

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Robert Ray. I have been serving as one of the Chief Judges at various polling places in Annapolis since 2008.

During the most recent election during Early Voting, we had an incident at the Pip Moyer site where an individual appeared at the door with a body mounted camera as well as a handheld one. He was blocking the doorway as he was attempting to film the proceedings going on in the polling place. I approached and tried to have him move out of the voter's way. He refused so I called the Annapolis City police.

As we were waiting for them to respond, several other election workers and one employee of the Anne Arundel Board of Elections came out to assist with the situation. A confrontation developed when the Board employee attempted to push the camera away from his face. Both individuals fell to the ground and the camera man hit his head against the wall.

All the incident was recorded and subsequently appeared on his Web site with a false claim that 4 Election workers had jumped him and beat him up. He included the Board employee name as well mine identified as "Bob Bray". He attempted to file charges, but the States Attorney refused to proceed.

His web site has a fairly large following and the story of the incident started to appear everywhere to include the local newspaper. I received numerous calls asking why 4 of us had beat this guy up.

Situations like this make people think twice about serving.