



September 12, 2023

The Honorable Evan Glass
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear President Glass and Councilmembers:

Re: Support for Business Community's Inclusion in Community Advisory Commission as Proposed in Bill 32-23, *Policing Advisory Commission - Amendments*

On behalf of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce (GSSCC), the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC), and the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Bill 32-23, *Policing Advisory Commission - Amendments*. Bill 32-23 proposes to rename the existing Policing Advisory Commission to be the Community Advisory Commission on Public Safety and amend the law regarding appointment of members and scope of the Commission.

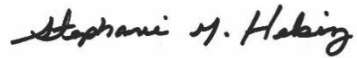
One of the specific changes proposed by Bill 32-23 is to require representation from business owners on the Commission. **Our joint Chambers strongly support the bill's proposed language that says the Commission includes representation from business owners or business organizations, while maintaining its emphasis on members who represent the County's diversity, geographic areas, and those disproportionately impacted by inequities.**

Our Chambers contend that public safety is a pivotal issue for all of Montgomery County's businesses. Local commerce is severely hindered if businesses, employees, and customers do not feel safe. The Chambers have long worked closely with our first responder community to ensure collaboration and sharing of information as part of this ongoing effort.


For these reasons, we were disappointed to see the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) recommend the removal of the business community as members of the Commission. Our Chambers ask the County

Council to reject OLO's recommendation and keep Bill 33-23's addition of the business community as part of the reconstituted Community Advisory Commission on Public Safety.

As always, our Chambers stand ready to work with the County Council on this and other important issues impacting the business community in Montgomery County.



Stephanie Helsing
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Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce



Paula Ross
President & CEO
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce



Allie Williams
President & CEO
Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce