

On Monday, July 11th, County Council President Gabe Albornoz introduced Bill 21-22, to remove the exemption for W&C permit holders from the county's ban on possessing firearms "in or within 100 yards of a place of public assembly," which includes parks and churches, banning carry in those places. I oppose this bill as an infringement on our residents' recently affirmed constitutional rights as issued by the US Supreme Court(i.e., Bruen case).

The bill provides no requirement for the county to clearly mark which of these areas are to be "gun-free zones," which will result in confusion among law-abiding citizens who are permit holders.

The legislation also makes no mention of whether the county intends to guarantee the safety of disarmed citizens in those places with measures, such as metal detectors or police presence. Gun free zone declarations are soft targets for criminals and those intent on wrecking havoc. |

Also, this proposed bill like many of the Democratic Party and left wing gun control policies of extreme gun control over the years have and will not work given high crime and murder rates in many Maryland cities and towns – not be law abiding gun owners but by criminals and unstable persons.

This proposed bill will not improve safety of our citizens. Armed criminals, who already illegally carry without any permits and illegally possess firearms in violation of state and federal laws, will likely ignore the arbitrary boundaries created by this ordinance.

This bill would create more targets of opportunity for criminals and prevent responsible law abiding citizens from their right of self-defense. Recent mall shooter in Indiana was terminated by a law abiding citizen with a legal carry permit, saving untold additional lives. Good people carrying self-defense capabilities are far more effective at deterring crime and reducing crazed mayhem than any police presence can do. I urge the council to vote No on Bill 21-22 to keep Montgomery County safer than if it was passed into law. If the Council approves this measure then the Council needs to address the safety of unarmed citizens in these gun free zones and take measure to ensure access to these "gun free zones" provides control points to ensure the safety of us.