart was able to attend meetings twice a month, often in closed session thanks to former Commissioner President Murphy changing meeting schedule to accommodate her *then* Prince George's County teaching schedule
- h. Replaced plastic straws for paper straws
- i. Raised property tax rate
- j. Approved County Commissioners' pay raise
- k. Passed several anti-business policies
- l. But not be forgotten, Commissioner Bowling still refuses to discuss/invite any voting charter board member to his town halls and continues to spread disinformation on social media and scheduling meetings on the same day as the Charter Board (next meeting May 23rd)

m. Added bonus...current Home Rule Hierarchy of Power within our Government...County Administrator, Commissioners, then the People...with the Charter...The People will always be first!

3) I am requesting responses to the following questions from Commissioners Bowling and Stewart:

- a. How many Charter Board meetings have you been to?
- b. How many times have you invited the Charter Board to your town halls?
- c. How many Charter Board public forums have you intended?
- d. Have you provided the resources, or has the Acting County Administrator provided the necessary resources to educate residents? This doesn't include news articles but rather factual resources to research for themselves?
- e. Do you have any quantitative data to support these so-called constituents' concerns when requesting County staff to research your next great idea?

4) Some advice for all Commissioners...go to uncomfortable places to hear real and genuine concerns if you truly believe in transparency or open-discussion and remember that it is very easy to criticize a decision until that same decision becomes yours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrick Terry

Waldorf, MD

On Wed, May 22, 2024 at 12:28 PM Christina Elkins <ElkinsC@charlescountymd.gov> wrote:

Mr. Terry,

Good afternoon! I am reaching out to follow up with you regarding if you would like to submit a copy of your testimony from yesterday's Public Comment Session for the record?

With kind regards,

Chrissi Elkins



Chrissi Elkins

Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners

Charles County Commissioners

Charles County Government

200 Baltimore Street | La Plata, MD 20646

E: ElkinsC@CharlesCountyMD.gov

O: 240-776-6709 ext: 2909

“What you do makes a difference and it’s up to you what kind of difference you want to make.”



This e-mail is intended only for the addressee and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any interception, or other use of, or taking of any action upon the information contained therein by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may subject them to criminal or civil liability. If you received this communication in error, please delete the communication from any computer or network system. Although this e-mail (including attachments) is believed to be free of any virus or other defect, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that it is virus free, and no responsibility is accepted by the sender for any loss or damage arising in any way in the event that such a virus or defect exists. Charles County accepts no liability for the content of this email, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided, unless that information is subsequently confirmed in writing. No employee or agent is authorized to conclude any binding agreement on behalf of Charles County with another party by email, without express written confirmation by the County Commissioners of Charles County. Charles County Government is an equal opportunity employer, and maintains a strict policy against discrimination and/or harassment of any kind.

[Charles County Government](#)