

## **Derrick Terry – Public Comment Statement – 6/11/2024**

First, as a military war-veteran who suffers from PTSD, I want thank the Commissioners for recognizing June as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and recognizing my fellow veterans.

Secondly, I challenge Commissioner Bowling/Stewart on fiscal responsibility. I am not discrediting that employees don't need a boost in morale but seriously...you wanted to give employees a day off with our tax dollars AFTER the 4th of July and the Super Bowl!!! Why not explore off days for the WNBA Finals, The Entire Summer Olympics, American Idol Finale, National Straw Day, or since some seem to be so Afrocentric---Juneteenth?

I witnessed a fellow comrade's body being carried off a plane in Afghanistan and WE didn't have that day NOR the next day off. Also, I am unaware of the military or any government agency receiving the day off during or after the Super bowl.

Now done with my soapbox....Commissioner Bowling and Stewart routinely speak of the will of the people so let's briefly re-examine the self-inflicted amnesia and hypocrisy surrounding 3-2 majority votes all...supposedly... due to the will of the people

Was it the will of the people to say.... hey Commissioners...

a) Please tell me what I can put on my own private land...

b) Please give taxpayer land intended for economic development to conservation groups favored by extremist outside special interest groups.

c) Please take away my plastic straw and replace it with a paper straw, as I am now subjected to using more force to enjoy my thick milkshake, just to ask for a 2nd paper straw because the first one tore apart...OR

d) Please raise my property tax rate because I don't mind paying more \$\$\$

In the last 20 or more years, every Commissioner has been on the favorable/unfavorable side of a 3-2 legislation and/or resolution. In all the examples I provided Former Commissioners Murphy, Robinson and current Commissioner Stewart signed in the affirmative, while former Commissioners Rucci and Davis respectfully declined to sign or abstained.

So instead of accepting the decision/vote of their colleagues on the Charter Resolution, Commissioner Bowling and/or Stewart are having hissy fits, spending campaign funds to undermine the vote, or hosting town hall meetings discussing the Charter but too intimidated or scared to invite the appointed Charter Board members to have a civil debate and/or discussion.

Both were so adamant about their opposition to the Charter Resolution....they chose of their own free will.... to sign their name. I have never in my personal/ professional life signed anything I did not agree with unless I had no other option, but in most cases always had the option to state I disagree.

In closing....to summarize what Commissioner Bowling's stated earlier today, it is frustrating for the public to take time to speak and receive no response. I am still waiting on the following responses from Commissioner Bowling/Stewart

1. How many Charter Board meetings have you been to?

2. How many times have you invited the Charter Board to your town halls?
3. How many Charter Board public forums have you intended?
4. Why do you continue to debate the Charter despite going on record stating you won't debate the Charter until you receive the final version?

But Hey...I'm Not Complaining, I'm Just Sayin'