

November 20, 2025

Dear Senator Perry,

Thank you for your letter and for your engagement with the concerns of our community. I share your belief that ethical conduct, responsible governance, and trust in public institutions are essential to Purcellville's wellbeing. For that reason, I feel it is important to clarify the current situation and respond to several assertions that have created confusion and prompted disruptions and unfounded accusations during Council meetings.

First and foremost, there is no corruption within the Town Council majority occurring within the Town of Purcellville. The decisions made by the majority of this Town Council—decisions that some have characterized as misconduct—are in fact the result of transparent public votes, fully within the authority granted to local government under Virginia law. These decisions reflect what we have heard consistently from the people of Purcellville. We ran on a platform that included slow, thoughtful growth, and a commitment to improving the way town services are delivered.

In recent months, the Council majority has:

- Voted against an annexation proposal that the majority of residents strongly opposed.
- Lowered utility rates and reduced real estate taxes to provide financial relief to families and businesses.
- Passed a zoning ordinance aligned with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, ensuring responsible growth that respects Purcellville's character and long-term vision of its citizens.

These actions may be unpopular with some developers and special interests, but they are not unethical. They are policy choices—made publicly, after debate, and in accordance with the law.

Unfortunately, the court system is now being weaponized against the Town and its elected leadership in an effort to overturn these lawful policy decisions. These actions have created confusion and conflict, and they have placed an unnecessary burden on the very institutions that are meant to protect our democratic process.

Additionally, a small but highly vocal group—typically 15 to 25 individuals—has been encouraged to create disruption at public meetings and online. These disruptions are not rooted in substantive policy disagreements, nor do they contribute to solutions. Instead, they have fueled a narrative of chaos that does not reflect the work this Council is doing on behalf of residents.

Purcellville deserves a fair and accurate depiction of its local government. I welcome oversight, transparency, and dialogue with our state partners, and I remain committed to working collaboratively with you and others in Richmond to strengthen confidence in our institutions.

But I respectfully disagree with the characterization that Purcellville is experiencing corruption or a systemic breakdown of governance. Our challenges are not the result of malfeasance—they are the product of strong policy differences and the pushback that often follows when long-standing practices are changed.

My responsibility as Mayor is to continue serving the people of Purcellville with integrity, honesty, and transparency. I will always defend the right of our residents to be accurately informed and fairly represented. I appreciate the engagement of everyone who has reached out, and I encourage continued communication from all members of our community.

Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to respond. I look forward to meeting with you in person to discuss the other side of this situation, which has been shaped by political motivations rather than an accurate account of the Council's actions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bertaut
Mayor, Town of Purcellville