

*** * * PUBLIC NOTICE * * ***
To All UN-CARROLL 2030 Participants
State & County

In America we assign to government, lawful processes.

These are NOT picky rules or OBSTACLES to getting things done.

The Law is written for the protection of individual liberties and for governing by decent and predictable order.

The statements of Commissioners Howard, Frazier, Wantz, and Weaver on December 23, 2014, regarding accepting any of Carroll 2030's work, give clear evidence that each of them view the lawful processes as irrelevant.

Their statements testify that they do not understand why lawful processes matter in governing, as they express why "they don't see what's wrong if Carroll 2030 is a good tool."

I ask the Public: How appropriate is it to have sitting commissioners who clearly demonstrate that they do not understand the Law's purpose?

The processes required in the Law guarantee the People a more open, representational, and participatory process, and provide the safeguards for restraining those in government from doing their own will.

The commissioners do not have the authority to bypass the Law for the sake of accomplishing higher goals, even for us. In America we assign to government, lawful processes.

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Carroll 2030 Purpose Statement

The Carroll 2030 Work Group was formed in 2012 to develop a process for and perform a needs assessment to identify long-term County needs. Working group members were asked to volunteer due to their leadership position in key areas of activity throughout the county. Members represent business, industry, agriculture, public safety, education, health and wellness, municipalities, housing, infrastructure, art, culture and recreation. Members were not picked because of any political or philosophical position they hold. Carroll 2030 was designed to be a process through which information would be gathered from individuals, businesses, public institutions and private organizations to identify future community needs and conditions. The information gathered could then be used to gauge long-term capital needs for the county and help provide a context for current policy decisions that have long-term implications.

Carroll 2030 was an individual commissioner initiative in a developmental phase, but with the full knowledge of the entire Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) by virtue of two public briefings. The Carroll 2030 Work Group possesses no authority other than to put together a process for and gather information that could be useful to the BOCC in making long-term planning decisions, and to provide the BOCC with a first draft of that information and identified needs.

The benefit of such a community needs assessment is clear. With limited resources, county officials need to effectively prioritize funding and increase communication with business and county residents. This process will help to achieve that goal.

Carroll 2030 is not a plan or a planning entity and is not charged with or attempting to create a plan. The County's Master Plan relates primarily to land use planning and is restricted by mandates from the State of Maryland.

Carroll 2030 is not a budget process. The County budget process is primarily focused on revenue predictions and negotiated outcomes within a six-year time frame, adjusted annually.

Carroll County Leadership will serve our citizens well by pursuing an information gathering process to identify long-term future needs, and presenting the findings to the new board.

Going forward, the Carroll 2030 Work Group plans to expand its work by engaging county staff and the greater community in the information gathering process. It will consider needs that have been identified and issues that have been raised. It will continue to avoid political positions or policy choice, and continue to gather information, quantify needs and identify community priorities.

The Carroll 2030 Work Group processes are open for all to see. Efforts will continue to be made to communicate its purpose and its process to all Carroll County citizens. Its next steps over the next several months will be to gather additional input from the community and to present this information to the future BOCC as a useful tool to assist in identifying and meeting demand for services that lead to the quality of life our citizens have come to expect in Carroll County.

Carroll 2030 Work Group Co-chairs,
Louis Toth, LT Engineering, Inc.
Lynn Wheeler, Carroll County Public Library

August 11, 2014