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Open Forum: More pointless political posturing from Frederick supervisors

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Sadly, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is at it again: taking pointless actions that do nothing to improve life here in Frederick County. The BOS is wasting our time and tax dollars. The BOS recently spoke of a possible resolution that would differentiate Frederick County from the State of Virginia – as a “constitutional sanctuary” county. A cited cause for the “constitutional sanctuary” is what the BOS characterized as overly restrictive state actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A sanctuary city or county is a term without legal definition but generally means a locality that limits cooperation with specific state or federal activities. A “constitutional sanctuary” county is a broad characterization undefined in its relationship to the Virginia state constitution and/or the United States Constitution.

Actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic have been consistent with scientific, public health, and medical guidelines as identified by the World Health Organization, and national, state, and county health and medical authorities. Despite BOS rhetoric, these public health and medical authorities are not “tyrants out of Richmond.”

Actions to prevent, reduce, treat, and fight the spread and infection of COVID-19 have involved individual/household level measures, societal-level measures, and travel measures, the development and use of antivirals and other pharmaceuticals, hospitalization, and, now, happily vaccines.

There has been economic disruption — not surprising with approximately 597,000 pandemic-related deaths nationwide, approximately 11,300 deaths in Virginia, and over 400 deaths of Frederick County/Lord Fairfax Health District citizens. The BOS did not address federal and state legislation to aid individuals and businesses, nor did the BOS proactively address actions to ensure Frederick County receives and benefits from that economic aid.

The BOS comments are incendiary, a political response to the cited small-business constituency within the county (re: Small Business Freedom Alliance), and without merit, as was the comment at the June 9, 2021 BOS board meeting that the BOS wants “to protect us from unchecked government overreach at any time for seemingly any reason.”

Rather than engaging in pointless political posturing and turning BOS meetings into Republican Committee planning sessions, the BOS needs to address the many practical issues facing all residents of Frederick County. I hope the BOS will do so soon.

Catherine Giovannoni is a resident of Lake Frederick.