



Local Roots, Global Reach

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

July 29, 2014

The Honorable Richard L. Morris
Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 128
Carrollton, VA 23314

Dear Delegate Morris:

Thank you for your correspondence, dated July 14, 2014. Your request for the Board of Supervisors to consider reversing the Fair Committee's prohibition on political booths at the County Fair was referred back to the Fair Committee which is charged, by the Board of Supervisors, with oversight and decision-making authority relative to County Fair operations.

At the Fair Committee's meeting of July 28, 2014, the Fair Committee agreed to allow CASA Southeast, Voices for Kids ("CASA"), to acquire space at the County Fair to accommodate a dunking tank in order to raise funds for the organization. This decision, however, does not change the Fair Committee's prohibition on political booths at the County Fair. As such, your request to distribute political materials at the CASA dunking tank is not appropriate, as that would violate the spirit of the prohibition on political booths and grant you a special privilege not afforded to other political parties or candidates.

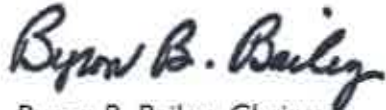
It is the Fair Committee's position, based upon legal advice, that your assertion that the prohibition of political booths at the County Fair is a violation of your constitutional right to free speech is unfounded. The prohibition on political booths at the County Fair is not based on the content of speech expressed nor does it prohibit you, or anyone, from providing such information by alternative means. Rather, the prohibition is based upon complaints received from commercial vendors and County Fair patrons.

Specifically, the Fair Committee has received numerous complaints over the past few years from commercial vendors who had previously been placed next to political booths. Those vendors experienced losses in revenue as a result of fair patrons going out of their way to avoid the political booths. In addition, Fair Committee volunteers have also experienced issues with political booths setting up signs beyond their allotted space. Further, complaints were received

from fair patrons complaining that they felt harassed, annoyed and/or intimidated by those manning the political booths. It was for these reasons the decision was made to not allow political booths at the County Fair.

Should CASA remain interested in applying for space at the County Fair for a dunking tank to raise funds for the organization without the distribution of political materials, please feel free to contact the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Mark Furlo, at (757) 357-2291.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron B. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Byron B. Bailey, Chairman
Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors

cc. Members of the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors
Anne Seward, County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
The Isle of Wight County Fair Committee
Mark Furlo, Director, Parks and Recreation