

CB16 & CB17

From Bridget Baker [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:35 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello Council Members,

As an Elkridge community member I very much hope you will pass CB16 to block an ICE detention center from coming to Elkridge and prohibiting private detention centers in general as well as CB17 to keep ICE out of county contracts, restrict ICE from being on county property, and give guidance to county employees and local businesses on how to handle interactions with ICE as well as any additional measures that can be taken to protect this community from the illegal and abusive actions of ICE.

It has been distressing to see the harm ICE agents have inflicted nationwide, and any actions to restrict their authority and disrupt the creation of these centers, would be worthwhile. I worry about many of my neighbors as well as members of my own family who may be targeted based on appearance alone.

Thank you
Bridget Baker

Please vote YES for CB 16 & CB 17 - 2026

From Carla Gates [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 2:52 PM
To councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>

 2 attachments (1 KB)

publickey - [REDACTED] - 0x3874A0B6.asc; signature.asc;

Good afternoon, gentle council folk!

Carla Gates of Columbia, MD 21044 here.

I am writing to add my voice to the chorus of voices asking you to approve this emergency legislation (CB 16 - 2026) and to approve CB 17 - 2026. I do not want a concentration camp in my neighborhood. I am calling the "detention centers" concentration camps as we have images and multiple reports of severe deprivation of basic human needs, including sanitation, nutrition, appropriate healthcare and shelter.

In a word - these centers are INHUMANE.

They have no place in our society and no place in Howard County.

Please vote YES on these two measures.

Sincerely,

Carla Gates

"Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."
~ James Baldwin

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Thank you! CB16 and CB17

From Cindy LaFollette [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2/5/2026 8:00 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council,

THANK YOU for passing CB16 and CB17. And for passing CB16 unanimously!

For CB17, reporting requirements are nothing new in government and the passing of this bill sets a standard for us here at home, and sets an example nationwide, for how we respond to the atrocities being thrown at us from the Trump administration. Ms. Walsh, thank you for introducing this bill. And thank you to the council for passing it.

I am just so so so proud of our county this week. I'll see you all at the signing tomorrow morning. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in advocacy, with liberty and justice for all,
Cindy LaFollette

Written Testimony re: CB 16 and CB 17

From Claire Baldi [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:02 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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My name is Claire Baldi and I am writing to offer favorable **testimony in support of CB 16-2026 and CB 17-2026**. I have lived almost my whole life here in Columbia. It has been a wonderful place to live, and I want to keep Howard County a safe and wonderful place for everyone who calls it home.

I support CB 16 because the reports of conditions in ICE detention facilities across the country are abhorrent. In 2025, thirty people died in ICE detention, a twenty-year high. Already in 2026 eight have died. If this pace keeps up, 2026 will be a much deadlier year, a nightmarish prospect. In the span of just two months, three people died in detention at Fort Bliss, Texas, including one death that was ruled a homicide in which an agent choked Geraldo Lunas Campos, a 55-year-old man, to death. We have widespread reports of inedible food, physical and sexual abuse, denial of access to counsel, medical neglect, and intolerable heat or cold, depending on the season. Fort Dilley has stopped movement in or out in response to active measles infections among its incarcerated people, a chilling echo of concentration camps of the past, where disease did much of the killing.

While these horror stories from across the country show us that this is what we can expect from an ICE detention facility in our county, we don't have to look that far. The George H. Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, despite being intended to hold people for 12 hours, is routinely being used to hold people for many days at a time, without adequate food, water, private bathroom spaces, medication, or beds, and in cramped quarters with dozens of other people per room. These are not conditions we should accept for anyone in a civilized society, but especially not for our own neighbors.

Howard County, as I said earlier, is a wonderful place to live. It will not be a wonderful place to live if even a fraction of those injustices are perpetrated here, on our watch, with any measure of cooperation from us. I believe it is our duty to do everything we can to resist the incursions of ICE and DHS more broadly into our county. I also believe that the issue of immigrant detention is, frankly, beyond political party or preferred candidates. It is a shameful truth that ICE detention has been dangerous, deadly, and inhumane under many presidents before the current one, and will continue to be for as long as ICE is allowed to exist. However, there is no denying that we are in a moment of acute crisis, and we have an opportunity here to curb a

massive expansion of the detention and deportation machine, while we also consider how to build a future in which no one has to live in fear of this kind of state violence.

I support CB 17 for similar reasons. All levels of immigration enforcement, from street patrols to detention to deportation, are at emergency levels of lawlessness and cruelty. I repeat my sentiment that there has never been a completely humane version of this system, but ICE, CBP and other Homeland Security agencies are undeniably at a new height of chaos and violence right now. This presidential administration is explicitly and overtly engaging in a project of ethnic cleansing, and ICE and its counterparts are terrorizing communities into accepting its racist agenda. We have a duty to do as much as we can to keep our community safe from this campaign of terror. Taking the step of keeping ICE off county property for all official purposes is a great example of the county using its lawful authority to protect its residents. I fully support these bills and look forward to more opportunities to extend protection to our community in the future.

--

Claire Baldi, RPR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In Support of Human Dignity and Community Safety: CB16 and CB17

From Cory Stephens [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:49 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing as a Howard County resident to express my strong support for both CB16 and the emergency legislation CB17, and to respectfully urge the Council to vote YES on CB17.

CB16 represents an important and principled step by preventing private detention centers from operating in Howard County. This legislation affirms our county's commitment to human dignity, transparency, and responsible governance.

CB17 is equally critical. As an emergency measure, it sends a clear and timely message that Howard County does not welcome Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in any capacity. In a moment when communities across the country are grappling with fear and uncertainty, CB17 provides decisive leadership and clarity about our county's values.

Together, these bills position Howard County as a leader in protecting residents, upholding civil rights, and rejecting the expansion of harmful detention and enforcement practices at the local level. I appreciate the Council's willingness to act swiftly and courageously on this issue.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration. I urge you to vote YES on CB17 and to continue supporting CB16.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cory Stephens

Howard County Resident

Letter in Favor of CB 16, CB 17, and a rapid response network to protect Howard County residents

From Danielle DuBois Gottwig [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:57 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Feb. 4, 2026

Dear Councilwoman Deb Jung,
and the other members of the Howard County Council,

I write to you as a resident of Hickory Ridge in Columbia, MD (District 4), as a union officer, and as a member of the Episcopal Church.

Like so many, I have deep concerns about the operational scope of DHS' immigration enforcement efforts and with the tactics employed by the agencies of DHS, particularly CBP and ICE. With impunity, federal agents have stopped residents of American communities for no reason whatsoever, other than the vague suspicion that someone might be an immigrant. People have been detained for hours or days with no reason given, handled roughly, and had all their questions ignored or met with "I DON'T CARE." This has happened to people of all statuses: undocumented immigrants and the documented: refugees, asylum seekers, green card applicants, people with TSP, and American citizens, including at least five members of the First Peoples tribes. Federal agents from the CBP and ICE alike have been documented over and over again exerting excessive force on the people they detain, on legal observers, and on protestors. Multiple people have been seriously injured or died, most famously Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Pretti, a member of my union, the American Federal Employees Union, and a dedicated ICU nurse, was shot around 10 times while he lay prone. Others have come home to their families, but only after having been thrown into the pavement, had pepper spray unloaded into their faces while restrained, been shot by less lethal rounds at close range, and so on. Many of these actions appear to be sheerly retributive, exerted against people who are unarmed and (often) already subdued. Consider the experience of one veteran in Minneapolis who, while following agents from a reasonable distance, received the following response: the government vehicle turned around in the middle of the road and drove at her car; agents then approached the car; the same agents then dragged the occupants of the car out of it, pinned them down, inflicted pain deliberately, and said, "Have you not learned? This is why we killed that lesbian b—," referring to Renee Good.

DHS wants to repeat this in our community. They want a detention facility here in Howard County, presumably to fill it with people who go to school with our kids, shop next to us in the grocery store, live down the street, and sit next to us in churches or in the park on a nice day. But there's a problem with that: we don't want it. DHS already has plenty of detention space, were they only searching for criminals. We don't want them going on a hunt through Howard County and through the surrounding counties looking for targets, just so that they can fill a warehouse with people. CBP and ICE have lost public trust, and with very good reason.

The public now looks to the courts, to the state, and to this county government to ensure that all law enforcement operations in conducted in these our United States, this nation of immigrants, this nation of laws and specifically here in Howard County are lawful, guided by sound procedure, and designed to protect and serve everyone who lives here.

As a civil servant, I cannot stress this enough: it is the job of the civil service to protect and help the people, all people, without prejudice. DHS has failed at their mission, but here in Howard County we can rise to meet our mission.

As a mother, I look to myself and the community to meet that same call. My daughter asked me just last week what will happen if ICE comes to the streets outside her school, and I told her it will be OK, because her teachers will take care of everyone. And she told me, "Yeah, they're pretty brave." Yes, they are brave. But we need to be brave too, because it is not the job of little kids and teachers to have to be brave; it's to teach and learn. The rest of us are supposed to protect them.

Local government needs to do what the federal government currently isn't: inspiring public trust by ensuring that all people are protected. This is why we need CB16 and C17 to pass. And it is why we then need to consider additional measures, such as a public legal defense fund and a quick response network powered by local agencies and, if needed, by citizen volunteers and nonprofit support to ensure that any operation that happens in this county is accountable and provides an accounting of anyone detained. I know many friends and church members who would contribute to such an effort. Anyone who is detained needs the help of the community to make sure they are safe and well represented.

In solidarity, prayer, and hope, I plead for your help to make sure this happens,

--

Danielle DuBois Gottwig

[REDACTED]

CB16 and CB17

From Ellen Sosinski [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:32 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

I cannot be at the meeting tonight, but I support the passage of CB16 and 17. What ICE is doing now has no place in our county, state, or in our country!

Thank you,
Ellen Sosinski
Clarksville, MD

Testimony for Emergency Public Hearing on February 4, 2026 at 6:00pm

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/SessionDetail?sessionId=1120&sessionTitle=Legislative%20Public%20Hearing%20-%20February%20Emergency%20Legislation>

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
Broadcast on channels 44(Verizon) and 1071(Comcast)

Legislation Number	Legislation Title
CB16-2026	AN EMERGENCY ACT amending the Howard County Building Code to provide that only a government agency is eligible to make application, obtain or hold a permit for the I-3 Use group; to provide that the building official may suspend or revoke a permit other than one issued to a government agency that has not passed final inspection; generally relating to the regulation of building and construction in Howard County; and declaring this to be an emergency act
CB17-2026	AN ACT requiring the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action at County facilities and property; requiring County departments to adopt certain policies consistent with the County Executive's guidance on immigration enforcement at County facilities and property; limiting access to certain areas for immigration enforcement; declaring contracts in support of immigration enforcement void and unenforceable as against public policy; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet an immediate emergency affecting public health, safety, or welfare; and Generally related to the County Administration and immigration enforcement in the County

Grace Ferguson
Columbia, MD 21044

Hello, this is Grace Ferguson—I am a resident of Columbia, Howard County, and a member of Greater Baltimore DSA, Our Revolution Howard County and Howard County Indivisible. I am writing in support of CB16 and CB17.

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 demonstrate they care about their safety. Thankful for this legislation and I hope to see continued action to further protect our communities and combat the terror of ICE.

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 (CB16, CB17, etc!).

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 (CB16, CB17)!

It is important for county employees and local businesses to have guidance on how to interact with ICE to help protect our community members (CB17).

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.

Our fates are all connected, so let us pair our deeply needed concern for those who have migrated to the US with a similarly deep concern for those around the world who feel the impact of our foreign policy choices.

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.

Let us reject the lie that colonial borders are something to be guarded against a “foreign invasion.”

Let us reject white supremacy and the project of some to maintain a white racial majority through deportations, through incarceration, through violence and terror.

Let us 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, I ask that you:

- **Pass both emergency bills** and then build on them 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.

Testimony in Support of CB16 and CB17

From Moreno, Gabriel Delegate <Gabriel.Moreno@house.maryland.gov>
Date Wed 2/4/2026 8:31 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Guzzone, Guy Senator <Guy.Guzzone@senate.maryland.gov>; pam.guzzone <pam.guzzone@house.maryland.gov>; Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.maryland.gov>

 1 attachment (563 KB)

District 13 Favorable Testimony on CB16 and CB17.pdf;

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Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

Please see attached a letter of support from the District 13 Delegation expressing support and urgent passage for CB-16 and CB-17 of 2026. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if you have any questions or comments.

Best regards,
-Hunter

Hunter P. Craig | *Chief of Staff*

Delegate Gabriel M. Moreno (District 13, Howard County)

Member, Judiciary Committee

Low House Office Building Room 225 | 6 Bladen Street | Annapolis, Maryland 21041

Ph: 410-841-3471

SENATOR GUY GUZZONE
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3572
800-492-7122 Ext. 3572



DELEGATE PAM LANMAN GUZZONE
DELEGATE GABRIEL M. MORENO
DELEGATE JEN TERRASA
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 225
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3471
800-492-7122 Ext. 3471

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13
HOWARD COUNTY

February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Jones, Vice Chair Rigby and Members of the Howard County Council,

We write as the Maryland District 13 Delegation to express our strong support for Council Bill 16-2026 and Council Bill 17-2026 and to urge passage as emergency acts.

Across the country and here in Maryland, federal immigration enforcement has intensified in ways that are terrorizing communities. Families live in constant fear that ordinary activities such as going to work, taking a child to school, or seeking medical care may result in a loved one being detained and eventually disappearing into the detention system. We have seen immigration arrests of people with no criminal record or pending charges and an alarming record of deaths and neglect in immigration custody. This climate of fear erodes trust, breaks families apart, and targets our immigrant neighbors who are integral to the social and economic fabric of Howard County.

When residents are afraid of immigration enforcement, they are less likely to call the police to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, seek emergency assistance, or access health and human services. That makes everyone less safe regardless of immigration status. No one should weigh personal safety against the risk of family separation. Local government has a responsibility to ensure that county property, personnel and permitting processes are not used in ways that deepen this terror or allow unaccountable detention operations in our community.

Howard County has long prided itself on being inclusive and committed to justice. At a time when immigration enforcement has grown more aggressive, we must do everything in our power to protect the well-being of all who reside in Howard County. That includes prohibiting county resources from being used to facilitate immigration enforcement that harms our residents and undermines trust.

By enacting Council Bill 16-2026 and Council Bill 17-2026 as emergency measures, the Council can take clear moral and practical action to safeguard our neighbors and reaffirm that Howard County stands with families. These bills send a message that our community will not be a staging ground for policies that terrorize immigrants and jeopardize public safety. Instead, we choose to uphold dignity, due process and the wellbeing of every person who calls Howard County home.

For these reasons we respectfully and emphatically urge you to pass Council Bill 16-2026 and Council Bill 17-2026 without delay.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Guy Guzzone in black ink.

Guy Guzzone

Senator

Handwritten signature of Pam Lanman Guzzone in blue ink.

Pam Lanman Guzzone

Delegate

Handwritten signature of Gabriel M. Moreno in black ink.

Gabriel M. Moreno

Delegate

Handwritten signature of Jen Terrasa in blue ink.

Jen Terrasa

Delegate

Jonathan Hao Testimony - CB16-2026 and CB17-2026

From Jon [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:51 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Testimony for, prepared in advance:

I'm speaking today as a 2nd generation Taiwanese American in strong opposition to allowing any privately owned detention facility to operate in our county. My family and I are U.S. citizens, residents, and community members of over 25 years. Yet that doesn't matter with increasing ICE activities and detainment.

Howard County has already seen what happens when we entangle ourselves with detention. Our historic jail in 1851 was used to hold enslaved people and those who helped them seek freedom, showing that local jails have long been used to police and punish marginalized people, not just protect public safety.

As recently as 2020, federal inspectors documented that our own Howard County Detention Center mistreated civil ICE detainees—commingling them with criminal inmates, failing to provide basic meals and medical care, and subjecting them to excessive strip searches—until our county finally ended that ICE contract in 2021.

Across Maryland, segregated facilities like Henryton and Crownsville warehoused Black patients in inferior conditions, and special prisons like Patuxent used open-ended confinement and coercive 'treatment' that landed hardest on marginalized communities. When we build specialized detention institutions, they consistently become sites of abuse, secrecy, and racial disparity.

As a Taiwanese American, I carry stories of how detention and exclusion have been used against Asian communities in this country—from Chinese exclusion, to Japanese American incarceration, to today's stepped-up immigration enforcement that spreads fear in immigrant neighborhoods.

My community and our neighbors are already anxious about raids, 287(g) agreements, and ICE presence in Maryland, and building a new detention center—especially one run by a private entity with even less oversight—will only deepen that fear and drive people away from cooperating with local government and police.

Howard County has already decided once that we do not want to be in the business of holding ICE detainees, and we have seen the harm when we try. I ask you to honor that lesson and our county's values.

Please vote to block any new detention center from operating here, and ensure that our legacy is one of community safety and care, not another chapter in Maryland's long history of harmful institutions.

Jonathan Hao

I support CB-16-2026 and CB-17-2026

From kathleen.clair@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:32 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilmembers,

I was born and raised in Howard County and recently moved back to Columbia with my husband and two children who attend Howard County Public Schools.

I strongly support both CB-16 and CB-17 to reduce the danger that federal immigration agents pose to our county. I have seen the tactics these officers employ in other areas of the country, including violence, intimidation, racial profiling, and seizing and harming people regardless of immigration status or any considerations regarding safety. Neither my children nor their friends and classmates should live amid such violence or have to fear it will be employed against them.

I also have heard about the horrible conditions in immigration detention facilities. And if we build more such facilities, we will fill them. Federal immigration agents have been given quotas that, simply as a numerical matter, would call for arresting and detaining large numbers of people with various types of legal status and who pose no danger whatsoever to anyone. The clear aim of federal immigration policy right now is white supremacy, by the express language its architects use. We cannot allow the likes of Stephen Miller and those taking orders from him to build out the capacity to carry out these plans. We must stand together and say no.

Thank you,
Kathleen Clair
Resident of Long Reach Village, Columbia
[REDACTED]

CB16 and CB17

From Kathy Tillman [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:10 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I would like to express my support for both emergency bills: CB16 and CB17.
I really appreciate our County Executive and our County Council members acting so quickly on this legislation.

Thank you,

Kathy Tillman
[REDACTED]

Written Testimony in favor of CB17

From Katie O'Neill [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:36 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Chair and Members of the Howard County Council,

I'm writing to urge you to VOTE YES on CB17-2026 ("County Executive – Immigration Enforcement – Guidance – Emergency Act").

CB17 is a clear, practical step to protect residents and County staff by setting bright-line rules for immigration enforcement activity on County property and inside County facilities. As I understand it, CB17 would:

Require a federal-court warrant (or exigent circumstances) before County staff can grant ICE access to non-public areas of County facilities.

Prohibit ICE civil enforcement activities on County-owned or County-controlled lots/garages/vacant lots (including surveillance, staging, processing, detention, or vehicle storage) unless required by law or authorized by a valid judicial warrant—and require clear signage.

Make contracts that support ICE operations in Howard County "void and unenforceable" as a matter of public policy.

Require the County Executive to publish guidance (including step-by-step procedures, sample scripts, and training expectations) and require departments to adopt policies, train staff, and report on ICE requests and how they were handled.

I also support CB16-2026 to prevent privately-operated detention facilities from being permitted here, but CB17 is the necessary emergency companion bill to ensure the County government is not facilitating ICE civil enforcement "in any capacity" on County

property or in County facilities.

This is the time to set an example for the state and the nation.

Please vote YES on CB17.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katie Kavanagh O'Neill

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Support CB16-2026 & CB17-2026

From Linda Robinson [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:44 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear council members

My name is Linda Robinson. I am a citizen and long time Howard County resident (district 2). I want to voice my strong support for CB16-2026 and CB17-2026. This is as much a humanitarian issue as a political one for me. I fear for my neighbors and am SO angry at this government, my government, for the gleeful cruelty they are inflicting on the most vulnerable among us. As the Trump administration moves to solidify its fascist hold on our country we must fight back in whatever way we can. Preventing the spread of ICE's gulag is the very least we can do.

Linda Robinson

 Outlook

Re: CB16 and CB17 testimony

From Loreen Heinz [REDACTED]
Date Sat 2/7/2026 11:54 AM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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> On Feb 4, 2026, at 5:55 PM, Loreen Heinz <loreenvheinz@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> <CB 16:CB17 ICE OUT.pdf>

Dear County Council Members:

My name is Loreen Heinz. I live at [REDACTED] Columbia, 21044.

I am testifying in FAVOR of both CB16 and CB17.

First, I want to thank you for taking on these bills as emergency legislation. The health and safety of our community requires quick action.

Second, as a county resident of more than 50 years, I have seen our population grow and change. From the rural towns in the western part of the county to the higher density population along the Route One corridor; from the northern section of Ellicott City along Route 40 to the older towns of Savage and Laurel along our southern border, our population has diversified. And the county has benefited from the influx of people from all over the world, creating a mosaic of talent, culture, and care. And we have met this change with open minds and open hearts, knowing that we benefit from the success of each other.

As a retired Howard County teacher of English, both in the mainstream high school classroom and the ELD classroom, I am well aware of the personal challenges we have faced as the county has changed. But we all learned and grew as the result of interacting with people on a human level, with dignity for all.

At this time in our nation's history, when intentional brutality is thrust upon us, I encourage you to vote in favor of these two bills which will help to protect our population, native and immigrant alike. As a county we have strived to be our brothers' keepers, to welcome the stranger, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Any cooperation with federal agents would make us complicit in their unlawful, inhumane acts.

Thank you for having the courage to stand up for human rights and dignity; our future depends on it.

Loreen Heinz

February 4, 2026

Testimony in Support of CB 16- 2026 and CB17-2026

From Loren Henderson [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2/5/2026 12:43 AM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (33 KB)

Testimony in Support of CB17_DrLorenHenderson (1).pdf;

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Dear Howard County Council Chairperson and Members of the Council,

My name is Dr. Loren Henderson, and I am testifying as a Howard County resident in support of CB16-2026 and CB17-2026.

I moved to Howard County from Chicago for my academic appointment at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I chose this community for both personal and practical reasons. I wanted my son to attend a strong, multiracial public school system and to build our lives in a place known for thoughtful planning, civic stability, and opportunity. Howard County's reputation for careful governance and inclusivity was central to my decision.

Recent national events have shown that federal enforcement actions can significantly impact local communities. In September 2025, a large immigration enforcement operation took place in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, where my mother once lived. News reports described early-morning detentions, a strong law enforcement presence, and confusion among residents. Such events leave lasting impressions and shape how communities experience government authority.

While local governments cannot control federal policy, counties can determine how they use their own resources, personnel, and facilities. This is why clarity in local legislation is important.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris has spoken about moments in our national life that feel like "a dark night," encouraging communities to remain steady and principled. I believe Howard County can do just that: serve as a bright, steady presence when residents feel uncertainty.

Supporting CB17-2026 affirms that Howard County governs intentionally, transparently, and within constitutional boundaries. In challenging times, local leadership is essential.

I chose Howard County for its stability, opportunity, and thoughtful public policy. I hope it continues to shine as a source of clarity and reassurance when needed.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Respectfully,
Dr. Loren Henderson

[REDACTED]
Howard County Resident

--

Dr. Loren Henderson
Director of The School of Public Policy
UMBC Innovation Fellow
Executive Officer
Association of Black Sociologists

[REDACTED]
School of Public Policy Rm. 411
UMBC | University of Maryland, Baltimore County

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
UMBC was established upon the ancestral land of the Paskestikweya people. We humbly offer our respects to the elders, past and present citizens of the Cedarville Band of the Piscataway Conoy, the Piscataway Indian Nation, and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, all Algonquian Peoples. We acknowledge members of the Lumbee, Piscataway, and Cherokee tribes that call Baltimore home today.

Testimonial for Bills CB16 and CB17 2026

From Magnolia Peck [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 6:04 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (8 KB)
Testimonial for Bills CB16 and CB17 2026.docx;

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I have a testimonial to submit for the county council. I hope it isn't too late

I'm a 23 year old transgender Black woman and I've lived in Howard County for almost all of my life. I was never interested in politics and actively avoided thinking about it until I saw Project 2025. I would have liked to attend the hearing but I'm sick at the moment. I genuinely appreciate my county council's action in attempting to block the concentration camp in ElkrIDGE and similar attempts in the future, but I have a major problem with the below passage from CB17:

NOTHING IN THIS SECTION AUTHORIZES A COUNTY EMPLOYEE, AGENT, OR CONTRACTOR TO INTERFERE WITH, RESTRICT, TO IMPEDE AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER WHEN ACCESS HAS BEEN DENIED OR CONSENT TO ENTRY HAS BEEN WITHHELD.

By what means are these provisions enforced? Surely a lone office clerk might not be expected to overpower a squad of fascists with guns, but why prohibit all forms of resistance? Simply closing or locking a door in the face of armed trespassing thugs would become a punishable offense. Furthermore, those who would rather collaborate have an easy escape from taking similarly mundane action. Otherwise naked racists who support ICE would become clothed in plausible deniability; "I was prohibited from interfering in any way. Sorry!"

And what of the county employees, agents, and contractors whose job is supposedly to protect and serve the people?

One of the most common places people are kidnapped by ICE is at routine immigration hearings. Should the cops who are present at county courthouses have their hands tied in defending due process? Should they be restricted to words if their consciences demand action? Of the county employees this bill would affect, they're the ones who are most able to actually provide a physical barrier against federal agents.

This bill fails to hold federal agents accountable, instead handcuffing the very people who might hold them at bay. Federal immigration agents and Trump himself have demonstrated time and time again a blatant disregard for and immunity to the law. They respond to real power alone. When Minnesota failed to do anything other than grumble in displeasure about supposedly illegal actions, the people of Minnesota took matters into their own hands, taking organized direct action in support of their neighbors. In response, Minnesotan Democrat leaders mobilized county police, state police, and even the National Guard in support of fascism. A repeat of that in my own home state, my own home county, my own home town, would be radicalizing in the highest degree. To restrain antifascist actors in any capacity, as this bill does, amounts to a quiet acceptance of fascism.

Further, if state actors are 1. not required to act in securing the wellbeing of the people, except in defense of personal property (as clarified in Supreme Court cases *DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services* and *Town of Castle Rock v. Gonzalez*) and 2. not permitted to physically defend the people this bill attempts to protect (CB17), what is the function of "law enforcement" other than to engage in the same activities as ICE, mask-off? As a child of divorce whose parents lived in different parts of Howard County, I witnessed side by side in my childhood how poorer, more black, and more vulnerable neighborhoods in Columbia are patrolled and harassed while the affluent and generally lighter-colored parts in Ellicott City were left untouched. In the same manner, ICE targets poorer immigrant majority neighborhoods because they also have reduced means of legally defending themselves. Modern "law enforcement", just as in the days of Jim Crow, collects prison-slaves just as surely as the slave patrols before the US Civil War hunted down chattel-slaves. ICE and other "law enforcement" carry this rotten heritage into the present under the profiteering

prison-industrial complex. In order to permanently defeat ICE's blatant and very much precedented racism, the entire justice system must be revolutionized.

I understand that much of this falls outside the scope of this bill, but it must be considered that the present ICE expansion can't be separated from the inherent racism and classism of "law enforcement". It must be considered that the more privileged parts of one of the richest counties per capita in the US are entirely oblivious to local police terror. It must be considered that much of Trump's fascism is simply a renewed expression of default American fascism. It must most of all be considered that fascism only responds to concrete power.

Thank you for your time

Support for CB16 and CB17

From Margarita Y. Rodríguez [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 10:07 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear County Council,

I'm a resident of Howard County in zip code 21045.

I'm writing in support of and requesting you to vote yes on both CB16 and CB17.

I strongly support CB16 to make it illegal for any DHS detention centers to be established in the county. A potential center of this type raising alarming concerns for the safety of our county community. It would not serve or benefit the county in any way but instead jeopardize the safety and trust with local law enforcement, pose serious safety concerns for schools, community centers and commercial establishments. A DHS detention center does not align with the values of our county or the vision for a diverse, thriving community we are determined to protect for generations to come.

I also strongly support CB17 to prohibit any ICE activity on county property without judicial warrants and no ICE agreements and providing guidance for county business regarding ICE activity. We must protect county residents accessing county property or simply trying to conduct business in the county from predatory, unlawful ICE activity.

Thank you for your time and dedication and consideration of these measures. I thank the council for taking both measures up this evening and again offer my strong support for their approval.

Sincerely,
Margarita Rodriguez

Vote in support of emergency bill no. 16-2026

From Randell G. Young [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2/5/2026 7:41 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear County Council members,

I'm writing to state my support for the emergency legislation bill number 16-2026 cosponsored by the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive, Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, and Liz Walsh

(Short Title: Emergency Act - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group).

I strongly oppose Howard County granting permits for any private detention centers or immigration processing centers. Facilities like these need to be transparent in their establishment and must be overseen by building officials in order to meet public health and safety and international human rights standards.

The current US administration is illegally using arrest, detention/imprisonment and deportation without due process to terrorize immigrants in our communities. This violates the rule of law, ethical standards of Howard County and United States codes regulating the treatment of detained individuals. I ask all of you who are responsible for safeguarding our rights and our safety to vote for the emergency bill and against permitting for private detention facilities whether for one individual or thousands.

Thank you,

Randell Young
[REDACTED]

Urgent: Pass CB16 & CB17 Immediately!

From R Azzam [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 6:00 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Reem Azzam, and I am a lifelong American and a resident of Howard County writing in support of CB16 and CB17. I first want to thank our Council Executive Calvin Ball and Councilwoman Liz Walsh for their important efforts in advancing this legislation. I write today as someone who no longer recognizes the country I grew up in. I was born here to two naturalized American citizens, and because of my background I have lived on three different continents, including in countries known for repression and fear. And yet, in all those years abroad, I have never felt the level of fear that I feel now—not only for myself, but for my loved ones, my community, and this nation.

Over the past several months, that fear has become a daily reality. I have carried my passport with me everywhere I go and told my children to do the same. I track their locations constantly. At times, I have even prevented them from doing things they love—like going to study in the city—because I am afraid of what could happen in an encounter with law enforcement or immigration authorities. I ask you: is this our way, the American way?

CB16 and CB17 are, in my view, the bare minimum of what is needed from our local leaders to do their part in upholding the law, protecting human life and dignity, and safeguarding the most fundamental human rights. These two bills strengthen due process and fairness in how our local systems interface with immigration enforcement and create clear countywide rules for ICE and CBP encounters in county facilities and on county-controlled property. Together, these bills say that in Howard County, we will not allow fear, confusion, or informal pressure to erode constitutional protections or turn public spaces into de facto enforcement zones.

You have the tools at your disposal to push back against repression and the slide toward authoritarianism. There is nothing more important right now than doing everything in your power to protect the people you are responsible for—their lives, their civil liberties, and their ability to move through their own communities without constant fear. No other accomplishment in your tenure will matter if you fail at this most basic and fundamental task.

I urge you to immediately pass CB16 and CB17 and to treat them as a starting point, not an endpoint, for further legislation that will cement the protections of our liberties and our human dignity.

Thank you,

Reem Azzam

Testimony on CB16 and CB17

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:55 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB309 Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations

House Judiciary Committee

February 2, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I, Roslyn Zinner, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB309- Judicial Facilities - Stops, Detentions, and Arrests – Limitations**

- A day after President Donald Trump took office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a new directive to its agents: Arrests at courthouses, r
- This directive prevents immigrants from attending court hearings, required immigration court proceedings or check-ins with Immigration and Customs Er
- The administration’s policy has forced immigrants to choose between attending mandatory hearings and risking arrest or missing court and facing an aut
- HB 309 will Prohibit a person from being stopped, detained, or arrested for certain civil offenses while the individual is in a judicial facility or is traveling v
- Arrests in and around any court including family, traffic, immigration and criminal courts, create a "chilling effect" that undermines the justice system by
- Other states are filing or have passed similar legislation similar to HB 309.
- HB 309 will protect the rights of all residents and support the integrity of our judicial system

I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Psychotherapist

[REDACTED]

Teletherapy access: www.doxy.me/roslynzinner

Artist

Coral Reef Encounter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM42vNH2XJE&t=1758>

Coral Reef Encounter July 19 and 20, 2025

[REDACTED]

In support of CB16 & CB17

From Samuel Kane [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:01 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of CB16 and CB17, two bills that, if passed, will contribute to keeping our community safe from the brutal and unlawful behavior demonstrated by ICE agents throughout our country.

CB16, which prevents private detention centers from being built in our county, including the center ICE currently has under construction, will make it harder for ICE to detain large swaths of our community in similar ways they have done elsewhere. It will also limit predatory imprisonment practices in our area, mitigation that has been needed for a long time.

CB17, which keeps ICE out of county contracts, restricts ICE from being on county property, and gives guidance to county employees and local businesses on how to handle interactions with ICE, will inhibit their terror and give community members a much-needed sense of control over the grim situation our country finds itself in.

Failure to pass these bills at a time when we are in very real danger of this federal entity infringing on our Constitutional and human rights would be absolutely unacceptable.

Please pass CB16 and CB17!

Thank you,
Samuel Kane
[REDACTED]

Vote YES on CB16-2026 and CB17-2026

From Sherri Dembowski [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 10:12 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to implore you to vote YES on both **CB16-2026**, the bill against private detention centers, and **CB17-2026**, which requires the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action and requires county departments to adopt policies to meet that guidance.

I want to be clear that I value and support law enforcement that is educated, well-trained, professional, and understands citizens' rights while respecting human dignity. I also support the intent and necessity of immigration enforcement.

However, we have ample evidence showing the federal administration's so-called immigration enforcement tactics are horrifying. They have continually demonstrated complete contempt for basic human decency and trampled the constitutional rights of entire communities in the process.

I do not want to see that repugnant behavior in Howard County. I especially don't want people to be mistreated in detention facilities in my neighborhood.

I would not object to private detention if those facilities had to meet strict guidelines and submit to on-demand inspections by any elected or appointed official (any hour, any day, no stalling, etc.), where evidence could be captured and immediate remedy is required.

I have seen a lot of hateful, narrowminded comments on social media and in newspaper articles regarding these proposed bills. I want to believe that I'm with the majority of Howard County residents who appreciate diversity and believe immigrants enrich our community.

I want to thank Dr. Ball and the Council members who have sponsored these bills. Let Howard County lead with respect and dignity while still upholding laws.

Thank you,
Sherri Dembowski

S McKenna testimony CB16&17-2026

From Steve McKenna [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 10:33 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (62 KB)
McKennaTestimony_CB16&17-2026.pdf;

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Attached please find text of the testimony I delivered to the Council this evening.

--

Stephen J. McKenna
[REDACTED]

Testimony of Stephen McKenna, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
[REDACTED]

In favor of CB16-2026 and CB17-2026

February 4, 2026

Good evening, Council Members. I'm Steve McKenna, and I've been a resident of Howard County for the last decade. I'm here to speak in support of both of the bills before you.

I want to thank you and Executive Ball for bringing this emergency legislation forward with such clarity of moral purpose. Your strong support for this legislation means that it will inevitably pass. To some that might suggest that public testimony is not needed, but I disagree. It is absolutely fitting and necessary that residents of this county strongly voice their views tonight, as no doubt counties around the country are looking in on the example we will set.

And our example is clear: We will not be complicit in easing the Trump administration's ability to have and/or operate what are essentially concentration camps in our midst. And we will never let private industry turn a profit on human misery in our county.

"Concentration camps?" some people are probably asking. Isn't that just some overheated rhetoric? I'm afraid it's not. I'm a writer and editor, and I take word usage very seriously. And I use that term deliberately. These are facilities where people are held indefinitely without criminal conviction, separated from families, denied adequate medical care, and subjected to conditions that are often no less than torture—and that have resulted in many documented deaths. The term "concentration camp" does not belong exclusively to one historical moment. It describes a specific category of detention, and scholars of genocide have been clear that these facilities meet that definition.

As for ICE, as currently constituted, it is not simply an enforcement agency. It is the operational instrument of a policy designed to remove specific ethnic and national populations from American communities. When an agency conducts mass raids, separates families, warehouses and deports people to countries from which they don't even come, in some cases to third party countries being paid with our tax dollars to imprison them, where they face torture and death... we must call that what it is: ethnic cleansing.

Another strong word. I use these words because history demands we be precise. We have probably all asked ourselves what we would have done in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. If

we haven't, we should. Would we have been complicit? Would we have looked away? Would we have told ourselves it wasn't our concern, that we were just following the rules?

Those were not hypothetical questions then, and they are not hypothetical questions now. They are fundamentally the questions before this Council tonight and at the heart of both of these bills.

Howard County has a clear choice. We can permit private industry to profit from concentration camps in our community. Or we can say—clearly, on the record—that we will not be complicit. We can say we're just fine aiding and abetting in ethnic cleansing, or we can say—clearly on the record, that we are not. We never will be.

So, I urge you to pass this legislation and pass it unanimously. And I know you will do so understanding the full moral gravity of what you are rejecting. What we all are rejecting. Counties looking in from around the country ought to do the same. I thank you.

CB16 & CB17

From T Burch [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 4:45 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Council,

My name is Taylor Burch, and I am a resident of Howard County in the Hobbit's Glen village of Columbia. I write to you today to express my support for both pieces of legislation up this evening, February 4, 2025 - CB16 and CB17.

CB16 safeguards our community against private entities, particularly shell companies used to hide the true ownership and operation, operating detention facilities within the county. This initiative will create trust and accountability within our community, and protect our residents.

CB17 continues that work, creating an opportunity for the community to have clear expectations and prevent future chaos if immigration operations begin in Howard County. This piece of legislation begins the work of creating a framework and lays the foundation for protecting our community against the aggression that has been seen in other parts of the country.

I sincerely hope the county adopts both of these pieces of legislation, and thank you for your efforts in continuing to ensure our county a safe place to live for everyone.

Regards,
Taylor Burch

 Outlook

ICE DETENTION CENTER

From KAREN WALLER [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 11:38 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I strongly oppose having an ICE detention facility in Elkridge!

We cannot possibly look the other way when evil threatens to move into our community. These facilities across the country are warehouses for abuse. Just say no. NOT HERE IN HOWARD COUNTY!

—Karen Waller

[REDACTED]
Elkridge, MD 21050

Sent from my iPhone

ICE detention center - NO!

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

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Please do not allow an ICE detention center in our county.
I do not want their presence as they currently operate in our county.
Do not allow this organization that clearly does not reflect the "Choose Civility" motto in our county.
Thank you

Kelly Felix
[REDACTED]

Realtor
Coldwell Banker Realty
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Vote Yes on CB16-2026

From Columbia Democratic Club [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:33 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Howard County Council members,

The Columbia Democratic Club, as a member/affiliate organization of the Howard County Immigrant Justice Coalition, is proud to stand in solidarity with our neighbors to support CB16-2026 blocking the establishment of an ICE detention center in our community.

We have witnessed the horror of the violence ICE has inflicted on communities across the country and we are proud to stand with our neighbors to say that hate has no home here. We will continue to advocate for a welcoming and inclusive Howard County whose strength lies in its diversity. Part of that mission includes protecting our immigrant neighbors from discrimination and harm. We urge the County Council to pass this legislation to ensure that Howard County remains steadfast in its mission to provide a home for all.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Lamppert Leslie, CDC Secretary, on behalf of the members and board of the Columbia Democratic Club

Detention Center in Elkrige

From Louise & Dave Carlson [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:27 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

Please do not allow the building in Elkrige to be used as an ICE detention center facility.

Liberty Act prohibits the use of County resources for immigration enforcement unless it is required by federal or state law, an international treaty, or an existing intergovernmental service agreement.

Thank you,

Louise A Carlson

No Ice in Howard County

From Mabel Canada [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:23 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Please do not allow this poisonous philosophy, and hateful attitude to come into Howard County. The fact that this administration and these individuals in this organization (ICE) are full of hate and fear. We are a democracy. We stand strong as a democracy. We are the people who make the rules and laws. I pray that Council members do not put the blinders on to what is going on in our country and the attempts to infect our county with the disease of hate. We must fight back with our words yes our thoughts and prayers, but also our actions. Do not allow this hate filled agenda to come into our beautiful county.

We need to remember we are a country of immigrants. I would remind people to remember the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty "Give me your tired your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free". We're all immigrants on a stolen land.

Re: Ice Detention facility

From Margie Phillips [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:27 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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From Margaret A Phillips
[REDACTED] Columbia, MD 21044

On Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 5:23 PM Margie Phillips <phillipsm55@gmail.com> wrote:

Please Disallow a facility to be built in any part of Howard County. Be on the right side of history. This is madness and may I remind you that prior to the last Presidential election there was a Bipartisan bill agreed upon to move forward and was stopped by our President. Please be a light to this darkens and stop ICE Dentention Center moves. There is a more humane way to treat people here illegally than to grab and dump this is an obstruction of our Constitution and the very freedoms we enjoy of Due Process and you are as well are enabling this Anarchy of our country if you vote to move forward. Be brave be an American!

Ice Detention facility

From Margie Phillips [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:23 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Please Disallow a facility to be built in any part of Howard County. Be on the right side of history. This is madness and may I remind you that prior to the last Presidential election there was a Bipartisan bill agreed upon to move forward and was stopped by our President. Please be a light to this darkens and stop ICE Dentention Center moves. There is a more humane way to treat people here illegally than to grab and dump this is an obstruction of our Constitution and the very freedoms we enjoy of Due Process and you are as well are enabling this Anarchy of our country if you vote to move forward. Be brave be an American!

Keep prohibiting detention centers in Howard County

From Nancy Schumm [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:53 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Human trafficking is illegal and what the federal government is doing right is human trafficking. Detaining humans who are us citizens, murdering citizens in our streets, and arresting protesters expressing their right to free speech, and arresting people for civil violations is not something we want happening in our County. The federal government claims they are arresting the worst of the worst, but evidence to the contrary demonstrates, they are not. I absolutely do not support this illegal activity and do not want it to be in or around my home. Thank you for protecting our County from the mayhem that will accompany a facility of this kind.

Nancy Schumm, CFM, PWS, CPESC, CPMSM, CESSWI

[REDACTED]
Columbia, MD 21045
[REDACTED]

'To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step.'

Rosa Parks

NO ICE DETENTION CENTERS

From Risto Worthington [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:22 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not allow any ice detention centers to be constructed or opened in Howard County or Maryland for that matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your efforts to keep humanity in our communities.

Risto Worthington

ICE Detention Centers

From Carol Vatalaro [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:26 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Council Members

My husband and I have lived in Howard County for over 50 years. We do not want any ICE facilities in our county or in Maryland. We totally object to their outrageous tactics.

Sincerely, Ron and Carol Vatalaro

Sent from my iPhone



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth
Testimony in Support of CB16-2026
February 4th, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify today. I'd like to start by thanking this Council for taking up and expediting this legislation, and to my partner, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, for taking quick and decisive action to halt an ICE detention center here in Elkridge. But most importantly, I'd like to thank the neighbors and community members who showed up tonight to testify, share their perspectives, and lean into the democratic process. You give me hope, even on the darkest days in Washington.

I want to take a few moments to urge a favorable vote on CB16-2026 - Emergency Legislation - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group. As the Trump Administration continues to weaponize ICE and stoke fear in our communities, we have to be united at all levels of government to protect the safety and dignity of our neighbors.

When ICE sends under-trained agents – who spend roughly ½ the amount of time training than our own local law enforcement – into our communities with guns and masks and no respect for due process, the public trust is eroded. When two U.S. citizens, VA nurse Alex Pretti and mother and wife Renee Good, are brutally murdered at just 37-years-old – my same age – ICE is not making our communities any safer. When 2025 was the deadliest year on record for those who were detained in ICE facilities – 25 people died while in custody – and another 8 have died in January, 2026 alone, we cannot continue to fund this agency without real, meaningful reform. When people are afraid to go to work, send their kids to school, or peacefully protest because of actions taken by their own government, that is a fundamental failure.

This week in the House of Representatives, I voted no on funding ICE and DHS. I have called for a complete and thorough investigation of what happened in Minneapolis. And, I have signed onto articles of impeachment against Secretary Noem. Under Secretary Noem, DHS, and ICE have systemically violated the rights and privacy of Americans, terrorized our cities, and obstructed Congress.

And locally, we will make clear that an ICE detention facility is not welcome in Elkridge. It is not welcome in Howard County. And, it is not welcome anywhere in Maryland. I have been to the ICE Baltimore Field Office with the Maryland Congressional Delegation multiple times to conduct our oversight duties of the facility, and from what I have seen, I can tell you that we do not need that here in Howard County. We still have outstanding questions on the conditions and operating posture of that facility that have gone unanswered by ICE. My concerns about that facility were only heightened by the video that we all saw a few weeks ago that appeared to show horrific overcrowding and deeply troubling conditions.

Now, Mr. Chair, If I may take a moment to speak directly to my neighbors here in Howard County. I know we are living in dark and scary times. As this Administration targets folks based on the color of their skin, as this agency actively tramples on the due process and civil rights of neighbors, as they try to intimidate peaceful protesters, it is hard to keep the faith. These videos are gutwrenching. The headlines can leave us feeling hopeless. But, please continue to lean in and stay engaged.

What gives me hope are the people here in this room, the organizers in Minnesota, the faith leaders across the country who are peacefully protesting and braving the bitter cold to make clear that ICE has no place in their communities. Howard County, I know that we will continue to show our solidarity, show up, and speak up.

CONGRESSWOMAN SARAH ELFRETH
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Member, Arizona Statewide Coalitions
House Chairwoman on Domestic Terrorism



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I want everyone to know that my office in Columbia is ready to serve you. One of the ways we do that is by communicating with federal agencies on your behalf on everything from your VA benefits and IRS tax returns to ICE detention.

Mr. Chair, there hasn't been a week during my first year in Congress when I haven't received a frantic text message or Facebook tag from a constituent who has a family member or coworker picked up by ICE. And that's when my office can spring into action. I have come here today with privacy release forms. These forms allow us to communicate with DHS and ICE on your behalf or on behalf of a loved one. If you would like to have your information on file with just our office in the event that you or a loved one is impacted by the weaponization of ICE, please find a member of our team. These aren't easy times, but our office has always been here to serve you on your hardest days... and we will continue to do just that.

Finally, I want this Council to know that you are not the only local jurisdiction facing this problem: I spent an hour with colleagues in Congress who represent communities across the nation. All were at a loss as to what to do and how to encourage their local government partners to act. I'm more proud than I can express that you, that this Howard County government and Council are showing the nation how to lead.

Thank you again to County Executive Ball for his leadership, the Howard County Council for the opportunity to testify on this legislation and for taking such swift action, and to the neighbors who are participating in this important discussion.

Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

No ICE detention centers in Howard County!

From Susanna Paul [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 4:11 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Susanna Paul <susannajp@gmail.com>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

WARNING!!!

This email originated from someone outside of Howard County
*****DO NOT CLICK LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS*****
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Dear Mr. Ball and Members of the Council,
I'm writing today to express my deep and heartfelt opposition to ICE detention facilities in our county.

I'm a proud first-generation American, the child of immigrants who were born in German-occupied Czechoslovakia and then raised under the brutal totalitarian rule of the Soviet Union. When my parents fled their homeland in 1968, they were 24 years old and had a 2-month old infant. They were so fortunate to find refuge in the United States. Born in 1971, I was raised with a deep appreciation for the freedoms offered by this country. I'm sickened by the many ways the Trump administration has curtailed American freedoms and continues to find bold and disgusting ways to undermine our democracy.

I'm very, very grateful that you've taken the initiative to revoke permits for a privatized ICE detention facility in Howard County.

This is one way in which we can say NO to the current reign of terror.
My husband and I offer our unwavering support for your actions. Please continue to use all the legal methods at your disposal to defend our democracy and protect innocent people from being terrorized by thugs with badges and guns.

Thank you for taking a stand against ICE and against state-sanctioned terror.

Best wishes,
Susanna Paul
Fulton, MD 20759

She/Her

CB16

From Suzanne Jones [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 3:46 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Vote YES on CB16

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Regards,

Suzanne E. Jones
[REDACTED]
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste.
You are a child of the universe.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Please vote FOR CB16-2026

From Tim & Deb Lattimer [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2/4/2026 5:19 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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We are residents of Howard County's District 2 and strongly urge the Council to vote FOR CB16-2026. We are parents of two children who we adopted from Latin America. Although both of our children are adults and naturalized U.S. citizens, we are deeply concerned about their safety and well-being in the face of ICE's unlawful racial profiling to abduct, detain, and deport people living in our community and around the nation.

Enacting CB16-2026 is the least the County can do to put a brake on ICE's unconstitutional actions that threaten our family, friends, and neighbors in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim and Debi Lattimer
[REDACTED]
Columbia, MD 21045