

**From:** [Derrick Terry](#)  
**To:** [Christina Elkins](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment Session Statement - 7/23/2024  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:07:36 AM

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Good Morning Ms. Elkins,

Below is my public comment and you have a great day too!

Commissioner Bowling/Stewart, a certain portion of "Just Say No To Charter," and micro-aggressors made the Charter a racial divide, not me. Both Commissioners remain silent, refuse to check those who make verbal, racially motivated statements towards some members of the Charter Board, and spew the constant misrepresentation of the majority-Black PG County and Charter Government as thugs, ghetto, hoodlums, crooks, and all things negative. But what's so asinine is blaming the sins of one former PG County Executive for an entire group of people where I could easily blame the sins of one's confederacy ancestry but that would be morally wrong.

Commissioner Bowling/Stewart want residents to believe the biggest single change in this Charter is the addition of the County Executive, yet both in self-serving capacities, worked under a Charter/County Executive, earned payroll paychecks, and support County Executive Angela Alsobrooks who is running for U.S. Senate. Granted, there wasn't public comments for the County Executive or Charter prior to the 3-2 vote, but did they honestly think the vote would have changed in their favor with public comments?

Both weren't raising hell when there was opposition to the WCD, recent purchase of a \$5 million building in La Plata, the multi-million dollar animal shelter yet still have unsheltered people living in the woods, or whether or not taxpayers should pay for government employees to have a day off AFTER Super Bowl Sunday.

Would a County Executive or Home Rule guarantee less traffic accidents, tax

increases, child/drug abuse, high graduation rates, Sons of the Confederacy, or Majority-Minority Wealth? The point is no race, religion, gender, county, or form of government can prevent the ills or positive growth of humanity.

This is why there shouldn't be opposition to a charter government, especially if it offers more accountability, transparency, and consistent public engagement. Moreover, in regards to taxes/government services, Commissioner Bowling has yet to address whether higher taxes or removal of government services will occur under Home Rule. News flash...they have occurred. Ironically, during the July 23rd Commissioners' meeting, seven requested amended FY25 budget increases with 1 transfer of funds totaling \$1,187,950 were unanimously approved

Currently, Home Rule changes are made by the Commissioners and they have the power to change at any time whether the public agrees with them or not. Under Charter, the PEOPLE have the power on what changes can occur.

In closing, as the Son of a Civil Rights Foot Soldier from Birmingham, AL, I was raised to say things with my chest versus my back and your word is your bond. That is not the case with Commissioners Bowling/Stewart as they failed to exhibit that same anti-Charter energy, vigor, and unwillingness to ask questions during the recent Charter Board Presentation by Charter Board Chair Greg Waring.

In closing, I implore everyone to read the Charter and determine if it is more accountable, transparent, and engaging than any other Charter in MD and don't allow political opportunists Commissioner Bowling/Stewart and their base to feed you mis/disinformation.

*Note: I have one un-related Charter concern/question:*

County Administrator's Mark Belton's public accessible employee contract states that he must have Commissioners' approval to work as a consultant. If this is the case, can the taxpayers be made aware of which Commissioners approved for him to work as the Program Director for Throve Environmental considering he has been on paid-

administrative leave for at least 2 years as well as number of days he has been on paid leave and cost to taxpayers?

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Terry  
Waldorf, MD

On Wed, Jul 24, 2024 at 7:42 AM Christina Elkins <[ElkinsC@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:ElkinsC@charlescountymd.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Terry,

Good morning, I am following up with you to ask if you would like to submit a written copy of your statement from Public Comment Session on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 for the record.

I hope you have a wonderful day!

With kind regards,

Chrissi Elkins



**Chrissi Elkins**

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



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