

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing you as a resident of Montgomery county to let you know that I strongly oppose bill 21-22. I've lived here in Montgomery county for over 20 years now, I've seen the area go through lots of changes some good, some bad. Over the years, crime in the area is slowly getting worse and worse, from shootings happening less than a mile away from me, to muggings and armed assaults'. While I appreciate your efforts to try keep citizens safe, all this bill is doing is sending a message to criminals that the county is leaving its citizens defenseless. Stripping your law abiding citizens rights to protect themselves even when they've gone through the training, the background checks showing that the police approve of them to conceal a weapon is not a well thought out idea.

Someone that conceal carry's a firearm should be of sound mind and an upstanding citizen, there are checks and balances in place to restrict who can and cannot own and even conceal carry a firearm already in place. Thorough training is required, background checks are in place police have references to double check people who are applying. These should be more than enough. This is not going to be the wild west with people carrying a weapon exposed on their hip, These are going to be law abiding citizens, concealing a weapon, knowing it's a last line of defense incase something were to happen. With crimes going up, police response time going up, its not enough to solely rely on the police. I've had friends be victims of violent hate crimes, I've been in a situation where there was an attempted murder and was run to for help, in those 8-9 minutes of waiting for police to hopefully respond can often mean life or death for some.

I urge you to reconsider going through with this bill. Criminals will never listen to the letter of the law. Criminals see gun free zones as easy targets. Allowing your citizens the option to carry with a concealed carry permit is a deterrent in itself. Criminals may think twice, and move along not knowing who may or may not be able to defend themselves. Freedom is a two way street. Its often said ignorance of the law does not make you innocent. I've seen a lot of arguments that people should not have to worry who around them may or may not legally be carrying a weapon, well, ignorance of the law on their part does not make me a criminal. There have been a large number of situations where legal residents carrying a concealed firearm have kept horrible things from happening. A perfect example of this would be what just happened in Indiana. A mall where a "gun free zone" was in place 2 people broke that rule, one with the intent to cause harm to as many as he could, the other, a citizen with a concealed carry permit and a firearm out of sight. That citizen was able to save countless lives that day due to his training and fast thinking. While that is an extreme example it's also a realistic one.

In closing. Please reconsider passing this. I appreciate your attempts to make this county a "safer" place, but this will not accomplish it and will only hurt its citizens, and possibly even turn perfectly law abiding citizens into criminals just by wanting to legally protect themselves by carrying WITH a permit that has been issues by the police.

Thank you for your time,

Luke Roetman.