

Simeon Pollock

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you as President of the Montgomery County Council, to ask the council through you, to please reconsider passing the ill advised bill 21-22 - Expedited Bill 21-22, Weapons – Firearms In or Near Places of Public Assembly.

Not only is this bill illegal following the Supreme Court's ruling in Bruen, it will only make criminals of otherwise law abiding citizens. It tries to superseded Maryland State law as well as tell the Maryland State Police (MSP) that it does not know how to vett and process Concealed Carry Permits.

The State of Maryland, through the MSP, already has in place an age limit - 21, a thorough vetting process for anyone wanting a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW). There are classes required for an HQL, more class time & testing for a CCW. This state process allows concealed handguns to be in the hands of responsible adults.

The bill before the council will only serve to make vetted, trained, responsible adults into criminals in MoCo. Why do that? The criminals who will attack the public won't follow this law. So what purpose does it serve? It will only put a burden on law abiding citizens.

As a religious Jew who makes his home in the USA & in Montgomery County, I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the rise in anti-semitism, plain old Jew hatred that is on display in this country and recently in our county, in the heavily Jewish neighborhood of Kemp Mill. I want to be able to fight back should anyone come and try to kill Jews just for being Jews and congregating in a synagogue. *Never Again*, means that we won't be attacked & slaughtered without fighting back.

In Israel where guns of all kinds are common place, it's usually a private citizen that stops an attack before the police or army can respond. That can be here as well.

In many cases where synagogues were attacked in America, trained & armed congregants may have ended the attacks easily as most attackers are not trained in any way to use firearms if they are fired upon or face an armed citizen. Even in schools across the country, students & teachers are dying because no one is trained & armed to confront the attacker. They are forced to wait for the police who will hopefully come & stop the attack.

Concealed guns grant the element of surprise to any would be attacker & just the knowledge that citizens may be trained & armed may prevent a future attack.

Please don't pass this legislation & make life for law abiding citizens more difficult.

Sincerely,

Simeon Pollock