Welcome, LeQuan. Thank you for your service in the military. We have met with the other four supervisors and look forward to meeting with you soon.

My name is Thomas Kierl, and I stand for Chesterfield Citizens for Responsible Government. Our mission is simple: full transparency in county operations and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Tonight, I am addressing transparency, where the county continues to fall short in several critical areas.

Let us discuss the facts. The following are clear examples of major transparency failures:

• June Google Incentive Vote – The 30-year tax incentive for Google was **placed on the agenda only six days before the vote, and the public was given no opportunity to comment**. I arrived to speak on the issue but was shut down by County Attorney Mincks. **A financial commitment of this size, made on behalf of taxpayers, should never be handled with such limited notice and ZERO CITIZEN INPUT.** This was egregious and indefensible, yet the Board of Supervisors allowed it to happen. Is this good governance? No.

• County Public Relations Practices – County publications routinely highlight positive stories while excluding major financial decisions. **There was no mention of the 40-year tax break for Shamin Hotels or the 30-year incentive for Google.** Withholding significant taxpayer giveaways from public communications undermines the credibility of the county's transparency claims. Is this good governance? No.

• Zoning Modernization (ZoMod) – At a public meeting this past summer, **Mark Miller**, you stated you did not fully understand ZoMod and hired an attorney to review it. After the vote, neither the attorney's name nor the review findings were shared, despite direct requests. **When elected officials rely on outside analysis to make decisions, that information should be available to the public.** Is this good governance? No.

• Supplemental Retirement Plans – Our FOIA request about the taxpayer cost of supplemental retirement plans for the county's two highest-paid employees, Joe Casey and Garret Hart, was denied — which state law allows. However, if county leadership truly prioritizes transparency, this information should be released voluntarily. **A legal exemption should not be used as a shield to avoid public scrutiny.** Is this good governance? No.

• Economic Development Disclosures – It took more than eighteen months and repeated pressure to obtain basic financial details on major EDA projects. **There is still no consistent explanation of whether ROI or payback analysis is used to evaluate projects**. Taxpayers deserve clear, uniform standards and prompt disclosure on how these major commitments are justified. **The taxpayers deserve better than stonewalling and threats. You owe taxpayers proof of the return on the significant public funds committed to EDA projects**. Joe Casey, you told me almost two years ago that you do not perform ROI. We now have enough information to understand why you made that statement. There is no ROI. Is this good governance? No.

To be fair, the county has taken some steps forward, such as creating the Financial Transparency website, but these examples show there is a long way to go. We need transparency practiced fully, not selectively, and not only when convenient.

We are asking for measurable, genuine improvements. Not statements, but actions. You owe this to the citizens and taxpayers of Chesterfield. All of you are responsible to the taxpayers. We will not let you forget.

Thank you.