



March 25, 2020

Reuben B. Collins II, President
Charles County Board of Commissioners
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Mr. Collins,

It has come to my attention that the county is considering phasing out the budget of the Charles County Charitable Trust (the Trust) over the next three years. The county is to be commended for the efficient operation in recent years of its Nonprofit Grant Awards Program by the Trust. The Trust, with its team of experienced and professional staff and directors, has earned the respect and appreciation of our nonprofit community for its professionalism in ensuring the independence and integrity of a competitive grant-making process and its responsiveness to community needs.

There are many worthy nonprofit organizations in the county that do important work meeting the needs of the public—organizations that need and deserve public support that is managed transparently and according to high principles and standards of ethics and conflicts of interest. Of special importance is the Trust's willingness to support operational overhead, such as rent, phone, and utilities. Foundations, corporations, and government agencies seldom contribute to general support.

Finally, the Trust works to strengthen the practices of nonprofits with training and forums. I am currently attending the Trust's ongoing series of workshops on fundraising for local nonprofits that is intended to enable us to be less dependent on public money.

As nonprofits continue to face rising demand for their services, it is more important than ever that the county's grant funds be distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The Trust has demonstrated objectivity and fairness. It is an asset that deserves to be valued and protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hal Delaplaine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Hal Delaplaine, President

cc: Mark Belton, Administrator