

Testimony of George E. Simms III against MC COVID resolution
Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Good Morning. My name is George E. Simms III.
I am offering this testimony as an individual in my individual capacity.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my perspective.
Thank all of you for your dedication, your hard work for the county and for all of your efforts to improve the lives of the residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

I have three reasons for my opposition to this resolution.
Let me first say that I am in favor of the COVID vaccinations.
I am vaccinated twice against COVID and I have received the COVID booster shot.

First, my opposition is based on the rapidity of this resolution. We the people of the county have not had sufficient time to consider this matter.
This resolution was introduced last week on Tuesday, Jan. 11. The hearing is today four business days later and if the resolution passes, it will be implemented on this coming Friday at 12: 01am.
Our constitution says that we the people, ought to have an opportunity to participate in our government. This resolution is happening too fast for that meaningful participation to occur.

Second, this resolution does not offer an opportunity for people who have not received the vaccination but who have negative COVID tests to enter covered establishments. Many people who have not chosen to be vaccinated but they are COVID tested weekly. These people are in reality, COVID negative and they have a weekly negative COVID test to prove that they are COVID negative. Yet, under this law, as written, these persons may not enter a “covered establishment”.

Third, many businesses are struggling to survive in this COVID era. According to this resolution, a covered establishment may not permit a guest to enter unless that guest displays proof of a COVID vaccination. How can a business guarantee compliance with this law? Do they need to hire an extra person to staff the doors to ensure compliance? Do they need to hire an extra person to walk the floor of the business to ensure that all seated guests have displayed the proper documentation?

This resolution is seeking to impose too much government power into the daily lives of our residents and for these reasons I think it is a bad idea.

Thank you for this opportunity.

George E. Simms III