January 17, 2022

Subject: Opposition to Imposition of Vaccine Passports in Montgomery County, Maryland

To the Montgomery County Council Members,

We are providing our comments as the Montgomery County Council considers whether or not to impose a county vaccine passport requirement to enter certain public establishments. You may be aware that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals have been shown to be carriers of the virus and able to be infected with COVID-19, and that many authoritative studies show the probability is essentially the same to be infected by the virus if you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Therefore, a vaccine passport requirement will not be effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Montgomery County. Federal health experts have confirmed the Omicron variant, currently responsible for more than 96% of COVID-19 cases in the United States, typically results in mild symptoms and could be leading the United States to herd immunity. Why would the County Council choose this time to impose vaccine passports, which will limit the rights of Montgomery County citizens as well as likely drive commerce to surrounding counties? Our main objecting facts are:

1. Fully vaccinated people are getting COVID-19, with some authoritative studies documenting vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are just as likely to contract COVID-19 at the present time.
2. Vaccinated people are spreading COVID-19, perhaps even more than unvaccinated people
3. The Omicron variant results in mild symptoms according to Federal government experts
4. Boosters are not slowing the spread of COVID-19, with daily case counts higher than they have been since March 2020
5. Vaccine passports will NOT reduce the spread of COVID-1
6. Unvaccinated people will lose their jobs if they work in the subject locations (restaurants, bars, etc.)
7. Vaccine passports will only harm small businesses in Montgomery County as business is taken to other counties. Haven't they suffered enough already?

Please consider our comments and do NOT impose a vaccine mandate in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sincerely,
R/A
Pam and Mark Lombard
Gaithersburg, MD