

Hello, my name is Michelle Shen and I'm a resident of Rockville. I am a daughter of immigrants and as such, I want our immigrant communities to feel safe in a time where bloodthirsty federal ICE agents are literally getting away with murder. We are currently watching history repeat itself as our federal government, to paraphrase Aimé Césaire, enacts a repression turned inwards to enact violence and destruction on both citizens and non-citizens alike. I commend Councilmembers Mink and Jawando for introducing bills that will help protect my family members, my neighbors, and myself from agents who do not hesitate to shoot on site, who have dehumanized anyone of color or difference from a perverse ideal of what this country should be.

Over the past year, we've seen families ripped apart and children left to fend for themselves as ICE abducts members of our community. Both the County Values Act and Unmask ICE act would help prevent ICE overreach and uphold our constitutionally protected rights to due process. This council has the opportunity to protect their community and uphold values of justice, equity, and freedom by passing the County Values Act and the Unmask ICE Act.

In the past, police sheriffs have made statements against the similar Maryland Values Act. I want to remind the council that the mission of the Montgomery County Police Department is to, in their own words, "**safeguard life and property, preserve the peace, prevent and detect crime, enforce the law, and protect the rights of all citizens.** We are committed to working in **partnership with the community to identify and resolve issues that impact public safety.**" These acts would align with their stated values. The biggest threat to our community is not petty criminals, but ICE agents who have stripped away constitutional rights, inhumanely detained, and killed our neighbors in cold blood. If the MCPD truly wants to work in "partnership with the community", then they should also support the County Values and Unmask ICE Act. Thank you for reading.