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Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Carol DeSoto
Subject: Email for Commissioners

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Carol,

I hope all is well with you and that you are managing to stay cool in this miserable weather. I would appreciate it if you could share my concerns with the Commissioners.

Have a wonderful summer.

Linda

Commissioners,

I am writing today to share my concern about the youth activities sponsored by county organizations during excessive heat advisories. Over the last several weeks the entire state of Maryland and in fact most of the southern part of the country have been under severe heat advisories. Counties, including Charles County, have opened cooling centers to help those that out of doors. The news has repeatedly advised people to stay indoors and not over exert themselves and to remember to be hydrated.

During this oppressive heat last week, and this week also, the County Parks and Recreation have had outdoor activities scheduled and have continued to hold them despite the heat advisory. Many of these activities have been held for young children. Children, especially those between the ages of 5-8, are not always able to communicate when they need to stop and can easily overexert themselves. Although they were offered breaks every 15 minutes, due to the location, this is really not sufficient, especially since those breaks are taken in the outdoors, often on a baseball or soccer field.

Last week, every jurisdiction in our area closed both Parks and Recreation activities and high schools and colleges alike cancelled outdoor activities. Our County did not close anything. We were lucky that no tragedy occurred when these children were likely overheated and exhausted. There have been several heat related deaths in the last several years in our area and I would hate for Charles County to be the next location of such a tragedy.

I believe that given the fact that the weather over the last several years has increasingly been hotter and that heat spreading not to just the usual August, but into July and June also that there should be some provision to move outdoor activities indoors or not hold them in the hottest hours of the day on days when the weather is posting a severe heat advisory and suggesting that people stay indoors and get to cooler temperatures.

I believe taking a proactive approach to this situation will allow us to avert a possible heat incident causing the death or illness of someone in one of the scheduled activities.

Thank you for considering a solution to this critical matter.

Linda Stansbury