

July 15, 2022

Montgomery County Council
Legislative Branch
Bill 21-22

Gentlemen, I would respectfully vote against this bill. I have lived in Burtonsville, Maryland for 16 years. I have seen an alarming rise in crime in this area, especially over the last 4 years. This past week on July 10th, 2022 there was a shooting just down the street from my house at the Briggs Chaney Market place. Over 60 shots were fired and one innocent bystander was wounded by gunfire. This shooting happened within 2 hours of a STRING of robberies in down town Silver Spring. Bill 21-22 would prevent law abiding citizens from protecting themselves and their families and would do NOTHING to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms and committing violence. I understand law makers are desperate to solve gun violence but these laws don't affect criminals. There are so many guns in this country, barring the banning of ALL guns, we need to be smarter with possible solutions. Energy would be better spent on training and vetting of carry applicants. Examining credentials and references for carry applicants would go a long way to keeping us all safe.

Why do citizens need carry rights :

Unfortunately, there is a response time for police response. There are occasions when a citizen will not have time to call and wait for the police. If I'm walking and attacked by dogs I will not be able to call the police for help. If I'm walking and a robber threatens me with a knife, I will not have the luxury of calling the police. Last year I called the police to report a trespasser on my property. It took 40 minutes for the police to show up.

Respectfully,

John Murphy

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I would respectfully vote against this bill. Here are two examples why I feel this way.

On July 17, 2022 a gunman walked in to the food court of Greenwood Park Mall in Indiana. Shot and killed 3 innocent bystanders and wounded another 3. Elishjah Dicken, a 22 year old legally carrying, killed the gunman and was declared by local police and the Mayor a Hero who saved countless lives. YOUR bill would have prevented this intervention. WHERE WERE THE POLICE ???
WHERE WERE THE POLICE IN UVALDE ???

Closer to home in MONTGOMERY COUNTY yesterday, Wednesday July 20th at 1pm an elderly man out for a walk was attacked by a pit bull in Silver Spring. The owners had trouble stopping the attack even hitting the dog with their car. The victim is in the hospital. How many times does this happen ?? Google how many people are attacked by dogs every year. More than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs in the USA each year. Many victims are killed.

I am elderly and walk every day in Burtonsville. I have been chased by stray dogs twice. You want to make Montgomery County safer ? How about banning pit bulls ? A breed known for vicious unprovoked attacks.

My house is close to 2 schools, a church, and the Burtonsville Library. No matter which direction I choose to walk I will be walking past one of these "Places of Public Assembly".

Every time I walk I fear being attacked by dogs. I am completely defenseless thanks to your carry laws.

John Murphy