

Intent of petition might be misrepresented

Good morning all, it's time to clear the air. Recently, many of the City's voters have been approached by individuals and (out of town) groups and asked to sign a petition, calling to referendum an amendment to our City's charter, recently passed by your City Council by a 4-1 vote. This charter amendment would allow the City Council to remove from office a Councilmember that was found to be guilty of wrong doing while in office.

Currently, the Council has no way to reprimand, with consequence, one of its members who is guilty of inappropriate behavior while in office. Council has imposed certain and stringent conditions on itself, before someone could be removed. The charter amendment was thoroughly discussed and re-discussed before it was acted on. The full detail of the amendment may be found on our website in the Documents section under Charter and Code. The name of the document is Charter Resolution NO. CR2016-01 (www.taneytown.org/documents.asp).

The Council member who voted against this protection has helped organize this petition drive. Truly, he has every right to do so and the hard work he has put into this effort is obvious.

However, it has come to my attention, through emails, personal citizen contact, from some of you who signed the petition and from City staff that the intent of the petition may have been misrepresented. I have been told by many sources that they were asked to sign, under the pretense that by signing they would be supporting the lowering of water and sewer fees and taxes. The charter resolution will not affect these things at all.

Your City Council is and has been and will continue to be resolute and diligent in providing the lowest possible tax rate and competitive water and sewer fees, all the while providing the quality of services our citizens deserve.

The purpose of the letter is to alert anyone who feels that they may have signed this petition under false pretense to contact our clerk, Clara Kalman, 17 E Baltimore St Taneytown, MD 21787 or e mail (cjminnick@taneytown.org) or by phone 410-751-1100 and request their name be removed from the petition.

Sincerely,

James L McCarron, Mayor