

Testimony on Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants,
Recreation Centers, and Other Covered Establishments

January 24, 2022

Dear Montgomery County Council,

The United States of America is founded on principles of freedom and liberty. Mandating vaccine “passports” in Montgomery County is unconstitutional and will result in segregation of and discrimination against your constituents. Allowing only vaccinated customers and visitors at restaurants, movie theaters, entertainment venues, etc. will NOT stop the spread of COVID-19, as the vaccines are NOT effective at preventing transmission of the virus, according to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky (Sykes, 2022). Highly vaccinated Israel, for instance, despite having the "Green Pass Policy" effective for over a year is leading the world in new daily COVID-19 cases per capita, based on January 20, 2022 data (The Times of Israel, 2022). Similarly, California and New York with mandated vaccine “passports” are among the states with the highest new daily cases per capita in the country. Einstein once stated that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different result. Council members, how can you possibly expect from mandating vaccine “passports” anything other than failure? What are your objectives?

While benefits of the proposed vaccine “passports” are unclear, the damage they will cause to individuals, communities, small businesses, and Montgomery County’s economy is overwhelming. As of January 24th, 2022, 22.43% of Montgomery County residents have not been fully vaccinated (Burlington Free Press, 2022). Discriminating against these people and excluding them from the local economy will be detrimental to Montgomery County’s financial wellbeing and morale. Vaccine “passports” will encourage spending money outside of the county and moving to more inclusive areas rather than promote higher vaccination rates. Decline in sales generated by local businesses will be imminent, and some businesses will shut down or leave Montgomery County as a result. Consequently, the county’s tax revenues will drop, and the services provided by the county to its communities will deteriorate affecting ALL residents. Your constituents are asking you not to get wrapped up in politics of COVID-19 that have become more dangerous than the virus itself and vote AGAINST the vaccination requirements to enter bars, restaurants, recreation centers, and other covered establishments being mandated in Montgomery County in any way or form.

Thank you,

Yulia Wanatosky

References:

- Israel World #1 in daily Covid cases per capita; exposed schoolkids won't quarantine.* The Times of Israel. (2022, January 20). Retrieved from <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-world-1-in-daily-covid-cases-per-capita-exposed-schoolkids-wont-quarantine/>
- Montgomery County, MD covid-19 vaccine tracker.* Burlington Free Press. (2022, January 24). Retrieved from <https://data.burlingtonfreepress.com/covid-19-vaccine-tracker/maryland/montgomery-county/24031/>
- Sykes, E. (2022, January 10). *CDC director: Covid Vaccines can't prevent transmission anymore.* MSN. Retrieved from <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/cdc-director-covid-vaccines-cant-prevent-transmission-anymore/ar-AASDndg>