



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 Bill 32-23, *Policing Advisory Commission – Amendments* and the Business Community’s Inclusion in the Proposed Community Advisory Commission on Public Safety

On behalf of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), 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 33-23 is to require increased representation on the Commission from a broader stakeholder group, including business owners. MCCC supports this change and asks the County Council to approve this provision while maintaining efforts to represent the County’s diversity.

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

MCCC applauds the bill sponsor’s understanding that public safety is part of the equation for employers and employees to thrive in Montgomery County. Part of this effort involves collaboration and input from the business community on matters concerning public safety.

For these reasons, we were disappointed to see that the Office of Legislative Oversight’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement recommended the removal of the business community as members of the Commission. MCCC asks the County Council to reject this recommendation and keep the addition of the business community’s voice as part of the reconstituted Community Advisory Commission on Public Safety.

As always, MCCC looks forward to working with the County Council on this and other important issues.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette “Gigi” Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce