

**Vincent C. McGinnis**

July 18, 2022

Dear Montgomery County Council,

**RE: Bill 21-22**

Montgomery County Bill 21-22 as written could restrict law-abiding citizens with a Maryland issued "wear and carry" permit from exercising their right, if they live "within 100 yards of a place of public assembly". My issue with that is, I live between 1 to 2 blocks from Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) and cannot avoid the high school. This law could nullify my right to bring a firearm outside my house; let alone carry one for personal protection, because of living in such close proximity to SVHS.

Background: I moved into the 'Olde Seneca Woods' development 35 years ago. I am 62 year old and I enjoy the convenient location and walking as much as possible. I walk to the FNB ATM on the corner of Crystal Rock Drive/118. I walk to the grocery store, the Post Office, the dry cleaners, and really anywhere I can. All this helps me get exercise and reduces dependence on my car. Though I love this location for all its convenience, I try to walk during the day; and not too late at night. That's because my house is located in the Crystal Rock Drive area (near The Hampton Apartments) and is one of the worst crime areas in Germantown. Just ask any Montgomery County Police Officer who has worked in Germantown. For this and other reasons, I applied for a Maryland State issued wear and carry permit.

Bill 21-22 as currently written could nullify my right to bring a firearm outside my house; let alone carrying one for protection; because I live in such close proximity to SVHS. This would gut the intent of recent change in the law for me and others who live so close to designated gun-free zones.

Thanks for listening my concern. I hope you can address this issue in the bill before its voted on.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

*Vincent C. McGinnis*