

## Richard Butler Testimony

Thank you County Executive Ball and Commission / Committee assembled for this opportunity to serve on the Charter Review Commission.

My name is Richard Butler.

My parents moved to Columbia in 1971.

I attended Running Brook Elementary (Stevens Forest didn't open until 1972?), Oakland Mills Middle and High.

Except for the 5 years at college and 3 years looking for my wife, I have resided in Columbia.

I earned my Bachelors in Chemistry from University of Maryland Eastern but spent most of time in an HR role, performing training and staffing duties for organizations looking for diverse talent in STEM. For my efforts I was made an Honorary Chief Petty Officer for the United States Navy by Vice Admiral Jeffery Fowler, while superintendent for the USNA.

For the past 15 years I have advocated for students and promoted programs that enhance a students chances of success through education.

My father and mother instilled in me the belief that the United States was the best country in the world and Columbia was the ideal city within it.

I now share this with my outreach group the Howard County Chapter of The National Society of Black Engineers. The first chapter president, My Daughter proclaimed this chapter will ALWAYS reflect the county it represents. This diverse group of Howard County residing students finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th recently in national math competitions.

I believe my experiences and continued education, under the tutelage of Dr Samuel Betances, Harvard University Professor of Urban Studies will provide me guidance to add value to the Charter review process.

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