

Testimony for the Montgomery County Council

July 26, 2022

Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly

FAVORABLE

To Council President Albornoz and members of the Public Safety Committee,

I am Peter Benjamin, a former mayor of the Town of Garrett Park. I am submitting written testimony in support of Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly.

I agree with the legislation proposed and respectfully suggest two additions:

1. Include within the definition of places of public assembly all modes of public transportation, including vehicles and facilities as well as school buses.
2. I believe that New York, in its action in response to the Bruen decision, dealt with weapons carried into private business. I would propose a similar provision that would ban weapons in all places of business, including stores, offices, and service facilities unless the owner or operator chooses to allow weapons in its place of business, in which case the exemption must be posted prominently and publicly at all entrances.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Benjamin