

Cherrywood Homeowners Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 159

Olney, Maryland 20830

April 23, 2023

Montgomery County Council

Dear County Councilmembers:

The Cherrywood Homeowners Association is a 606-unit homeowners association located in Olney, Maryland. At our Board of Directors meeting in April of 2023 we discussed County Council bill 12-23 and our 11-member Board of Directors was unanimous in opposition to this bill that appears to be yet another attempt to handcuff the County police force.

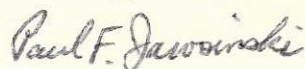
Background:

The number one concern in Cherrywood is increasing crime in the County and our neighborhood. People are tired of having their cars being repetitively rifled through at night, mail being stolen, break-ins, and people helping themselves to free groceries at the local stores. Law-abiding citizens are fatigued from the allowance of all this extra unfettered criminal activity. Earlier in the year, our Board even discussed hiring private security to combat the County crime problem in our neighborhood.

Bill 12-23 is another attempt to prevent the police from enforcing the law and maintaining public safety. It is also an attempt to further demoralize our police force that already has 274 vacancies. The bill itself is likely illegal because it prevents the police from conducting traffic stops for certain offenses under Maryland Vehicle Law further compromising safety for other County residents. Many of the people stopped for these violations of Maryland Vehicle Law may have no awareness of these violations if the police would not stop them to advise them of these deficiencies. Traffic stops for vehicle violations are often just the tip of the iceberg. In just ONE week in March of 2023, three different traffic stops were reported that yielded large amounts of illegal drugs and a stolen semi-automatic weapon in another stop. Law-abiding residents are grateful to the police for these discoveries and arrests that enhance public safety.

Whether your skin color is red, black, white, purple, green or anything in between, law-abiding citizens of any color want their safety protected and don't want crime and drugs in their neighborhood. Bill 12-23 further inhibits an already understaffed County Police force from protecting public safety. The police are currently not the problem or the enemy of public safety. We urge you to reject bill 12-23.

Sincerely,



Paul F. Jarosinski
President