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## Residential Support for CB16 and CB17

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From Adam Fried [REDACTED]

Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:01 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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Hello,

My name is Adam Fried, and I am a resident of Oakland Mills in Columbia. I'm writing ahead of tonight's public hearing to voice my support for the two pieces of legislation being discussed, CB16 and CB17.

It has been sickening to watch as armed men in masks terrorize and murder vulnerable populations across the country with impunity. No one should have to cower in fear that they could be harassed or kidnapped or worse while just trying to live, not in Minneapolis or Portland or here in Howard County.

The Trump administration's fascist goon squad must be opposed at every opportunity, and "Abolish ICE" should not be seen as a radical position, but instead the bare minimum if this country has a hope of surviving another three years.

The two proposed pieces of legislation serve as a strong foundation in starting to counter the racist and disgusting actions of ICE, and DHS, and the entire Trump administration. With their passage and constant vigilance, Howard County can do its part to help stem the creeping spread of modern fascism and maintain our place as a community residents are proud to call home.

I will strongly support any further legislation that seeks to oppose ICE's cruel efforts, including the establishment of public legal defense funds, citizen outreach resources, county-wide banning of masks for law enforcement, and any other measures necessary to keep residents safe and informed.

Solidarity,  
Adam Fried

(No subject)

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**From** Alex Randolph [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 3:16 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Thank you Executive Ball for taking a stance against ICE in our community with council bill 16. I live on Huntshire Drive and the thought of a detention center right across the road is frankly disgusting. I hope the entire council stands in opposition of ICE in our neighborhoods and continues to protect our community members, born and adopted.

Alex Randolph

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## I Support Emergency Bills CB16 and CB17

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From Alex Lang [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:17 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

My name is Alexander Lang, and I am a lifelong resident of Howard County. My partner is a teacher in the Howard County Public School System. I do not support the actions of ICE and the DHS in their pursuit of immigration enforcement. Children in my partner's school have missed class out of fear that they will become targets of ICE officers. This reason alone should be cause for reevaluation of the goals and methods of ICE, but the indisputable fact that ICE and agencies like them are responsible for 35 deaths in custody, 8 out of custody, and 13 injuries (most of them shootings) this year alone is unacceptable. The least the legislative body of Howard County could do is remove their ability to easily gain access to our community. I must make clear that more should be done, but the passing of these bills is a necessity for the residents of our county.

I look forward to our children feeling safe in our schools and streets,  
- Alexander Lang

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**CB16 - 2026 & CB17-2026**

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**From** Alyse Carter [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 2:03 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Howard County Council members,

I am a Howard County resident writing in support of emergency legislation CB16-2026 & CB 17-2026.

The topic of immigration has become an emergent issue on a nationwide scale, and I am proud of our local administration taking lead on drafting legislation that would offer protections for our neighbors. When I originally moved to Howard County, I chose Columbia as home because I valued the culture and diversity. Growing up in Ellicott City, I was spoiled with the exposure to all the Asian American businesses on Rt 40. These are an immediate result of the value immigrants provide to their communities.

CB16 - 2026 will prevent privately owned businesses from using their space or selling it to serve as a detention facility. This should be widely supported by every council member as no facility aside from a government ran correctional institution should be detaining humans. Everyone has the right to participate in the judicial process, and private detention facilities discredit and prevent local law enforcement from carrying out state and lawful duties.

CB17 - 2026 provides a framework and proclamation of what our county stands for. I hope creating a guideline for county institutions will inspire other businesses and organizations to also communicate their stance on immigration and their commitment to keeping our communities safe.

I firmly believe we have a duty to protect our neighbors, and the results of our current administration are creating a humanitarian crisis; this issue surpasses political party. Thank you for promptly voting on this legislation and welcoming community feedback. I hope both pieces of legislation will pass this Thursday!

Sincerely,  
Alyse Carter

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**Alyse Carter**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Support for CB16 and CB17**

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**From** Amanda Olson [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 12:57 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good afternoon,

I firmly support any legislation that blocks ICE in our community. As a Howard County resident, I support both CB16 and CB17.

Sincerely,

Amanda Olson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**NO Private detention centers**

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**From** Amy Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 12:56 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Thank you for your strong stance against private prison/detention facilities in HoCo.

You have the support of your constituents!

Amy

**Pass CB16 and CB 17**

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**From** Andrea Ortiz [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:46 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good afternoon members of Howard County Council,

I am writing this email as a concerned Howard County Resident. ICE has shown time and time again that they are more than willing to racially profile, intimidate and kill human beings. This is a system that upholds white supremacy, which makes this country less safe as a result. I am tired of seeing human beings be killed (Keith Porter, Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and more) at the hands of ICE. How many more will die? I worry for my family and for the students that I serve as a school social worker. I worry for all people. I believe that the passage of CB 16 and CB 17 would curtail some of ICE's efforts to create chaos and danger in Howard County. I implore you to make the right decision, and vote YES for CB16 and CB 17.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Ortiz

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## Strong Support for CB16-2026 & CB17-2026

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From Angela Alt [REDACTED]

Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:04 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov  
<CouncilDistrict2@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members and Chair Jones-

My name is Angela Alt. I am a citizen from District 2 in Columbia. I strongly support the passage of CB16-2026 and CB17-2026. Howard County is stronger because of, not in spite of, our immigrant neighbors, both those who have become citizens and those who are not yet citizens. Their protection is not a separate matter from all of our protection. ICE is a dangerous, fascist force and their "detention centers" are in reality a growing network of concentration camps. I **do not** want such facilities anywhere in our country, let alone in our county and **do not** want any member of our county government to collaborate with ICE enforcement. **Please remember the last line of Martin Niemöller's important poem, "*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*" while you consider this emergency legislation. You are in a position to help stop this and the citizens of this county are watching.**

Sincerely-  
Angela Alt

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Emergency Legislation - Council Bills 16 & 17 - 2026

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From Anthony Tabb [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:42 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Greetings.

I wish to express my support for the emergency council bills 16 & 17. At the same time, both bills are woefully insufficient, and very late. Having had knowledge of the intent to convert a warehouse into a concentration camp as early as August of last year, such a thing should have been rejected far earlier. I'm disappointed, but not surprised at the emphasis on procedure rather than protecting the residents of the county. ICE, CBP, and DHS have been responsible for the murder of multiple people for most of their existence, through multiple administrations. There are documented cases of rape, sexual abuse, medical neglect, disappeared people, physical abuse, and unexplained deaths of detainees by ICE and the like. This information can be found in various corporate media outlets, from MSN to ABC, as well as organizations like the ACLU. There are also several cases of people impersonating ICE agents to abduct people, making the existence of such shady organizations even more dangerous for everyone.

This is not just a Trump issue, as images of Border Patrol agents on horseback, assaulting Haitian migrants occurred under the Biden administration. This is a human issue. Nobody deserves to be warehoused in a concentration camp for a minor civil violation. For a county that loves to tout that it was once voted "Best County," the willingness to work with repressive, reactionary organizations speaks to the hollowness of such an award. It is an embarrassment. These are dangerous agencies with well documented human right abuses, and these bills fail to address the threat these agencies pose to the people. While I support these bills as a start, more needs to be done. Thank you.

Anthony M. Tabb

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**Emergency Legislation-Council Bill 16-2026 (ICE Detention Center)**

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From ctabb9@verizon.net [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 1:54 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

Some thoughts for the record regarding subject Council Bill.

I support holding the Emergency session to move forward to pass Emergency Legislation regarding ICE Detention Center in Elkridge, MD. But.... this all should have been taken care of at the beginning. No need to have the emergency legislation and hearing, if actions were taken last year at the onset. This is a waste of time, manpower, and financial resources.

According to the County's Friday press release, the building permit was issued on August 5, 2025, and the scope of work clearly referenced as a detention operation, including "detention facility, detainee processing, and secured waiting area."

If a permit on file in early August plainly described a detention facility, why wasn't this confronted immediately, rather than when the facility is close to receiving a Use & Occupancy permit?

The County conducted multiple inspections after August 2025. The latest December 2025 inspection was not the first time County staff were aware and set foot in the facility.

All information regarding a detention center in Elkridge was clearly there in plain sight, but lacked County leadership action. A building permit for the privately owned facility that was to be used by ICE to detain immigrants has been revoked. Good, but sadly, that is not enough! My hope is that the County leaders stop governing as if each crisis arrives without warning, and then swoop in to "Save the day". Leaders should be proactive for the Howard County citizens they represent. They should not react when community outrage calls them out. They should be well ahead with their actions, to protect each county resident. Thank you.

Carol Tabb  
Howard County resident since 1987

**Re: CB16 and CB17**

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**From** Charmaine Ohlmacher [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:18 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

I am writing in support of bills CB16 and CB17 that are being voted on this evening. As a Howard County resident, I believe that we need to do everything in our power to provide a safe and welcoming community for ALL people who live and work here. I strongly oppose our county grounds being used for a detention center; I strongly oppose our county's resources being used to help ICE in any way. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Charmaine

**Council Bill 16-2026 feedback**

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**From** Chris Del Gigante [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 2:15 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

Im entirely against a ICE detention center opening in Howard County. Its existence is a security risk to our county, hurts local businesses, and it will drive down property values.

Its also runs counter to the diversity and acceptance that Howard County is known for. Just look at the great diverse ethnic restaurants in Ellicott City.... We must preserve what makes our county great and nurture it, and not contradict it with a detention center with so many downsides.

Thank You for Your Consideration,  
Christopher J Del Gigante  
Resident of Howard County for 29 years

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ICE Issues- Howard County

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From Chuck Wise [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:32 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,  
I am writing to voice my concerns about your proposed actions regarding ICE. Your dedication to protecting criminals and criminal aliens in this county is disturbing. You are putting my family and grandchildren at risk. Your extreme political ideology is driving you to make bad decisions on behalf of your constituents. I hope you get sued when someone is killed by someone who could have been easily detained and removed from our county. It is just common sense to take criminals off our streets. You seem to only want to remove criminal citizens from our streets, but non-residents and illegal aliens are allowed to walk free because you want to appear to be "pro-immigrant" and play up to your base to stay in power.

These are very poor and dangerous decisions.

*Chuck Wise*

---

Chuck Wise, CIC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**CB-16 - Strong Support**

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**From** Cristi [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:30 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (76 KB)  
CB-16-2026 Support\_Cristiana Little .pdf;

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Dear Councilmembers,

Attached (and copied below) please find my written testimony in **support of Council Bill 16-2026**. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for the public record.

Sincerely,

Cristiana Little

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***My name is Cristiana Little, and I am a resident of Howard County. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Council Bill 16-2026.***

*In my professional life, I am a policy expert focused on federal immigration. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how the Department of Homeland Security, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, carries out its operations with limited transparency and minimal accountability to the public. What happened recently in Howard County is not an anomaly. It is part of a broader pattern.*

*Recent events in Howard County illustrate exactly why this bill is necessary. A private entity was able to advance plans for a detention facility in a suburban office area for months before the public became aware of its purpose. That is not because the community failed to pay attention; it is because the process itself allowed a project of profound consequence to move forward without clear disclosure or public engagement.*

*When county officials eventually learned the intended use of the site, they determined that state law requirements for public notice and participation had not been met. Those requirements exist for a reason. Facilities that involve detention, restraint, and loss of liberty are fundamentally different from ordinary development projects. They raise serious concerns about safety, oversight, and community impact, and they demand a higher standard of review.*

*This situation also reflects a broader national trend. Immigration detention has expanded rapidly, even as evidence shows that many people held in these facilities pose no threat to public safety. The growth of detention has increasingly relied on private infrastructure and contracting, often pursued in ways that minimize public scrutiny. Communities are left to absorb the consequences after decisions have already been made.*

*Trust is essential to effective governance and public safety. When enforcement agencies operate in ways that feel hidden or evasive, trust breaks down. Residents begin to question whether decisions are being made with their well-being in mind, and local governments are left to repair damage they did not create.*

*Council Bill 16-2026 offers a clear and responsible safeguard. By limiting the ability to obtain permits for I-3 use group facilities to government agencies, the bill ensures that detention facilities remain subject to public accountability, oversight, and clear lines of responsibility. It prevents private actors from exercising power that should properly rest with the government and be answerable to the public.*

*This bill does not prohibit lawful government action. It ensures that if detention facilities are proposed in Howard County, they are subject to the highest level of scrutiny, oversight, and responsibility. It affirms that decisions with profound consequences for community safety and human dignity should not be made quietly or without public knowledge.*

*As both a professional who understands federal immigration systems and a resident who cares deeply about this community, I believe CB-16-2026 is a necessary step to protect public trust, uphold the law, and ensure that decisions this consequential cannot move forward without the required transparency and community input.*

***I respectfully urge the Council to pass CB-16-2026.***

**My name is Cristiana Little, and I am a resident of Howard County. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Council Bill 16-2026.**

In my professional life, I am a policy expert focused on federal immigration. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how the Department of Homeland Security, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, carries out its operations with limited transparency and minimal accountability to the public. What happened recently in Howard County is not an anomaly. It is part of a broader pattern.

Recent events in Howard County illustrate exactly why this bill is necessary. A private entity was able to advance plans for a detention facility in a suburban office area for months before the public became aware of its purpose. That is not because the community failed to pay attention; it is because the process itself allowed a project of profound consequence to move forward without clear disclosure or public engagement.

When county officials eventually learned the intended use of the site, they determined that state law requirements designed to ensure public notice and participation had not been met. Those requirements exist for a reason. Facilities that involve detention, restraint, and loss of liberty are fundamentally different from ordinary development projects. They raise serious concerns about safety, oversight, and community impact, and they demand a higher standard of review.

This situation also reflects a broader national trend. Immigration detention has expanded rapidly, even as evidence shows that many people held in these facilities pose no threat to public safety. The growth of detention has relied increasingly on private infrastructure and contracting, often pursued in ways that minimize public scrutiny. Communities are left to absorb the consequences after decisions have already been made.

Trust is essential to effective governance and public safety. When enforcement agencies operate in ways that feel hidden or evasive, trust breaks down. Residents begin to question whether decisions are being made with their well-being in mind, and local governments are left to repair damage they did not create.

Council Bill 16-2026 offers a clear and responsible safeguard. By limiting the ability to obtain permits for I-3 use group facilities to government agencies, the bill ensures that detention facilities remain subject to public accountability, oversight, and clear lines of responsibility. It prevents private actors from exercising power that should properly rest with the government and be answerable to the public.

This bill does not prohibit lawful government action. It ensures that if detention facilities are proposed in Howard County, they are subject to the highest level of scrutiny, oversight, and responsibility. It affirms that decisions with profound consequences for community safety and human dignity should not be made quietly or without public knowledge.

As both a professional who understands federal immigration systems and a resident who cares deeply about this community, I believe CB-16-2026 is a necessary step to protect public trust, uphold the law, and ensure that decisions this consequential cannot move forward without the required transparency and community input.

**I respectfully urge the Council to pass CB-16-2026.**

**Ice in Howard council - keep our citizens safe**

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**From** Diane Wise [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 12:10 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am writing to ask that you care about the safety of Howard County citizens. By trying to obstruct ICE from removing criminals from our county  
You are increasing the risk for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. It doesn't matter if they are citizens or illegal aliens from other countries it is best for us to have them removed and prosecuted. You are making something a political matter when you need to see it as a basic safety matter.

Please stop and see more than possible short term political gain on this matter.

With appreciation,  
Diane Wise

**Do not allow an ICE facility in Howard county**

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**From** Harriet Bachman [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:52 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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To our council members:

Please pass the emergency bill to prevent an ICE facility to be built in Howard county. We want to protect our citizens as much as possible from the lawless and cruel actions of ICE.

Thank you.

Harriet Bachman

Lawrence Bachman

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

Please pass CB16-2026 and CB17-2026

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From Heidi M [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:05 PM  
To Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
Cc Heidi M <heidi@rhmyers.com>

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Dear Council Members and Chair Rigby,

My name is Heidi Myers. I am a citizen from District 3 in Columbia. I strongly support the passage of CB16-2026 and CB17-2026. Howard County is stronger because of, not in spite of, our immigrant neighbors, both those who have become citizens and those who are not yet citizens. Their protection is not a separate matter from all of our protection. ICE is a dangerous, fascist force and their "detention centers" are in reality a growing network of concentration camps. I **do not** want such facilities anywhere in our country, let alone in our county and **do not** want any member of our county government to collaborate with ICE enforcement. **Please remember the last line of Martin Niemöller's important poem, "Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me." while you consider this emergency legislation. You are in a position to help stop this, and the citizens of this county are watching.**

Sincerely-  
Heidi Myers

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**Council Bill 16-2026**

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From Helen Ding [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 10:51 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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## **Testimonial Against the Proposed ICE Detention Facility**

I am a therapist, and I work directly with individuals living with **invisible disabilities**, such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Sensory Processing Disorder, and Language Processing Disorders.

Many of my clients "look normal" to the casual observer, but they require specific accommodations to function safely—especially when navigating high-stress environments. These disabilities fundamentally alter how a person perceives and responds to stimuli. When confronted with unexpected stress, their ability to process verbal commands or regulate physical movement can shut down entirely.

### **The Danger of Aggressive Enforcement**

We have seen countless videos where ICE agents utilize **intimidation and violence** as a default mode of operation. While this is traumatic for anyone, it is a potential death sentence for those with cognitive disabilities.

If you haven't already, I urge you to listen to the testimony of **Aliya Rahman**, a disabled American citizen with TBI and autism. Because she could not obey commands as expected during a high-stress encounter, she was:

- Labeled an "agitator."
- Violently pulled from her vehicle.
- Beaten by law enforcement.
- Rendered unconscious in custody.

She required hospitalization for a concussion and assault; quite simply, **she could have died.**

### **Clinical Implications for Our Community**

The introduction of an ICE detention center into our neighborhood creates a constant, high-alert environment that is fundamentally incompatible with the safety of disabled residents.

1. **Increased Risk of Misinterpretation:** What an agent perceives as "non-compliance" or "resistance" is often a neurological inability to process rapid-fire commands.
2. **Sensory Overload:** The presence of aggressive enforcement tactics can trigger severe sensory meltdowns or "freeze" responses, which agents frequently escalate with physical force.
3. **Community-Wide Trauma:** My clients deserve to live in a community where they are not at risk of being assaulted or killed because their brain processes information differently.

**I am firmly opposed to the construction of this facility.** We cannot invite an agency into our community that has a documented history of failing to recognize human vulnerability, leading to the near-fatal victimization of citizens like Aliya Rahman. I do not want the same thing to happen to my clients or anyone else in this community.

Respectfully,

Helen Ding, *LMSW*

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**B16-2016 and B17-2016**

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**From** JACK SPENCER [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 5:18 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am writing to voice my support of B16-2016 and B17-2016. I believe it is important to do whatever we can, individually and collectively, to resist ICE and its state-sponsored terrorism. Warrantless searches and arrests, blatant racial profiling, and killing of peaceful protesters have no place in our county. In fact, they have no place in America or anywhere else in the world.

Thank you for allowing my voice on this matter.

Jack Spencer

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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## Objection to Detention Center in Howard County

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From jaccbb5@gmail.com [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:37 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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I am a 81 year old retired clinical nurse(RN) who came to live in Columbia when the city was only about 4 - 5 years old.My husband and I (and our 2 young children) were attracted to this city because of the dream and ideas of Mr.Rouse.His ideas of a city where all people were treated equal and where people would be able to live together, work together for a common goal.He wanted an air of diversity and a place of peace and where people could feel safe and help each other in safe, clean and caring manner.Columbia has not lived up to all these ideas but it has done better than most.It remains a better city than most in the country, very often ranking high in top cities in the USA.So how can we who live here in Howard County agree to have a center that violate all of Mr Rouse's ideas? I am a proud African American woman who grew up in a Jim crow segregated south when we were locked up, not in detention centers but in our ways of life; limited to certain areas, freedoms , and restrictions. This was a virtual detention center.So I am opposed to any detention centers that violate all of my values .I , as a RN, worked in Correction centers and aware of treatments of people.Detention Centers destroy freedom, self honor,,harm( both physically and mentally) and humanity.So please get these centers out of out county.I wish this for other cities too.

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**February 4, 2026 Public Hearing Concerning Howard County Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Jaime Cruz [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:29 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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As an Elkridge citizen who owns real property and lives just one mile from the apparently expected detention facility, I support the use of that building for that purpose even if operated by a private entity presumably under U.S. federal contract. I urge our county officials to let that planning and permitting continue. Immigrants who follow our U.S., Maryland and Howard County laws to establish themselves here should always be welcome, but those violating our laws and especially who have committed crimes in the U.S. should not. We should support Immigration and Customs Enforcement in their lawful national duty and work with them to ensure they enforce national laws humanely and appropriately.

Thank-you for your service representing us Howard County citizens.

Jaime A. Cruz  
[REDACTED]

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## Support for CB-16 and CB-17

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**From** Jean Joklik [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:28 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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Dear County Council Members,

We are writing to express our community's shock regarding the pending approval of an ICE detention facility in Howard County. We are deeply concerned that this project has reached such an advanced stage without significant public discourse or oversight.

Specifically, we seek clarification on the internal processes that allowed this facility to move through routine zoning permits without public hearings. Given the impact such a facility has on the safety and well-being of our residents, the use of local resources to facilitate these actions is unacceptable to many in this community.

We request a transparent explanation of the timeline and the decisions that enabled this process to bypass public scrutiny. We look forward to your prompt response regarding how the Council intends to address these concerns and ensure greater oversight moving forward.

While we fully support CB-16 and CB-17, we expect a thorough examination of the loopholes that forced the County Executive to propose emergency legislation to stop the final approval of this facility. Proper governance is essential, especially when federal immigration actions bring instability to local communities.

Thank you for your prompt action to protect our community.

Sincerely,

Jean Joklik  
Resident, Howard County

---

## Detention centers in Howard County - Testimony

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**From** Jen MacCormack [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 2:06 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Howard County Councilmembers,

I write to you in support of prohibiting privately owned buildings from operating as detention centers in Howard County. It is essential to our county values and to the safety of our residents that you support County Council Bill 16-2026 and refuse to allow ICE detention centers to operate here.

There is extensive reporting of the reprehensible conditions in other ICE/DHS detention centers across this country, with measles outbreaks, detainees being denied medication, denied calls to their families and lawyers. That is unacceptable anywhere, but we have a limited sphere of influence and control -- this is why we have a moral obligation to fight against these centers opening up within our county lines.

Please vote to ban immigration detention centers in Howard County.

Sincerely,  
Jen MacCormack  
Columbia

---

## Supporting CB16 and CB17

---

**From** Jeremy Gottwig [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:00 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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My name is Jeremy Gottwig (he/him). I am a DSA member and a member of AFSCME local 1072. I live in Hickory Ridge, Columbia.

Today I am writing in support of CB16 and CB17.

I have immigrant neighbors. My kids have immigrant friends. Placing barriers on DHS operating in Howard County is paramount to every family's safety and security. Local detention centers will only make it easier for ICE and Customs & Border Patrol to escalate their invasion into our neighborhoods. We've seen videos and images of their terror campaigns in Portland, Chicago, and especially Minneapolis. Many of us are prepared to invest time and energy into protesting and documenting ICE/CBP abuses in HoCo, but I believe the county council can blockade DHS terror campaigns with strident and proactive legislation as evidenced by CB16 and CB17.

In addition to these measures, I encourage legislation into public legal defense funding and a quick response network for those targeted by ICE/CBP. I would also like to see the council demand lists of those already detained. Such a list could be shared with organizations such as CASA.

Thank you for reading and for your proactive work in protecting our communities.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Gottwig

**I support ICE OUT of HoCo**

---

**From** Kali Smith [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:05 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council,

I cannot attend the meetings but I am writing to you as a Howard County resident and voter to voice my support for CB16 and CB17.

Thank you,

Kali (she/they)

---

support CB16-2026

---

From Katie W [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:03 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Katherine Wilkins. I'm a resident of Howard County district 2 writing to thank you for sponsoring CB16-2026 and to ask you to pass this legislation. I believe that all human beings - whether American citizens or not, convicted of a crime or not - have certain basic rights and deserve to be treated with dignity. Unfortunately, in private detention facilities, the requirement to respect the rights of the incarcerated is in direct conflict with the profit motives of those running these facilities. Throughout the country, there are horrifying examples of people dying in private prisons due to inadequate medical care and complaints about inedible food. This should not be allowed to happen in a free country that respects human rights, which is what I would very much like our country to be. Thank you so much for making at least our county a freer and better place by passing this legislation.

Best,  
Katherine Wilkins

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

CB-16 & CB-17

---

From Kat Uy [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:19 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello Councilmembers,

As the child of an immigrant and a librarian who helps our immigrant communities, I am deeply disturbed by the actions of ICE most recently in Minnesota but the fact they are here in Howard County terrorizing our friends and neighbors.

**Demarcating private spaces matters** and we need to do that to offer as much legal protection

from ICE as possible (CB17).

**Keeping ICE off County properties** will make access to resources, community life, etc. safer for our communities (CB17)

**Everyone deserves to live in safety**, and to have representatives and community that demonstrates they care about their safety.

**"This is a vital step"** and we need it to pass.

**The fight does not end until we abolish ICE.**

**Everything we can do to limit ICE matters.**

**It is important to know that our representatives care about the safety of our community**

— we are thankful for this action and we hope to see continued legislative/political action to protect our communities from the threat of ICE, from human rights violations, and to

resist/combat mass deportations and mass incarceration!

**It is important for county employees and local businesses to have guidance** on how to interact with ICE to help protect our community members.

**Having publicly available procedures** will reflect care for our communities and make us safer. We need to respond to these threats to safety with the attention community members deserve.

(CB17)

**ICE has only existed since 2003 and its existence HAS NOT** measurably improved anyone's life, but **HAS** caused grave harms and widespread fear for too many.

**We need to loudly reject what ICE is doing.** We need to stand up so that more localities, state and local governments can see that they can stand up to ICE. We need to build on the already popular support behind abolishing ICE, and expand and grow it. Marylanders care about human rights and we want our government to fight for what is right.

**People do not deserve to suffer over crossing a colonial border.** Especially when a major reason for crossing is because our country has contributed to other countries' misery.

**To our council members, you may not directly impact our foreign policy choices, but we** ask that you use your voice and actions to stand up for justice in this area. Starting with your

choices about how the county government invests its money, show our care for people

everywhere, especially including those who are suffering genocides.

**The scapegoating of immigrants is used**

●

**To divide our communities** and make us accept less.

●

**To scare people into giving up rights,** and divert attention from what the very wealthy - and the policies that give them preferential treatment - do to actually make us poorer.

●

So, when a community stands up for immigrants, this really benefits the entire community.

**We must defend against - and work to disarm - the weapons of hate, indifference and greed.**

**We are stronger together.**

**Let's work together to protect** those who are unjustly made more vulnerable at this particular

political moment - and let's fight for a better life for all of us.

**We reject the lie** that colonial borders are something to be guarded against a "foreign invasion.

"

**We reject white supremacy** and the project of some to maintain a white racial majority through

deportations, through incarceration, through violence and terror.

**We reject the project of the ethnostate everywhere,** whether here in Maryland or in Tel Aviv -

where some Palestinians and Israelis have shown great courage and community in coming

together to advocate against genocide and war. Let us follow their example.

**We must say no to our country's participation in funding genocide** - we must force it to stop. So, in addition to banning contracts with ICE (CB17), let's set more regulations for where

the Howard County government's money is invested, in order not to build up the power of those

who bomb children or commit other abuses. Let's more consistently use our financial

stewardship to support wellbeing.

**Let us stand for love, community care, and the freedom** that comes with knowing and showing that we are all equal. All of us have a part to play, and this legislation is a needed part.

**To our County Council members,** we ask that you

●

**Pass it** and then build on it further.

●

**Give us legislation** to publicly fund a legal aid and quick response network for those targeted by ICE.

●

**Use your platforms to build up the pressure to abolish ICE**—including by making it clear to those who represent us in the House and Senate that they must fight for this●

until the victory is won. In the same way, fight-and build pressure-to prosecute those who

took part in violating the rights of the people.

**Require the county to monitor and report on the wrongdoings of ICE.**

Thank you.

Kathleen (Kat) Uy

Sent from my iPhone

## Stop ICE detention centers

---

From K D [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 1:05 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland. I am writing to ask you to help stop the use of detention centers in Howard County as well as the state of MD. The illegal arrests and detainment throughout the country need to be stopped. People in these detention centers are not receiving due process, are in inhumane conditions, and are not being provided proper food, water, medical care, and safe sleeping areas. Suspected abuse of people in detention centers in other states is ongoing. There is no transparency regarding what is happening inside these centers and they are not being allowed fair legal representation or visitation.

Maryland, and Howard County, need to do everything in our power to ensure people are treated respectfully, humanely, and allowed a fair legal process. We need to strengthen our state laws to prevent ICE in our state.

This is a turning point in American history. We are facing the modern day concentration camps being built. We need to stand up against ICE and stop all private and also, eventually stop all public ICE detention centers.

Kimya Davani, VMD

**ICE facility**

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**From** Kyle Nathan [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:49 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hi,

I am writing to say I am very concerned about the ICE facility being built in Howard county. I am concerned that the same chaos happening in Minnesota will be brought to our door step. I am not supporting ICE having any detention facilities in Maryland. I do support any legislation that can be used to block ICE activities in Maryland, including Council Bill 16-2026.

Thank you for your time,

Kyle

---

**Favorable Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Laurel August Pulford [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:30 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Council Bill 16-2026  
2-4-2026  
Support

Dear Councilman Ball and the Howard County Council,

My name is Laurel August and I am a life-long resident in Howard County.

I wholeheartedly support this bill that will prohibit the DHS from privately owning property in Howard County that will be used as detention centers for the unjust detainment of my friends and neighbors. This bill will add legislative friction that will deter the Department of Homeland Security from using Howard County as a place for their deranged operations.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on Bill 16-2026.

Sincerely,  
Laurel August Pulford

---

**CB16 and CB17**

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**From** Lisa Siano [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:50 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am writing to strongly encourage the passage of CB 16 and CB17. We don't want ICE detention centers in Elkridge or anywhere else in Maryland. We want ICE out of county contracts, we want ICE restricted from being on county property, and we want county employees and local businesses to be given guidance on how to handle interactions with ICE.

These bills will accomplish exactly that. I urge immediate passage of these bills.

Thank you for your kind attention.

*Lisa Siano*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

Written Testimony for CB16-2026 CB17-2026 Hearing (2/4/26)

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From Just-some-random-ee [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 11:56 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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The following is a written testimony supporting legislation CB16-2026 and CB17-2026 for their hearing on Wednesday 2/4/26 by Magnolia "Gil" Steuernagle, 16 years old, resident of zip code 21042 in Ellicott City, Maryland.

When I think about what it means to live in Howard County, I think about walking through the halls of Centennial high school and hearing all the different languages that my peer speak. I think back to a few years ago, hanging out with my older sister's boyfriend and his family, who didn't speak English as a first language, but that didn't matter because I could see the obvious joy as his younger brother face as we sat on my back deck, dying Easter eggs and eating strawberries. I think about going to work with my coworker who only knows a couple words in English, but that doesn't matter when something funny happens, and we can both look at each other and laugh because even though we don't speak the same language, we're both still human.

All of these past experiences are why, as a Howard County resident, I completely support legislations CB16-2026 and CB17-2026. I don't want to lose these moments because my neighbors are afraid that they will be taken from their families and put the detention center in their very own county. I don't want my peers at school to be too afraid to attend classes out of fear that an immigration agent might take them away and put them in a detention center. I don't want my coworkers to be too afraid to show up to work because they might be put in a detention center built in their very own county. I want all of my neighbors, throughout all of Howard County, to feel safe and protected by their legislation and rest easy knowing that no immigration detention center will be built on private or County owned property. CB16-2026 and CB17-2026, if passed, will help keep that solace alive in an already nationally difficult time for immigrants and people of color. Howard county is so diverse and I don't wanna see that diversity go away due to fear. Thank you for reading.

**Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Maria Villani [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:04 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**WARNING!!!**

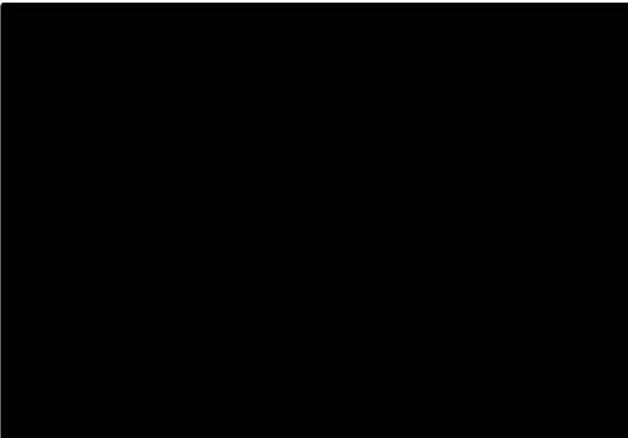
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Good afternoon,

Emailing that I support blocking of the permit/revocation of the permit for proposed detainment center in Elkrige.

We cannot allow ICE to terrorize our community.

Thank you,



---

## Council Bill 16-2026 Testimony

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From Maricela Mirelez [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 7:31 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Maricela Vela Mirelez-Prince and I am a proud Hispanic woman, born and raised in South Texas. I moved to Maryland in 2022 to accompany my husband, who is also a Texan and a former active-duty naval officer at Fort Meade. After being stationed in Maryland for less than a year, we both fell in love with the Elkridge area and quickly found an apartment to settle down in for two wonderful years. In 2024, we decided to take the leap into homeownership, knowing that the Elkridge community was where we wanted to start our family.

In recent months, I've seriously questioned that very decision due to the ongoing presence of ICE and the deteriorating protections afforded to my people and other minorities. As someone who has had to coexist with CBP and ICE agents throughout my life, what the current administration is trying to enforce around the country is something that exponentially surpasses any level of threat I've known to be true in my past experiences with these agencies. To clarify, their intimidation tactics and escalation of unnecessary force have not changed, but in every instance, I knew that I was protected by my undeniable U.S. citizenship and obedience to the law. Now those safeguards, along with a number of other constitutional rights, have been shown to be unlawfully disregarded by these entities. I'm still proud of my name, but I greatly fear the attention it brings to me, my husband, and my future children based on the horrific acts of violence that ICE, CBP, and associated agencies have committed under this administration.

The new detention center, located at 6522 Meadowridge Rd, would be a dagger that is being dug even deeper into the heart and spirit of our Howard County community. It will impact more than just our safety. A quick Google search shows this facility will be within 4 minutes of where my husband and I plan to grow our family. Furthermore, it will be within a concerning proximity to the schools in our area. I can tell you with absolute certainty if this is not handled, I, like many others in the area, will be forced to think critically about our roots in this county.

As a law-abiding, U.S. citizen I expect my local officials to advocate for my best interests. What is happening is un-American and un-Democratic. No one should fear unlawful detention. The Elkridge

community, and this country, deserves better.

Sincerely,

Maricela Vela Mirelez-Prince

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**CB 16-2026 Student Written Testimony**

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**From** Mark Li [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 11:32 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (44 KB)

02\_04\_2026 CB 16-2026 Written Testimony - Mark Li.pdf;

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Good afternoon,

My name is Mark Li and I am a student in Howard County, Maryland.

Please find my written testimony concerning CB 16-2026 attached to this email.

Kind regards,  
Mark Li

02/04/2026

Good evening Esteemed Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Members,

My name is Mark Li. I'm a resident of Howard County and a student at River Hill High School, and I'm speaking tonight in my individual capacity regarding CB 16-2026.

I want to be honest about why I felt compelled to submit testimony on this bill. As a student, this piece of emergency legislation holds serious weight because of what it asks us to draw a line around.

The core question that CB 16-2026 raises is simple: who should be allowed to operate spaces where people are held against their will, and how accountable should they be to the public?

For me, that question isn't in the abstract.

Growing up in Howard County, I've been taught—by my schools, by my teachers, and by this community—that our government should be deliberate, transparent, and careful when human dignity is at stake. And in this time of crisis, this bill meets a critical moment where those values are being tested in a very real and consequential way.

The fact that this is an emergency act matters. It tells me that the county understands that once certain decisions are made, they can't easily be undone. If the voices of our community are left unheard, it is those who are most often overlooked who are disproportionately left to live with the consequences long after.

As a young person, I think a lot about what kind of place Howard County is choosing to be. Not just today, but ten or twenty years from now. Decisions like this signal and ultimately decide how we remain accountable to each and every citizen of our county—no matter race, creed, or background.

I believe that if detention-type facilities are going to exist in our county at all, they should do so under clear public responsibility, with direct accountability to the people who live here. That principle matters regardless of who is in power, or which agency might be involved at any given moment.

It is imperative that we ensure the functions and powers of these facilities are never exercised without transparency and public oversight.

Tonight, I strongly urge you to support CB 16-2026.

Thank you for your time, and for the care you bring to decisions like this.

Sincerely,

Mark Li

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**ICE Detention Merritt Business Park**

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**From** katp@rcn.com [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 1:05 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am strongly against this illegal activity on Meadowridge Road in Elkridge. Executive Ball represented this Howard County District when the business park was originally proposed on this Superfund site. Operation of an unlicensed prison on this property was never mentioned as compatible with the zoning. Even restaurant usage was deemed unsuitable. The current open plan office building was never designed for enabling 24 hour incarceration. The building construction, utilities, mechanical systems and fire protection will not be able to legally accommodate hundreds of occupants. The Howard County retraction and denial of this permit should continue as far as necessary.

Mark Peterson  
[REDACTED]

**Please keep ICE out of Howard County**

---

**From** Melanie Hayden [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 11:12 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good afternoon,

First, I want to thank the director of DILP for revoking the permit for the detention facility in Elkridge. As a life-long Maryland resident, I am deeply grateful and relieved at this important step towards protecting Marylanders from ICE's terror. New detention centers in this state will do nothing but lead to a surge in agents conducting illegal and violent attacks on innocent people. As a resident of a blue state, especially a state that has been repeatedly threatened by the current administration, I have watched the violence and terror unfolding in Minnesota with absolute horror for the people there and also with the unsettling knowledge that other blue states are next. We must do everything possible to put a stop to the disgusting and violent abuse of power happening to our communities right now. I humbly beg of the council to continue to show up for and protect our community. PLEASE do not allow for any ICE/DHS detention facilities in Howard county. The cost to this community would be astronomical.

Thank you very much for your time,  
Melanie Hayden

---

**Support for Council Bill 16-2026 – Opposition to ICE Detention Centers in Howard County**

---

From Melina Blasi [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 11:01 AM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>  
Cc Patrick Blasi [REDACTED]

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Dear Councilmember Ball,

I am writing as a Howard County resident to express my strong support for Council Bill 16-2026 and to thank you for introducing emergency legislation to prohibit privately owned detention centers from operating in our county.

I do not support the establishment of ICE detention centers in Howard County. These facilities are deeply concerning to me as a community member and parent, and they do not reflect the values of compassion, dignity, and respect for human rights that I believe our county strives to uphold. Detention centers have a well-documented history of harm to individuals and families, and their presence would create fear and division rather than safety and trust.

I am grateful that Howard County has taken a principled stance through the Liberty Act, and I strongly believe this bill is a necessary and appropriate extension of that commitment. Local government has an important role in ensuring that our community resources and land use align with our shared values.

Thank you for your leadership and for taking action to protect our community. Please know that you have my full support for Council Bill 16-2026, and I urge the County Council to pass it.

Sincerely,  
Melina Blasi  
Howard County Resident

*Melina A. Blasi, Au.D.*  
Pronouns: she/her  
Audiologist  
Ear, Nose and Throat Associates  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

No ICE Detention Centers in Howard County

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From mike.tennor@comcast.net [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 1:59 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilmember,

My name is Michael Tennor and I am a resident of Howard County, Maryland.

I am writing to urge you to advance the emergency legislation being introduced Feb 2, 2026 by County Executive Calvin Ball to a bill and to vote in favor of it, banning privately owned detention centers in Howard County.

Privately run detention facilities associated with ICE raise serious concerns regarding oversight, human rights, and community safety—concerns that do not align with Howard County’s long-standing values of fairness, transparency, and inclusion.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this important issue. I appreciate your support and will be following the bill closely.

Michael Tennor  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



---

**Support for CB16 and CB17 - Stop Private Detention Center in Elkridge**

---

**From** Pesce Photo   
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 2:09 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of CB16 and CB17 regarding the proposed Detention Center at 6522 Meadowridge Road in Elkridge.

I am concerned about the health, welfare, and safety implications of a private, third-party company setting up a detention facility in our neighborhood. Allowing this facility sets a dangerous precedent for privatized detention without appropriate public oversight.

I support County Executive Calvin Ball's action to revoke the building permits and strongly urge the Council to pass this emergency legislation to ensure that this facility cannot move forward.

Thank you for your time,  
N. Pesce

---

## Support for CB16-2026

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**From** Offenbacher, Noah [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:46 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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Dear members of the Howard County Council,

As a resident of District 1, I am writing to express my strong support for CB16. I was extremely troubled to learn of the proposed detention center being created in Elkridge. ICE and other federal agencies are pushing a mass deportation agenda that is threatening the safety of immigrant communities and U.S. citizens alike across the country. The attempted development of an immigration detention facility in Howard County represents a sharp escalation of these threats, compounding the fears already faced by the communities most impacted.

I am grateful for the swift action of the County Executive in revoking the permit for the proposed facility. CB16 is a necessary next step to help Howard County ensure that it does not facilitate the mass violence, family separation, and racialized hostility being committed by federal agencies. Immigrants belong here, and as a lifelong resident of the county, I cannot adequately express how central immigrants are to the culture and community of Howard County. Passing CB16 is one way that the county can demonstrate that it will stand up for immigrant communities and protect its residents at this crucial time.

I strongly urge the County Council to pass CB16.

Sincerely,

Noah Offenbacher

**CB16 support**

---

**From** Quint Frauman [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 11:47 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hi there,

As a longtime Howard county resident and person with a moral compass, I wholeheartedly support CB16 in its efforts to prevent the private leasing or purchase of property for detention facilities.

Thank you for acting so swiftly to step in and prevent this from happening here!

Best,  
Quint

**Written Testimony in favor of CB 16-2026**

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**From** Ray Turner [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 11:09 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am a resident of Howard County writing to urge the Howard County Council to vote in favor of Council Bill 16-2026 to prohibit privately owned buildings from being used as detention centers. We have seen countless instances of ICE agents illegally detaining, deporting, and even killing people—including US citizens. This blatant disregard of due process of law must end. Allowing private individuals or companies to profit from ICE's illegal activities will just encourage continued lawless action. Please don't let that happen in Howard County. Vote in favor of the CB 16-2026. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Ray Turner  
Ellicott City

ICE

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**From** Rebecca Fredrickson [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 7:21 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am a resident of Howard County, MD, and request that you and fellow council members do not allow any sort of advocacy of ICE. No detention centers here nor cooperation with their tactics.  
Rebecca Fredrickson

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**Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Carol Boyer [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:58 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc** Rick Boyer [REDACTED]

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My husband, Richard, and I strongly support County Executive Calvin Ball's emergency legislation prohibiting permits for privately owned buildings to operate as detention centers in Howard County—particularly the facility on Meadow Ridge Road in ElkrIDGE proposed for use by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

We also urge you to continue upholding Howard County's Liberty Act, which bars the use of County resources for immigration enforcement except when required by federal or state law, an international treaty, or an existing intergovernmental service agreement.

Respectfully,

Richard and Carol Boyer  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Former residents on Meadow Ridge Road

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## Residential Support for CB16 and CB17

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From Roxana Hadadi [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 12:22 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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Hello,

My name is Roxana Hadadi, and I have been a resident of Oakland Mills in Columbia for the past five years. I'm writing ahead of tonight's public hearing to voice my strong support for the two pieces of legislation being discussed, CB16 and CB17. I hope you will do the right thing in supporting this legislation.

As the child of immigrants who came to this country 50 years ago, I have been horrified and frightened by the prevalence and normalcy with which armed men in masks have terrorized people who look like me, and murdered, with impunity, people lawfully protesting their actions. No one should have to cower in fear that they could be harassed or kidnapped or worse while just trying to live, not in Minneapolis or Portland or here in Howard County.

The Trump administration's fascist goon squad must be opposed at every opportunity, and "Abolish ICE" should not be seen as a radical position, but instead the bare minimum if this country has a hope of surviving another three years. Numerous polls have shown that this stance has wide support across the country. It takes action from brave elected officials to meet the moment that their constituents support, and these two pieces of legislation are very much part of that.

The two proposed pieces of legislation serve as a strong foundation in starting to counter the racist and disgusting actions of ICE, and DHS, and the entire Trump administration. With their passage and constant vigilance, Howard County can do its part to help stem the creeping spread of modern fascism and maintain our place as a community residents are proud to call home. I've seen the fear spreading through the Howard County community at the actions of ICE -- I've seen posts on Nextdoor, on Ring, on Facebook, on all kinds of community groups. People are afraid and they expect their elected officials to support them. You should.

I will strongly support any further legislation that seeks to oppose ICE's cruel efforts, including the establishment of public legal defense funds, citizen outreach resources, county-wide banning of masks for law enforcement, and any other measures necessary to keep residents safe and informed. Please do the right thing. Your constituents are asking for it.

Passionately,  
Roxana

## Testimony in Support of Bill No.16

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**From** Sarah Ayer [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 9:55 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (39 KB)

Testimony in Support of Bill No.16.pdf;

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Hello,

I am submitting testimony in support for of Bill No. 16 Emergency Act - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group.

Thank you,  
Sarah Ayer

Sarah Ayer

[REDACTED]

2/3/26

Support for Bill No. 16– Emergency Act - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

My name is Sarah Ayer, and I am a concerned MSW student and life-long resident of Howard County. I am writing to express my support for Bill No. 16– Emergency Act— Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group.

As a life-long resident of Howard County, it is of great concern to learn of the swift, covert construction of the private detention facility in Elkridge. My chief concern is for the safety standards of this facility and its publicly accessible data. During my time interning at Springfield Hospital Center, a state-run psychiatric hospital for adults involved in the court system (just down the road in Sykeville), I saw firsthand the effort required to maintain publicly verifiable safety standards. All facilities housing mandated residents in Maryland follow The Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS), which includes regular, public audits on life safety, food services, and legal rights. Private detention facilities, by contrast, are not subject to the same rigorous oversight or public transparency. They operate under vague advisory guidelines that can be negotiated in their contracts. This is incredibly troubling. Regardless of immigration status, safety should be a legal mandate, not a negotiable provision.

Beyond my professional observations, this issue is deeply personal. As the daughter of an immigrant and granddaughter of a refugee, I know that the 'safety' of a facility is not just about building codes—it is about the inherent dignity of the people within its walls. When a facility operates in the shadows without public oversight, it creates an environment where human dignity can easily be compromised. By ensuring this facility meets the I-3 Use Group standards proposed in this bill, we are not just following a code, we are affirming that Howard County refuses to compromise on the safety and humanity of anyone residing within our borders, regardless of their status.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to support Bill No. 16.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ayer

[REDACTED]

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## Proposed ICE Detention Facility - Meadowridge Rd

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From Spike Altman [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/4/2026 1:32 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good morning,

First, I would like to commend the County Executive and the council members for introducing the emergency legislation to attempt to block this facility from moving forward.

As a lifelong resident of Howard County (I grew up in Fulton in the 80's, and have resided in Elkridge the past 20 years), we do not need this in our community. I assume the reason that construction has made it this far, is because someone along the line was not disclosing what this space was going to be used for. I'm sure any detention facility located in this area would produce some negative feedback from residents, but an ICE facility, along with their questionable actions/tactics, has no place in Howard County. One would assume, that if this facility would move forward, there would be a larger ICE presence in the community. We do not need county residents, students, or individuals who may work in the county to be afraid to come to school, work, or go in public. Both of my children (one of them being hispanic) attend Long Reach High School. Prior to Christmas break, a rumor? was being circulated that ICE was going to be at/near their school on a particular day, and from what my children told me, this greatly affected the attendance of hispanic students, which I can completely understand. My son, who has been in this country since he was 7 months old, and is a citizen, has to now drive around with a copy of his passport, "just in case" he would get pulled over, or confronted by ICE.

I understand we may not be able to control the actions of the Federal Government, but I believe there are enough issues with ICE practices/tactics/actions, that we, as a county, should be opposed to this facility.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Spike Altman  
Elkridge, MD

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**Support for CB16 and CB17 - Stop Private Detention Center in Elkridge**

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**From** Tanya Janish [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:29 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of CB16 and CB17 regarding the proposed detention center at 6522 Meadowridge Road in Elkridge.

I am concerned about the health, welfare, and safety implications of a private, third-party company setting up a detention facility in our neighborhood. Allowing this facility sets a dangerous precedent for privatized detention without appropriate public oversight.

I support County Executive Ball's action to revoke the building permits and strongly urge the Council to pass this emergency legislation to ensure that this facility cannot move forward.

Thank you,  
Tanya Zirbel

**CB16-2026**

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**From** Taube Kravitz [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 11:11 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I support CB16-2026 because the federal government has proven repeatedly that the Constitution means nothing to them, but this is still America and we must do everything in our power to ensure that our laws, not this Republican regime's arbitrary rules, are enforced. Thank you for safeguarding democracy.

- Taube Kravitz, PhD  
Fulton, MD 20759

**Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** William Klingaman [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 9:57 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members:

Please support the emergency legislation proposed by the County Executive to keep ICE warehouses out of Howard County. Thank you.

William K. Klingaman, Ph.D.  
[REDACTED]

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**CAIR Maryland Testimony in Support of CB 16-2026**

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**From** Zainab Chaudry [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/4/2026 10:33 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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**CAIR Maryland Testimony in Support of CB 16-2026**

February 4, 2026

Howard County Council Hearing

Good evening, Members of the Howard County Council:

On behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of CB 16-2026. CAIR Maryland serves thousands of Muslim families across Howard County and throughout our state, advocating for civil rights, religious freedom, and safe, thriving communities for all residents.

CB 16-2026 is not only a zoning or permitting measure - it is a community protection measure. It ensures that Howard County remains a place where families can worship, learn, and live without fear.

Mosques and faith institutions serve as vital community anchors. They are not only places of worship, but also spaces where families gather for education, youth development, food distribution, counseling, and mutual support. These institutions foster stability and belonging for thousands of Howard County residents regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

The placement of a privately operated ICE detention center in the heart of our diverse community fundamentally undermines that sense of safety and accessibility. This detention infrastructure creates an environment of fear that discourages families from participating in civic and religious life.

Our faith traditions emphasize dignity, mercy, and the protection of vulnerable populations. CB 16-2026 affirms Howard County's commitment to protecting religious freedom by ensuring incompatible detention uses are not permitted near spaces dedicated to worship and community support.

Parents have a fundamental responsibility to protect their children physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The presence of detention infrastructure near schools, neighborhoods, or community gathering spaces directly undermines that responsibility.

Muslim and immigrant families already navigate heightened levels of scrutiny and fear shaped by decades of discriminatory policies and rhetoric. The visible presence of detention infrastructure reinforces those fears and sends a harmful message to children that people who look like them or share their background are targets.

Research and lived community experience both demonstrate that trauma does not require direct contact. The constant awareness of detention operations can create stress, fear of family separation, and emotional insecurity for children. No child should associate their daily commute to school or attendance at community activities with enforcement and detention.

CB 16-2026 serves as a preventative measure that protects children before harm occurs, rather than forcing families to respond after lasting damage is done.

Schools and childcare centers must remain environments grounded in safety, stability, and trust. Educators work tirelessly to create spaces where children can focus on learning and development. The placement of detention infrastructure near educational settings disrupts that mission by introducing fear, distraction, and emotional distress.

Students from immigrant and Muslim backgrounds are disproportionately affected by these fears, which can contribute to absenteeism, disengagement, and reluctance to seek academic or emotional support. Teachers and administrators should not be placed in positions where they must manage the consequences of nearby detention activity.

CB 16-2026 establishes clear and enforceable boundaries that protect educational environments and ensures that zoning classifications cannot be used to mislabel detention infrastructure as compatible office or commercial use near schools.

Recent events demonstrate the vulnerability that exists when zoning and permitting frameworks do not clearly prohibit incompatible detention uses. Emergency action is important, but it is not a substitute for permanent protections.

CB 16-2026 closes dangerous loopholes and ensures Howard County is acting proactively rather than reactively. The bill strengthens transparency, protects community trust, and provides clarity to residents and local institutions about the county's commitment to public safety and wellbeing.

Howard County has long been recognized as a diverse and welcoming community. Passing CB 16-2026 would affirm the county's commitment to religious inclusion, child wellbeing, and equitable community development. It would send a clear message that our neighborhoods, schools, and houses of worship are places of safety - not zones of fear.

For these reasons, CAIR Maryland respectfully urges the Howard County Council to vote favorably on CB 16-2026. This legislation protects families, safeguards children, upholds religious freedom, and ensures responsible land-use policies that reflect the values of Howard County residents.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,  
CAIR Maryland

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Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.  
**Director, CAIR Office in Maryland**

CAIR Office in Maryland

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)

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