

Carol DeSoto

From: Christina Ledman
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:31 AM
To: Carol DeSoto
Subject: Fw: DTerry Public Comments-09102024
Attachments: Public Comments Attachments-09102024.pdf

From: Derrick Terry <edvocare@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:29 AM
To: Christina Ledman <LedmanC@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: DTerry Public Comments-09102024

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On January 27, 2024, former Charter Board Chair Greg Waring agreed to participate in a joint public forum held at the Bryans Road Shopping Community Center. The public forum was co-moderated by a Bryan's Road community activist and I; it was respectful, impartial, transparent, and well received.

During this forum, Mr. Waring answered approximately 40 charter-related questions via cue cards and 10 open questions. This was unprecedented and a testament to how the event was run and Mr. Waring's willingness to answer each question in a timely manner. To date, Mr. Waring and various members of the former Charter Board conducted 50+ meetings with various organizations at their own expense and time.

For over year, residents had ample opportunities to attend at least 20 Charter Board meetings and several town halls. As for the Commissioners, (with the exception of Commissioner Coates one opportunity) residents could have attended an estimated 5 from Commissioner Stewart (with 3 purposely held during Charter Board meetings) 6 from Commissioner Patterson, 4 from Commissioner Collins, and 9 from Commissioner Bowling (with 5 purposely held during Charter Board meetings). Every Commissioner spoke and had a member of the Charter Board present and/or invited to address the public's concerns/questions except Bowling and Stewart.

Commissioner Bowling has conducted, at the expense of County resources and his own political campaign, a series of anti-Charter vs. informational town halls to directly undermine the Charter Board since its inception. His "No Charter" "Keep Home Rule" and now "Keep OUR Democrats" agenda, has been racially divisive as he still refuses to denounce the constant racial references and microaggressions towards Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' constituents. Some current as well as former-Prince George's County residents now residing in Charles County have been labeled hoodlums, ghetto, colored, welfare recipients, criminals, bovines, and trash yet for political convenience, he and Commissioner Stewart endorse County Executive Alsobrooks for U.S. Senate.

In addition, Commissioner Bowling and Stewart have called one or more commissioners corrupt, power-hungry, or sucking up to lobbyist, special interest, and/or developers while accepting campaign contributions from organizations with connection to commercial, residential development and/or special interest groups such as:

(Commissioners Stewart and Bowling)

MESA Fund for Children and Public Education

(Commissioner Bowling)

Professional Paramedics & EMT's of Charles County
THE WILLS GROUP, INC. PAC
Maryland Realtors Political Action Committee
Hollybrook Associates, LLC
Chaney Enterprises
Quality Built Homes
Sandy Excavating
Advanced Residential Management, Inc.

<https://campaignfinance.maryland.gov/Public/ViewReceipts?theme=vista>

Commissioners Bowling and Stewart, as well as the Charles County Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Charles County Emergency Medical Services Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #24, Charles County, have consistently pushed dis/misinformation while providing a disservice to Charles County residents they claim deserve a transparent, accountable, honest, and responsive government. Unfortunately, they are using some of the same Jim Crow tactics to suppress the vote by disseminating falsehoods, using the fear factor, and recently denying the transfer of the previously approved \$65k marketing budget, hence, deliberately denying the citizens the ability to receive factual information.

When presented with facts, others and I are labeled by the FOP President and some anti-charter residents as elitist, demeaning or disrespectful...translation... uppity Negros. However, when they are faced with providing facts to address their lies or the racial references, the closest they have ever come to telling the truth is telling a story that either makes them the victim or the hero, but never the villain.

Hence, staying true to being transparent, accountable, honest and responsive to residents, I am requesting all five commissioners answer the following simple questions:

1. Can the current **Code** Home Rule guarantee taxes will never increase and/or cuts to government services?
2. Does the County Administrator run the day-to-day operations under **Code** Home Rule?
3. Is commissioner attendance currently a mandatory requirement per **Code** Home Rule?
4. Who makes the final decision on any change to **Code** Home Rule, the commissioners or the people?

5. Can the Commissioners form a separate police department per **Code** Home Rule?
6. Does this **Charter** Home Rule call for elimination of an all-volunteer fire department?
7. Who makes the final decision on any change to **Charter** Home Rule, the council or the people?
8. Can the County Executive appoint the Superintendent of Schools per **Charter** Home Rule?
9. If the **Charter** Home Rule fails, are you in favor of Waldorf exploring becoming a municipality?
10. Do you think I can get a response to my questions by November 1, 2024?

I will close with this, Commissioner Stewart stated during 9/10/2024's meeting with Charles County Public Schools. Commissioner Stewart stated one reason for the lower percentage of school funding is linked to the increases within county government. This has been happening under Code Home Rule and while Commissioner Stewart has been in office. Goes back to what the Charter Board stated from Day 1...services and/or needs drive the cost of government, not the form of government.

So regardless of how you vote, education yourself on the facts and substance of what is in the Charter Home Rule vs. what is not and don't allow Commissioner Bowling and Stewart as well as others to spread dis/misinformation without at least providing facts to back it up.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Terry
Waldorf, MD