

## **A Call for Accountability, Not Accusations**

Why hasn't the 2nd Sergeant Report been released? Why hasn't legislation been introduced to allow for the removal of a sitting commissioner? What is being done about the county's ongoing water issues? Is it self-serving for three commissioners to support term limits only after giving themselves one more opportunity to run?

These are just four of many legitimate questions that concerned citizens have repeatedly asked which are aimed at transparency and accountability, not at tearing anyone down. Three of the five commissioners take these questions in stride, even when the topics are uncomfortable. Yet two commissioners respond with attitude, deflection, or defensiveness, particularly when the conversation shifts toward ethics and integrity.

Let's be honest...Is it ethical for a commissioner's immediate family member to receive taxpayer funds? Is it appropriate for a commissioner to use the same social media platform to promote both government business and personal ventures for financial gain? Is it fair or transparent to force a vote on a non-agenda item when the outcome is favorable, yet delay a vote on an agenda item until all commissioners are present? Is it questionable that a commissioner's spouse received the Homestead Tax Credit for six years while claiming residency in Prince George's County, even if that was an honest mistake? These are not personal attacks but rather professional attacks attempting to gain professional responses. I am not their friend, and this isn't personal. If it were, my approach would look very different. What I am raising are fundamental concerns about ethics, transparency, and public trust. These are the same values every elected official claims to uphold.

Public officials often say the community deserves honesty. Yet, too often, when the spotlight of accountability shifts toward certain individuals, we get emotional deflections, not professional responses. That's not leadership--that's avoidance.

Let me be clear: I respect the office any elected official, however, I do not and will not respect unethical or possibly illegal behavior. No elected official, nor any acting county administrator, has the authority to censor my First Amendment rights. If I choose to speak passionately, I will. If I raise my voice, I will. If I ask the same unanswered questions at every public comment opportunity, I will because I deserve answers, just like any other concerned citizen.

And let me make this *crystal clear*: this is the last time I will allow anyone in Charles County or State government to label me as an "angry Black man" or simply because I speak with conviction. When others raise their voices, they're called "concerned citizens." Well, I am *both* concerned *and* passionate and I will continue to speak up, whether it makes them uncomfortable or not.

Stop sermonizing and start answering with the respect and honesty the public deserves. At the end of the day, they work for us not the other way around and this is one of many reasons why term-limits are essential now more than ever.

Respectfully submitted,

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