

Hello Members of the County Council

I am writing to you to express my opposition to Bil 32-23, which would make numerous changes to the current Police Advisory Commission process, but there are a few I want to focus on in particular.

- The elevation of the Police Chief and Fraternal Order of Police representatives from non-voting advisory members to full voting members.
- The inclusion of homeowners associations and common ownership communities to the PAC.
- The elimination of seats for youth members

I understand the desire to support law enforcement, and broadly speaking that is laudable goal. Police are and will remain an important part of public safety. I imagine that some of this is also to combat the very real problems of morale and recruitment, but there are better solutions for that (the recent recruitment bonuses for example), than this bill, which I fear would fundamentally undermine a needed accountability tool.

I do not need to tell you the instances of police misconduct, both nationally and locally, in the past. It can be and I believe is simultaneously true that most cops are good cops, some cops are bad cops, and even good cops need to be held accountable sometimes.

As for homeowners associations and common ownership communities, I can speak first hand from experience on other issues just how unrepresentative of the communities they claim to represent they are. I say this as a member of an HOA. Their input represents a narrow, relatively privileged subset of society, and should not be catered to above that of the general population. They are often treated as a proxy for the “view of the community” and they just are not a good proxy for that and never will be.

The current commission works better than it would under this reform, I respectfully urge the council to reject the bill.

Thank you,

Michael English

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.