

Dear Montgomery County Council,

I am a long time resident of Montgomery County. For nearly twenty years, I raised three of my children in this County, taught at our public schools, dined at our restaurants, visited our museums and parks, exercised in our gyms, and enjoyed all that Montgomery County has to offer. I am both deeply saddened and troubled by the fact that the Montgomery County Council is considering to close off so much of public life to unvaccinated Montgomery County residents. Passing the "Resolution to adopt a Board of Health Regulation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the County-- Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Recreation Centers, and other Covered Establishments the Board of Health" will impose the unlawful and immoral segregation between the vaccinated and unvaccinated in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution. It is, indeed, the modern-day Jim Crow. As such, the harm that this measure will cause to our county if you choose as a body to act beyond your bounds is immeasurable. You will divide families and communities by pitting the vaccinated and the unvaccinated against each other. I think of the recent video of a family celebrating a child's birthday in a New York pizza shop being directed out of the establishment by policemen for not being vaccinated. I do not want my neighbors to experience this level of pain and shock of being excluded from public life because they choose to exercise bodily autonomy for themselves and their children, or because they are not able to receive this particular vaccination. It is unjust. You will see more and more people move out of this County or take their business out of the County if you pass this measure, as many do not have any desire to live in a county who would purposely seek to isolate members of our own community. You may say, "good riddance." I will only hang my head in sadness as I see the County I once loved vote to push our beloved community members to the margins of society. The immorality of this Resolution against the unvaccinated is profound and shameful.

I pray that God brings understanding, lucidity, and justice to your heart.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Diaz