

8May2017 addressing Macon County Commission

Good evening chair, commissioners, and citizens in the audience.

I come before you this evening not to take something from a small segment of our county, but to **OPPOSE** the taking of something from the majority of citizens in this county as provided by HB596. This bill will give 8 of our 9 county elected public servants \$4,800 or \$38,400 a year, for “salary” and “may be treated as compensation for retirement benefits...”.

Therefore, this county expense is unrestricted in its use.

Imagine for a second the many ways this \$384,000 over 10 years would benefit this county, which often declared as “broke” or “financially stressed” by the chair.

All of our county elected public servants knew their salary when running for office and all positions are occupied by volunteers to serve the public. All of these 8 persons know, or should know, their salaries are **GREATER** than the average working person’s income in our county, upwards to **over** 5 times.

Which begs the questions, why the need for greater salary/benefits and why not on December’s ballot.

The concern of many in our county is this \$38,400 expense is into infinity, regardless of who occupies these 8 offices.

As far as I know, it \$38,400 annual county expenditure was never openly discussed with the citizens of this county. Was it? **PAUSE** I will take your lack of response as “No.”

This bill is one of the reasons why citizens distrust their public servants.

At some time the county will need the replacement of this money and more taxation will ensue.

Should this local legislation pass which of you, by show of hands, will reject this allowance?

Permit to repeat this question, **Should this local legislation pass which of you, by show of hands, will reject this allowance?**

Thank you,

My note following my presentation, the five commissioners could not have been more passive other than some stern looks on their faces choosing not to reply to my two questions, one asked twice.