



August 14, 2017

The Honorable Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council President
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Berliner: RE: Bill 23-17-Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc., I am writing to express our collective concern regarding the content in Bill 23-17, Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations. We strongly oppose Bill 23-17 as presently written.

We believe that this bill has unintended consequences that have an on-farm and off-farm impact that will seriously harm the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair as well as our agricultural community.

We respectfully request that you appoint a work group consisting of those organizations listed below to discuss the merits of Bill 23-17. The first meeting of the work group would best be scheduled after the November harvest season has ended, with Public Safety Committee and Council action to occur after this group has sent you their report.

Your favorable response to this request will enable us to focus on the Fair, and allow the agricultural community to get through its busiest time of the year. It is important that we have the time to formulate a response representative of our collective thoughts on this critically important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Ryba, President
Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc.

Michele Cropp, President
Montgomery County Farm Bureau

William F. Willard, Chair
Montgomery Ag. Producers

Doug Lechlides
Mont. Co. Ag. Advisory Council

Cc: Montgomery County Council Members
Jim Clifford, Esquire MC Agricultural Center, Inc.