

Commissioners-

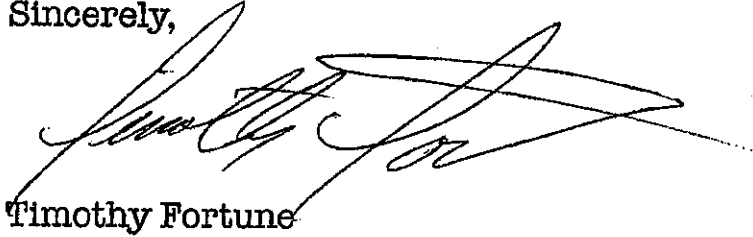
I have lived in Polk County now for almost two years. I am writing to thank you for speaking out recently to condemn violence and make clear that you will uphold the law here in our county. These are difficult days in our country and seemingly, emotions are running at all time highs. People who were friends are suddenly at odds with one another and we need to find our way back to working for each other instead of against. I applaud you for encouraging us as citizens to join together and keep Polk County a safe place filled with kindness and compassion.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr said, "The time is always right to do the right thing." Those words are a reminder for us to put forth the effort and energy necessary to do what is right. Sometimes doing what is right means we must put aside differences of opinions in order to look at the much larger picture and work together as a team so great accomplishments can be made. We are better together. The old adage "Agree to Disagree" could be practiced so enemies are not made out of others who may not see things in the same way we see them. Finding common ground is a great place to start! We all want to live in a community where neighbors are friendly, we feel safe and helping hands are plentiful.

Doing the right thing starts with us as individuals. We each must do our part to ensure we maintain a sense of unity and peace even in the

midst of uncertain and unprecedented times. Kindness goes a long way and I hope that we all search for ways to support and care for others, yes, even those who are different from us or believe differently than we do. May we all be encouraged to see the bigger picture within our community and strive to come together. Polk County will be what we choose to make it so let's choose to continue to make it an amazing place to live!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Fortune', written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Timothy Fortune

**Subject: Tryon Daily Bulletin Article Falsely Accusing GOP**

Dear Polk County Commissioners,

I would like to respond to the false accusations against the GOP members and their trip to DC. While I did not attend, I have it on good account that all was peaceful and the GOP bus was on their way home at the time of the incident.

I don't believe that any of the Democrat complainers are "afraid" of any Trump supporter. This is still a free country (barely) and everyone has the right to peacefully express their opinions. It is the leftists and their left wing, Marxists rule that demands everyone think their way or else. We all watched these past months while they burned, murdered and destroyed city after city while their Democrat mayors stood by and watched. Antifa are no Republicans or Trump supporters! So who should be afraid? We are a peaceful group as you know, no trouble in Polk County.

When I moved to Tryon twelve years ago, the welcoming Tryon sign at the entrance saying "The friendliest town in the south" always proved to be true...now I'm not so sure.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marsha Shannon

Dear Chairman Melton, County Commissioner

My wife and I purchased property in Polk County in 2013. My career allowed us to live in many areas of the country, Colorado, South Carolina, Florida and North Carolina . When retirement came we decided to locate in a place we had vacationed often and had come to love , Polk County NC.

The surroundings, towns, mountains and lakes are picturesque but that is not what drew us to retire in Polk County. We were familiar with beautiful areas in other states. There are many attractive areas people can choose to retire.

What drew us to Polk County was how we were treated by the people at Food Lion, Ingles, Southern Manners, El Campesino and the folks in the streets watching the Fourth of July, Veterans Day and Christmas parades. Everyone, those in fancy clothes, overalls, cowboy boots, barefoot , old, young, white, brown, black all seemed happy to be together, spend a moment in time together and to be a vital part of the community.

God forbid our elected officials, based on their personal politics or views, become a reason for division in this county. The only way our county will move forward is by all sides cooperating for the good of all. We have so many real needs, infrastructure, internet, our children's education . These areas will all need a unified front to overcome. These issues are not Democrat or Republican issues. They are Polk County issues.

We also have so many things to be proud of , our law enforcement, Sheriff, City and State police and our Fire departments. Our School system is the best or one of the best in the State. Great Churches, community activities, recreation possibilities, but mostly great people.

Please decide to build us up rather than tear us down. Is there not enough division every where else?

Bob Costello  
Polk County Resident.

Dear Polk County Commission,

As you know, our peaceful and lawful Polk County GOP is under slanderous and false attack by several local Democrats who are spreading lies about our recent bus trip to DC in which we exercised our First Amendment Rights of speech and Assembly. First of all, NONE of our members even went near the Capitol and except for a couple busloads of Antifa radicals dressed as conservatives, there couldn't have been a more peaceful demonstration. In fact, one of our members spoke to Capitol Police outside and they remarked that they have never seen such a peaceful group that large EVER. The Patriots there were singing the national Anthem and doing prayers for the most part.

The part that WAS illegal was when several unmarked white busloads of Antifa dressed as conservatives, but with a lot of tattoos arrived. Certain Capitol Police actually escorted them to the front of the line, took away the barriers and unlocked the Capitol doors. It was then that the conservative-dressed Antifa, which were noticeably more aggressive called out to the crowd, "lets go", and were breaking windows and coaxing in conservatives, for a set-up. What few conservatives did go in, were merely looking around like tourists and taking pictures---not violent. This has all been proven even by mainstream media with facial recognition and arrests of Antifa members. <https://gellerreport.com/2021/01/photos-reports-show-antifa-infiltrators-stormed-the-capitol-building.html/>

This entire set up was orchestrated to make conservatives look violent, to give our weak Congress-people an excuse to not fully audit the election appropriately as Sen. Ted Cruz requested. It is now also being used to persecute conservatives around the country, and to silence our First Amendment Rights. This is the cancel-culture of the liberal Marxist left.

So now we see local Democrats, with Mo Davis and Ray Gasperson in tow, being quoted in the Tryon Daily Bulletin, the Washington Post and WLOS Ch.13 in Asheville. each of the media are painting a fallacious and slanderous picture of violence and criminal activity that has already been proven. false. Obvious liberals such as Carolyn Ashburn, Carol Nothstein, Jackie Burke, Jeff Byrd, Sharon & John Carter, Libbie Johnson, Karen Dacey have also made fallacious and slanderous remarks of our GOP citizens calling them "rioters, lawless, violent, and promoting suspicion and mistrust in our community with "fists and firearms". This is totally false, but what IS most disturbing is that former Commissioner Ray Gasperson was also piling on with comments of us "attacking traditions and the Constitution.". The only problem with all this is, it is Antifa and the Marxist Left that are using raised fists, have killed people even police, and are trying to erase our Constitution. What they accuse us of is exactly what THEY did for over 6 months of rioting, looting and burning our large cities that they control. This cost over \$2 billion in damage and over 50 murders.

And so, where are ANY facts or proof of this violence from our peaceful, patriotic county? If they had anything, they should have gone to the police with evidence, not agitated you and our community with nonsense. The fact is, we are now finding out that these Democrats with their Trump-derangement syndromes can't stand that Republicans still have their Trump signs up. It is embarrassing and un-American that they think we should all give up our freedom of speech and fall in line with their Marxist agenda. We feel our Polk County Commission should at the very least speak up if you have seen any of us calling or demonstrating for violence. The record shows none and that we always observed the laws and pulled all our permits legally. And if this TRUTH, not politics are what you saw---we believe you should say so for the record. This is not about politics, but about truth---something the liberals constantly ignore for a fear-mongering political agenda. Legal action is being pursued because this is clearly slander and inciting violence in our community.

Sincerely,

Lee Emerson

Mill Spring 1/30/21

January 30, 2021

Mr. Chairman and County Commissioners,

My wife and I moved to Polk County 15 years ago and thought we had found the driveway to heaven. The county's beauty, pace of living, "small town America" qualities and an apparent life not dominated by politics, was a welcomed change. I remember watching my first few County Commissioner elections and thinking how great it was to be debating issues and not political parties. Over the years I have heard comments from leaders like Bill Miller and Aaron Green that one of the reasons we have the best school system in the state is that we have a School Board made up of great individuals who put the children first, avoiding the traps of politics that has been a driving force in many other counties. I've recently heard about how smooth the distribution of COVID19 vaccines is going, thanks to a partnership between the County Health Department, St. Luke's Hospital and Tyron International Equestrian Center. Again, cooperation driven by what makes Polk County a great place to live – diverse people living and working together towards a shared goal.

The world is changing around us. Many say it is going crazy. I have heard people say they are glad they live in Polk County, because we can determine how we want to live while the world goes crazy trying to figure that out for themselves.

To me, the key to what makes Polk County what it is, is leadership. And I am not talking about the Board of Commissioners, but the role each of us plays as leaders. Leaders are anyone whose actions influence the actions of others – parents, teachers, organization leaders, and yes, party leaders. I have had the honor of speaking to classes of teachers and students at Isothermal Community College on the subject of leadership, and the bottom line is simple – leadership is about leading. People take their cues from their leaders. One of the things I do in those classes is to pass out a button that reads "My team MIRRORS the style of its leader." The back side of that button is a mirror, encouraging everyone to recognize that they are that leader. I am sending each of you one. Leaders lead. Leaders set the example that others follow. The news is full of stories about unrest in our country. If you look closely at those news reports, they are about behaviors started by leaders attacking leaders. That's where people are taking their cues from. What ever happened to the phrase "we agree to disagree?" We used to be able to discuss issues without attacking each other. My sister and brother-in-law are polar opposites when it comes to politics, but I don't see them having food fights at the dinner table.

So come-on Polk County ... come-on residents who are in positions of influence ... let's lead by example. If there is any unrest in Polk County, it is because we set the example and encourage it. Remember, when you point your finger at someone else, you are simultaneously pointing three fingers at yourself. The bottom line ... I love you all ... the fact that we don't always agree is what helps us grow as a group. Life would be pretty boring, and stagnant, if we all agreed on everything.

Don Hofmann  
Proud Polk County Resident

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to the Dems much false info.

We all know the false and fake info they like to spread.

I want to share an incident that happened on Election to give you what they do and how they Dems start.

I was working as a voter observer at Green Creek Precinct when I went outside to get some air. As we were standing there many volunteers were there including them Commissioner Ray Gasperson and now newly elected Commissioner Andre Overholt.

Many were handing out pamphlets for candidates when a car pulled up 2 women jumped out of their car said that a guy who had a mask on looked like President Trump which he was far away according to rules from the door. They said he annoyed them. They had just arrived and did nothing but stand there. They started yelling taking pictures so several people started taking pictures back. Then the one woman got in Jake Johnson's godmothers face and spit in her face police were called and they started covering themselves up and went back to their car took off. The sheriff's deputies arrived someone showed them the pictures of the women their car and license plate number a report was filed and they told her she could press charges of assault and with covid could be a deadly weapon. I can't say whether or not what happened after she reported but the car did go past and saw the Sheriff deputies and never slowed down. The Sheriff deputies did run the plates and picture and said they were out looking for trouble. So, if anyone should be scared and afraid it should be us Patriots.

Then on Jan 6th on the trip we were harassed all day by them trying to cause trouble President Trump was late with his speech and when he finished we were walking over towards the Capitol Building which was a 40 minute walk they were yelling at us to go over there and storm the building that don't work for us I was nervous started singing they started yelling louder do I sang louder at that time Police came riding up behind on their bikes to they changed their focus onto the police yelling profanity and other things at them. We were not involved at all matter of fact we were many hours late walking miles to get to our bus. Seemed like most people (Patriots) were mostly 50-70's many in wheelchairs and walkers. We did nothing but sing pray, and show support to each other.

I am sorry so long but this is the way they do and blame us. We are not violent nor threaten them like we have been. I just pray you understand they are the ones pushing their agenda and what they do on us. I just moved here with in the last year to NC. I M am having issues understanding how this can be so misconstrued in such a beautiful city and great county.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for reading this and understanding our side. I love my Yah (God), country, fellow man and have been an independent until recently.

Blessings

Renee Smith

Green Creek ( Columbus)

Dear County commissioners,

I have lived in Polk County for over 19 years and during that time, I have served as the Polk County Republican Chairman for three terms, the President of Republican Women for ten years, The Chairman of Foothills Conservative PAC for six years, Secretary for the Republican Tenth Congressional District for two terms, and served on the Board of Directors for the Governor's Western Residence during Governor McCrory's term. I have attended all of the Polk County Republican conventions, nearly all of the District and State conventions, and have been a delegate to the National convention. It is a pretty good assumption that I have been in close contact with every kind of Republican that there is. During those 19 years, I have never, ever heard anyone so much as utter a word of violence toward another or plan to cause any harm to property. What I do hear at every single meeting is prayer – sincere, heartfelt prayer, followed by each and every person putting their hands over their hearts and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. When people come into Republican Headquarters to get information or election materials, more often than not, prayer is mentioned.

Democrats claiming "fear" because there are some Trump signs still in people's yards is the most ridiculous and paranoid thing I have ever heard. Republicans as a group, are peaceful and law-abiding. President Trump held over 600 rallies over four years with tens of thousands of people at each one and if there had been any violence or property damage, the news would surely have had it in the headlines for days. But there was not. Estimates of the crowd size in Washington D.C. on January 6<sup>th</sup> exceeds one million. It was a peaceful and lawful assembly of people who supported our President. The unruly attendees have proven to be mostly Antifa members.

Shortly after President Trump took office, Liberal women descended on Washington with their ridiculous pink hat march. Featured speakers spewed hate and violence and bragged about being "nasty women." Several participants attended from Polk County. Should I have been fearful to live here because of all the hate that was represented toward anyone supporting our President? I even saw one of those hats placed on the bronze statue of Nina Simone. Should that have made me fearful?



During the election, Trump supporters held several rallies in Polk County, all without incident. No violence, no property damage. In fact, millions of people all over the country held their own rallies with thousands participating in each car caravan and boat parade, all without violence.

I have never once heard a Republican candidate or elected official say anything that could remotely be construed as calling for aggression, violence or vandalism. Contrast that with Maxine Waters' mandate to her constituents declaring "If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them, and you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere." Or Democratic Congressional candidate, Moe Davis' tweet toward Madison Cawthorn saying, "Screw when they go low, we go high bull\*\*\*\*. When NCGOP extremists go low, we stomp their scrawny pasty necks with our heels and once you hear the sound of a crisp snap you grind your heel hard and twist it slowly side to side for good measure." One of my neighbors had a Moe Davis sign in their yard, so if anyone should have "fear" of a political position, it should have been me.

The violence and property destruction that Democrat-controlled BLM and Antifa perpetrated on American cities all summer long went without criticism from any Democrats. My fear is that violent crowd will come to Polk County, as they have said their next targets are rural areas. Now that is something to genuinely fear. I wonder how many sales of homes in Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis realtors have lost after the Democrats have had their so-called "peaceful protests." Could it be that the Democrats fear Trump signs because it might encourage Republicans to move here? People of all political perspectives are leaving the cities in droves because of the violence, egregious taxes, and government control of their lives that Democrats have imposed and are seeking more rural places to be free and call home. Hopefully, once they relocate to friendlier, more well run areas, they won't vote for the very policies that drove them out of their previous homes. In the meantime, Trump supporters have every right to put whatever sign they want on their private property.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Every  
Columbus

Good Morning Polk County Commissioners,

I am writing today to express my disgust, at the direction of some local and, for that matter, national Democrats.

It seems that the local media has jumped on board with MSM to villainize all conservatives that disagree and or outright reject their Marxists policies'.

I thought it would be important for me to let you know that I am fed up with the cancel culture movement and the fact that right here in our small county the progressives feel it is ok to slander us. I did not go on the bus with others. But did go top DC with others from around the country that I have met over the last 2 years.

Fellow Patriots that also feel we are heading down a dangerous path towards socialism.

On the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> in Freedom Square there were 15 to 20 thousand people in the cold and rain listening to clergy speak, praying and say the Pledge of Allegiance and singing our National Anthem. I love my country. I love this community.

Any stories about that here in the MSM, WLOS or TDB. Of course not.

It is important for me to mention that over this last electoral season, we have had many MAGA flag waving and Trump caravans. ALL of which were peaceful and legal. With permits when needed and police escorts when required.

WE have never been violent or criminal.

On the other hand. Thank God there are a minority here in Polk county. The progressives continuously have shouted profanity, called us Nazis, bigots, and racists. We have always responded without retaliation or like comments back. Instead, most times that we were praying for them.

I have had to take stickers off my car due to a few young men trying to run me off the road right here in Columbus. One that tried to follow me home until he realized I was leading him to the Polk County Sheriff's department.

It is they are intolerant. They that are rude, abusive, and threatening with their actions toward us as citizens.

I appreciate you letting my voice be heard and hope that as a God loving community, that we stand tall, proud, and always lawful in or civil activities and duties.

If I sound mad. Well, I am.

As a Christian I which no one harm or ill will to anyone, no matter what their believes are. But I will not be silenced by people who do not share my conservative values.

I Appreciative of Your Time and Understanding,

*Bob Maskos*

*Columbus, NC 28722*

Ms. High, I hear that the Board is in possession of a letter from the Democrats that are accusing The Republican Party being violent people while trying to exercise our First Amendment Rights. This is a false statement and slander. This is certainly false. This type of statement should not be entertained by any rational citizen or member of the Board

Thank you, Alfred Fauvell, Tryon, NC.

Please know that I am very angry at the way Democrats in Polk county are trying to slander the Republicans and accuse us of inciting violence, when it is they who are causing problems. Please pass this on to the Polk county commissioners. Linda Fauvell

Dear Polk County Commissioners:

I own a home and business in Polk County, but have never been active in local politics. After the election, I attended three meetings of the Polk County Republicans in Columbus...two before their trip to DC to support President Trump. From my careful observation of their two planning sessions, this was and is a sincere and patriotic group of fellow seniors exercising their rights as Americans; I heard not one word or suggestion of doing harm to property or persons, and am saddened that some now want to falsely characterize their intentions and actions.

It is clear from many reports and videos that the problems at the Capitol were spearheaded, before Trump even finished his speech, by the same thugs who looted and burned American cities for months with impunity. If the new administration truly wants unity, those who falsely accuse honest law-abiding citizens of violent intent or actions are achieving the opposite, and showing us all who they really are. Regardless of who is in the White House, we still have our Bill of Rights and Constitution. Mob rule and the chilling effect of falsely accusing others of crimes are not only beneath the people of Polk County, but should make for some interesting defamation lawsuits.

Harry Goodheart

Tryon, NC

Dear Polk County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to calm the fears of our fellow Polk County residents that have expressed alarm that a group of people went to Washington on January 6<sup>th</sup> and stormed the Capital. I was on the bus that left late at night on January 5<sup>th</sup>. I am not part of the Polk County GOP; although, up until that day I was a Republican. I wanted to go because I truly believe, from the data I have seen, there was enough fraud in the election to at least put a pause on the counting of electors to conduct a forensic audit of the ballots from the disputed States.

I had never met any of the people on the bus prior to that night, but I can tell you that none of them are violent people. Prior to departing we collectively prayed for our driver and for our nation. As the bus rolled over the Potomac River, we began singing America the Beautiful and our National Anthem. It was for me a very special moment. We broke up into groups of 10 or so and made our way over the Washington Monument. I never experienced one second of fear or concern from the many folks assembled around me. We had been warned that Antifa might be mixing in the crowd but if they were, they were not near us.

Our original plan was to meet the bus across the street from the Capital at 2pm to leave DC. Trump began speaking about noon and went until about 1:15 or so. Our group decided to leave about 1240 to head over to the Capital. We arrived at the Capital at about 1:05. We could not tell what was happening because the group that was trying to force their way in was quite far away, but we later found out that they were already forcing their way in before Trump had finished speaking.

As more from our group began arriving at the assembly point, our bus driver told us that he could not get near us as the streets were being blocked off. At this point we began to hear what was happening and the leader of our group began urgently gathering us together so we could get out of the area. He wanted us to get on the bus as soon as possible. It took us almost 2 hours to finally meet up with the bus. Once on the bus we were able to jump on our phones to get more details about what was happening only 6 or so blocks away.

At no point in time did anyone in our group enter the Capital Building. No one in our group wanted to storm that Capital. We are all peaceful people

that went to DC to have our grievances heard. Now we are being vilified in the press and in our wonderful community. I believe if Democrats felt as if the Republicans committed election fraud, they would also like to have their grievances heard. In fact, I remember that after Trump was inaugurated in 2017 the Democrats burned and looted business in and around DC. I do not remember Republicans in Polk County giving statements to the press how afraid they were of their fellow Democrats.

Why is there a double standard? Why are conservatives not allowed to speak? Why are conservatives told that if we claim election fraud, we are enemies of the State? Where did these fearful Polk County Residents get the idea that we stormed the Capital? Why is it the left can burn flags and that is fine and dandy, but conservatives cannot hang their flag upside down as a sign of distress?

I am very saddened by all of this, but I am a follower of Christ and I know the end of the story. We are currently living in the time that was described by Isaiah. Isaiah 5:20 tells us: Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

I hope this letter allows those fearful in our community to rest easy, I am not coming for you. It would be nice if you would give me the same assurances.

Sincerely,



Janine Antonio  
Polk County Resident

Polk Board of Commissioners,

I was born in St. Luke's Hospital in 1976 when my parents moved here to raise their family because it was safer than Richmond Va. My

Mother was raised here as well. I've lived in Boone, then Cary, Raleigh, Charlotte and then Pineville. My husband was also born and raised here. He's lived in Boone, Charleston and Greenville in addition to Charlotte and Pineville. When we were expecting our first child, we made the decision to move back here because it was a small, rural, and safe area. I've never felt safer than when living here. Many residents don't lock their doors. Parents tend to each other's children and neighbors check on neighbors. Areas like ours are becoming fewer and treasures to those who discover us. I was floored when I read the article in the Bulletin then saw the WLOS segment where residents claim they feel it's unsafe. I'm still wondering how residents feel unsafe here? Why were reports not filed? Tim Wright confirmed nothing of substance has been reported. It makes me wonder if these residents truly feel our area is unsafe why have they not reported these threats? Differences of opinion, political views, and growth concerns are nothing new to Polk. I've witnessed folks from polar opposite views band together for good many times over my life: when a nuclear plant wanted to come, when the schools consolidated, when TIEC arrived then brought the game's, when 108 was slated to be widened...residents banded together. We have more in common than different. This is a safe, tight-knit community that loves one another. I'm proud to be a resident and I'm proud to raise my four children here.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Whiteside



**To the Polk County Commissioners and Tryon Daily Bulletin**

I read the letters from the three commissioners who responded to the Tryon Daily. According to the Tryon Daily a small number of people feel "unsafe" because a handful of Trump supporters went to Washington to participate in "the riots". Let's get this straight. There were no riots. Let them name one person who has threatened them or indicated there was a direct threat. If there was any threat it was the implicit threat that they wanted to take names.(to report those on the bus to the FBI)

If anyone is under threat, those of us who voted for Trump are under threat. We hear constant calls for our reeducation, for our ostracism and for our exile from society. If there is anyone who should fear it is you(all Patriotic Americans), you )All in this room ) and you, it is anyone who voted for trump. "

A poem by Martin Niemöller

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

And make no mistake; you are at the head of the line.

And let's talk about "violence" that supposedly occurred. The most violence I saw was the murder of an unarmed woman. If you want to see riots look at the left, egged on by Biden, Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi, the list is endless. Those were riots, not the entry of a handful of trump supporters into the capital building, accompanied by the way, by at least 2 leftist organizers AND INVITED IN by the way by the Capitol Police. What occurred was an excursion by over-amped revellers, not rioters, so let's put that one to rest. Nor was there any "insurrection". The storming of the Bastille was an insurrection, not a handful of unarmed idiots. Idiots because there was no organization, no strategic necessity and no tactical planning. If it was sedition and insurrection it was about as successful as skydiving with a towel around your shoulders. And I for one am sick of the pandering. If there had been violence it would have been in the tradition of this nation. The people who entered the Capitol were resisting a far greater tyranny than the colonists. And let's get this straight:

There would be no United States without violence.

There would be no United States without insurrection.

There would be no United States without sedition.

The people who waltzed into the capital building were patriots, tactically misguided patriots, but patriots none the less.

After having our grievances rejected time and time again by the legal system our president called on us to take action to make our voices heard!! WE OBJECT!!! ...T a Democrat administration who have vowed to render the Constitution null and void!!! One of our Commissioners said we just need to focus on the 80% we agree on. What 80% would that be, Mr. Commissioner? Open borders? Giving Iran nuclear weapons? Letting men use girl's lockerrooms and women's bathrooms? Letting men destroy women's sports? Giving china the farm by rejoining the Paris Accords? Destroying small businesses? Raising the cost of gas and electricity through the roof?

**Get it straight. THERE IS NO 80% THAT "WE AGREE ON." Not even close!!**

The core message seems to be that we all just need to get along. You tell me how I am supposed to get along with the left when the Bidens, Pelosis, AOCs, the entire Democrat machine tells me I am the font of all evil and I am supposed to shut my mouth, go away and die.

You tell me how I'm supposed to get along with the left when 9 democrats, and you know they're democrats, complain they don't feel safe because a few Polk County Trump supporters exercised their 1st amendment rights.

The Supreme Court decided the police have no obligation to keep us safe and you have no obligation to undertake the impossible job of making the 9 FEEL safe. Our very existence sends them into a tailspin.

Sometimes there is no compromise. Sometimes there is no "get along".  
Sometimes you have to win or you die. And it looks like we're closer  
than ever before to dying.

**William Papke**

2-1-21

**Dear Commissioners,**

**I am writing to you all because of the comments made at last week's 1-19-21 BOC meeting. I wrote this letter on just after that meeting The Commissioner meeting last week which was reported in the TDB, has caused a lot of us great concern. I see nowhere that what was asked of the commissioners was of any business of the commissioners . I may be wrong but for the commissioners to proceed with any resolution , especially one where a certain group asks for protection from others who are their neighbors and live in the same county, should have allowed the group accused to participate. Many of us would have appreciated the opportunity to defend ourselves against the totally false accusations and slanderous lies you were told. Just what were their facts about what they described? If any. In addition I would strongly urge that Polk County Commissioners table supporting any" Resolution" until both sides and the general population is given the courtesy to have been heard. A resolution should be one that supports every citizens rights, not threatening to turn neighbors into the FBI, THEREBY FURTHERING A GREATER DIVISION among Polk County Citizens. We are on very dangerous grounds and the fact that this has occurred in Polk County is a very serious and destructive issue. Further it has come to my attention that 2 of the "terrified " accusers were interviewed on a local Television station. Is this true? I as well as others would very much like to know how this has gotten so out of control as to air unverified grievances to the general public in not only North Carolina but across the nation! This all**

**occurred while the accused were totally caught by surprise the following day. This should not be happening in Polk County NC. I would request that the entire board of Commissioners arrange to come to a special meeting that you call to address this issue to the Polk County GOP membership. This is not a letter that I plan on sharing with the "Executive Committee" as I am just a member. But I will assure you that this issue has been discussed pro length at the Polk County GOP during our informal weekly meeting .Since last week There have been numerous letters written to The TDB. I also have heard from the person who spoke to a business owner in Rutherfordton that because he too went to Washington DC on 1-6-21 to exercise his Constitution rights (while we still have them) , that there is a concentrated effort to boycott his business . He is a Roofer. People !! What are you doing? We are not the enemy . Those who stole an election and thereby preformed a COUP on our country are the enemy. Those you have elected will take away your rights too. Then what will you say? The article below explains what is happening much better than I can.**

**<https://endoftheamericandream.com/the-police-state-is-coming-for-religious-extremists-evangelical-christians-pro-life-activists-and-libertarians/>**

**Thank you for listening,**

**Mari Cartwright**

I find it most interesting that the negative disinformation that local individuals wrote against the Polk county Republicans who used their constitutional rights to support a rally with President Trump in Washington D.C. in January, rarely if ever signed their negative complaints and accusations with their true names. How very sad what is happening in our great country.

Susan Terrall

Dear Sir,

My name is Henry Adin Kauffman. I am from Rutherford county. I talked to Lee, from your county, about going on his bus to DC on the 6th. I ended up going on a bus from McDowell county as it was closer to me. Lee asked us people, who went to DC, to drop u a line to justify our exercise of free speach. I trust by now, that u realize that the vast majority of patriots who went were doing just that, and nothing more. I was 200' from the Capitol, on the West side. We couldn't see what was going on on the other side, which is where the action mostly was. We knew something was going on as we heard flash bangs and saw tear gas clouds up ahead. We were actually shocked to hear that people were inside, after we disbanded and heard the news. The thing I witnessed that mystified me, was that at a certain point the protesters and police were peacefully intermingling on the porches. It looked like a big party. In retrospect we find out that the building was breached and people were inside before we even got there and Trump finished his speech. I personally think it was all planned. I think the police either make a token resistance and then intentionally let people in or were left woefully understaffed by their superiors, in the hope that exactly what happened would happen.

Sincerely, Henry Adin Kauffman



To the Citizens of Polk County and Our Leaders:

I want to say thank you to this great group of men who faithfully and dutifully lead the way in our county. We are blessed, and I know that you have our best interests in mind when making difficult decisions. I also want to thank God for the joy to call Polk County, North Carolina our home. We take for granted where we live, who we get to enjoy community and fellowship with, and how special of a place this is. I am writing this letter not just as a local pastor who serves and ministers alongside of a great group of Polk County citizens, but I am also writing as a Christian citizen, husband, and father who really loves living here with the fine people of our community, and as one who has a deep concern for the unity, freedom, and integrity of our nation, state, and home.

We are living in the most critical of times this country has ever witnessed. People are afraid, uncertain, and unsettled in the whirlwind of politics, power, and the elongated pandemic. People are easily provoked by diverse media outlets, and they set the tone for people's responses. That, in turn, causes people to do unthinkable things – resorting to abuse, violence, fits of outrage, lying against one another, and as a result, leads to death, destruction, and more division. All of these outcomes are very unfortunate and disheartening. The tragedies that took place in Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Kenosha, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia (to name a few) are a direct result of what happens when people self-destruct. We are killing ourselves. The aftermath of all of these tragedies flow into our everyday lives here as well, and if we are not careful, prayerful, and intentional in our guard against it, we are capable of adding a chapter to the tragedy.

I am calling upon our citizens and our Polk County Board of Commissioners to love one another well during these times. We all have far more in common than we could ever imagine.

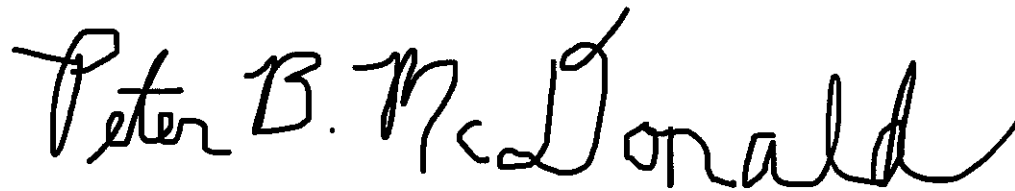
We are human beings made in the image of God. We all call Polk County our home. We work together, play together, live together, and we struggle together. We are all flawed. We all have our sins and shortcomings. None of us are perfect. We are not always going to agree on everything, but we can be respectful to one another. We can be kind. We can be gracious, forgiving, and compassionate. We can be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. We can be better to each other and for each other. Celebrate victories together, mourn when you hurt together, and encourage one another daily in your various walks of life. Set an example of unity and community and refuse to forsake that commitment.

When I was growing up, my mom used to sing a song to me titled "Oh Be Careful, Little Eyes." It was a reminder that what we see, say, do, and think are being watched all of the time by God, but also by other little eyes and hearts. My children are impacted by everything that is happening around us, and they are watching how we respond and lead them. They will also do the same. I want to be able to continue proudly sharing this wonderful community and home called Polk County, North Carolina with them. I want for them to love their home and the people that makes it such a blessing to be a part of. I realize more than ever how I must purpose in my heart to set the tone for them by being an example of Godliness and goodness before them. I am calling on you to help in that effort. At the end of the day, we are all responsible for how we respond to the challenges we face and the decisions we make. I can't make you love one another or care for another any more than you can make me. But I will choose to do my part.

When asked what will unify us, and what will bring us peace. I know of two things: Loving God and loving others. You cannot love each other right until we know and experience the love of God through Jesus Christ. I realize that's another conversation for another time, but I do believe that's what will ultimately bring us together. It is so simple yet so critical that we

come to that place today. I don't know who needs to hear this but I want you to know I still believe that God will heal our nation if we will return to Him. And when we return to Him, we will love each other well. Then, you will see the love, fellowship, joy, respect, compassion, friendship and peace that we all long to see. If we continue to fight among ourselves, we will keep losing the battle because we are fighting the wrong enemy. I am praying for us all, and you can count me in to doing my part in being a part of the solution. Let's do this together! Thank you all for your time. As always, I'm here to be of any help that you may need in our community.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "M".

Pastor Peter B. McDonald  
Senior Pastor (Midway Baptist Church)  
Columbus, NC

Good Evening,

I have lived in Polk County now over 20 years. I have put 4 Children through School System. I grew up in Spartanburg County, however, my Grandmother being from Chimney Rock and having many friends and relatives throughout the area, I was practically in Polk County every weekend and Summer. I Love this Area! I lived in Spartanburg which sadly has become more and more an unsafe area. When my home was Robbed for the second time my husband and I set our sites on Polk County. Safety for our Family was utmost concern. This wonderful unique area Welcomed me home. My children quickly adapted to the ability to walk, hike and trust. This area predominantly At that time was rural, with close neighbors and friendly smiles. That for the most part is the overwhelming charm of this area. Our local law enforcement is superb! Neighbors

that have been here , some for generations, are the bedrock of this community. Over the years I have noticed changes. Mostly of those bringing ideas into our area. Some welcomed and listed to, Some when not agreed to have become bitter and divisive. Our Wonderful area is a Safe and Blessed area. I am proud to live here. I am proud to continue to preserve the history and beauty of the area. Those who claim to feel otherwise, are some of those divisive people who have not been catered to. When instead of embracing our Love for the area they seem to strive to stir discontent. Please, as an avid supporter of our Local Elected Officials, do not allow these people to stain the reputation of our area with their cancel culture beliefs. If we continue to give inches on their ever changing feelings list, we will lose miles of our heritage and freedoms!

Thank you

Melanie B Jennings

My husband and I were fortunate to explore our freedom of choice this fall participating with the Polk County GOP re-election efforts for Trump. It was eye opening and gave us our own perspective of politics at all levels of the ticket.

The activities we participated in gave us inspiration and hope that there was a quieter majority that saw our country in a very different light than what appeared to be the mainstream.

In caravans we witnessed the good, bad, and ugly. We were subjected to the response of the FINGER by I assumed our opposition. Some just ignored us and many cheered.

Our county has been hijacked by the media using people on the other side. We never get the same time to hear our side.

Anger by these people are their unrest and jealousy coming out.

Take a look at who makes up both parties. Their resumes of their lives reflects what they really stand for.

MJ and ED Foster

Rev. Todd Fletcher, Beulah Baptist Church  
140 Beulah Church Ln.  
Tryon, NC 28782  
February 1, 2021

Polk County Board of Commissioners

Re: Call for Unity

Dear Board of Commissioners:

I would like to begin by thanking you for your dedicated service to Polk County and the level-headedness with which you have led during these trying times. While many government leaders elsewhere have been quick to make knee-jerk decisions in their efforts to curb the spread of the virus we are currently battling, you, along with our other local leaders have made every effort to make sound decisions that are within your constitutional constraints. For that I commend you.

Unfortunately, as the result of extended lockdowns, quarantines, economic instability and a volatile election season, our nation is currently as divided as many of us have ever seen it. There seems to be no end to the vitriol that is being quite literally shouted from every direction. Yet, even in the midst of this you have been faithful to allow residents to air their grievances publicly through the reading of comments during your meetings; even when those comments are directed at you. Again, this is commendable and I know county residents are thankful that their voices are being heard in our local government.

For the sake of peace and unity I have two simple requests. First, that these comments be limited to Polk County residents only. For example, in the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting an individual who lives in another state wrote in and had their comments read aloud during the commissioners meeting. Whether one agrees with their caustic comments or not, individuals living outside of Polk County should not have grievances aired in a public forum; especially when they only lead to more hatred and division. Second, I request that as we move forward, we all (citizens and officials alike) seek to measure our words and actions against the authority of God's Word which says in Ephesians 4:25-32, "Therefore, putting away lying, '*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*' for we are members of one another. '*Be angry, and do not sin*': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

With your leadership, and God's help we will make it through this present turmoil stronger and more unified than ever. Again, I thank you for your service. May God bless Polk County and these United States of America.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Todd Fletcher