

 Outlook

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**YES to introducing emergency legislation banning private detention centers**

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**From** Cory Redfern <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Sat 1/31/2026 5:07 PM  
**To** Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

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I live at [REDACTED]. Per the news item  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News013026>, I submit as testimony for the legislative session on  
February 2nd: please do introduce and vote YES on the emergency legislation to restrict the use of  
privately-owned detention facilities in Howard County.

v/r,  
Cory Redfern

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**Please protect immigrants on Monday**

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**From** Emily Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Date** Sat 1/31/2026 7:17 AM  
**To** Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

I live in Columbia in your district. I saw that Calvin Ball is going to submit legislation to prohibit Privately owned detention centers, I encourage you to please vote yes and to make this into law. Howard county, especially Columbia, is built upon being accepting all people, a history that makes me very proud to live here. Anything we can do to protect immigrants (and apparently even US citizens) from mistreatment at the hands of those who are unaccountable is a good thing to do.

I would also ask if there is anything else the County/board can do to protect people from being targeted by ICE, please do so. Whether it's prohibiting our police from actively assisting, or enshrining further our status as a sanctuary county/state, or disallowing the targeting of specific areas like LA Mart etc.

I have never reached out to local officials like this before, but want to do my part on this incredibly important issue. Thank you for what you do for Howard County, and looking forward to seeing you continue to do so!

Thanks,  
Emily

## Oppose private detention facilities

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From Kathryn S [REDACTED]  
Date Sat 1/31/2026 2:44 PM  
To Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

I am a constituent from the Kings Contrivance village, 21046 and I am writing to ask that you support the legislation against private detention facilities that County Executive Ball plans to introduce on Monday. Private detention facilities are rife with opportunities for abuse; even worse when they are detaining our neighbors who are being detained morally and unconstitutionally.

Kathryn Schantz

## Support for Bill 16-2026

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From Akaash Raja <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 2/2/2026 8:26 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Writing to fully support bill 16-2026 to prevent ICE detention centers. Glad to see the county is doing what it can.

Akaash  
[REDACTED]

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## In support of Emergency Legislation Prohibiting Permitting of Privately-Owned Detention Centers

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**From** Amon Ducao <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 10:06 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### WARNING!!!

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Dear Council,

I am writing in support of County Executive Ball's emergency legislation banning the construction privately owned detention centers especially as it relates to any and all ICE activity in Howard county, the state of Maryland, and the greater country in general.

ICE has proven itself to be a failure at best and at its worst (and most common) an evil that runs directly counter to the principals enshrined in our constitution, outlined in our laws and legislation, fought for and won by countless soliders sine th inception of the country, and in the very core of the hearts of good and honest people. They, by even the strictest of definitions, kidnap, steal, terrorize, and murder. They target the innocent INSTEAD OF the guilty, they use overwhelming force on the defenseless, and they enact the tactics and goals of the worst of our enemies.

To find them covertly tempting to establish a foothold in an absolutely peaceful town is at once stupid, terrible, disappointing and given their current track record not surprising.

Because of all that I have stated above, I whole heartedly believe that they do not any place in our community. They will ONLY bring terror, violence, despair to those least deserving and more likely than not, death. They are not a civil force, but the anti thesis of civility. And they should not exist.

-Amon Ducao  
Howard County resident since 2014  
American Citizen by birth

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**Fwd: Liz**

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**From** Ashley <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 11:44 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**WARNING!!!**

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I support ICE.

I support our Howard County Police Department.

You all are allowing delusional, angry people to have a say in what federal agents do instead of encouraging cooperation to get illegal criminals out of our communities?

You are also allowing the spread of miscommunication.  
You're feeding it.

Do you support sex trafficking?  
How about the illegal guns and drugs plaguing our youth?

You are supporting corrupt government pedophiles and illegal criminals, that's for sure.

Absolutely disgusting.

Yours Truly,  
Ashley Asberry

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ashley <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sat, Jan 24, 2026, 9:47 AM  
**Subject:** Liz  
**To:** <[CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov)>

Nice job, Liz.

I thought Marcy Leonard was awful, but you, Elizabeth Walsh, have proved me wrong.

You're very much the same.

You're the kind of women who protect criminals.

The kind of women who think that 13-15 year old girls can consent to sexual intercourse and then get Plan B from the Wellness Clinic inside the schools operated by the HCHD and parents are never informed.

Are you involved in the rape, molestation, and trafficking of teen girls?

How about when it happens inside the schools?

Because you definitely support it.

You're vile and I believe this district is corrupt, I've been voicing my concerns for years after my daughter's life was ruined freshman year at WLHS.

Mr. Justin Fitzgerald will tell you, I am relentless.

I look forward to your downfall and I will help you resign and step down more than any other mother in this entire fucking county.

Enjoy your comfy life while you have it.

Karma is a [REDACTED]

Yours Truly,

Ashley Asberry

[REDACTED]

## Stop ICE Detention Center

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**From** Ashley Bell <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:21 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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I am writing this as a resident of Howard County. I just learned about the administration's plans to build a detention center in Howard County. This must be stopped. The administration's abuse of power is unprecedented and their so-called detention centers are reprehensible. People are being rounded up without due process and then sent to these centers where they are not receiving adequate care or nutrition and are kept in horrible conditions. This is inhumane and not what this country or this county should stand for. I tried to come to the Council meeting tonight but they were not letting anyone else in by the time I got off work and got there. I am glad however that many others were there to express their displeasure and anger about this matter. I am asking you to do whatever is in your power to turn this around and not bring fear and distrust to this county. We are better than that.

Ashley Bell  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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## ICE Detention Centers in Howard County

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**From** Brenda Clukey <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:46 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Sirs and Ma'am's,

I would like to say Thank you to all Marylanders who refuse to support privatization detention centers. People who live in this country should always have their day in court. This Administration believes anyone who doesn't look a certain way is a criminal and should be treated as such. We've witnessed this over and over again. I served this country for 35 years and believe strongly in the constitution and our rights.

How could it ever be ok to open a private detention center where individuals could do whatever they want to others. It's bad enough our own Government is doing this, but we can't think that we are above the laws of this land. I'm proud to call myself a Marylander as we understand the importance of freedoms and that this great country is founded by people of all different nations.

Sincerely,

Brenda

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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**Bill No. 16 -2026**

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**From** Trey warman <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 11:31 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**WARNING!!!**

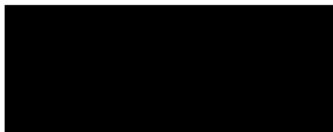
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Im unable to attend the public due to a prior commitment and would like to share my thoughts as a resident of Howard County since 1996.

With respect the possibility of private run, contracted, ICE detention or holding facilities of any kind in Maryland, I strongly oppose private contractors leasing facilities for federal immigration enforcement. In terms of those who may be running such for-profit businesses , there is an incentive to hold those detained longer than reasonably necessary, prior to proving their innocence. Additionally, lack of transparency and corruption are real concerns.

As a voter in Howard County, I wish to see our policians strongly opposing private run ICE facilities of this type in our county, and I support Bill No. CB16 -2026.

Bryan Warman



## Opposing private detention facilities

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From Charlotte Atkinson <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 2/2/2026 10:53 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hi!

I oppose private, for profit detention facilities and the heavy handed tactics and terror that ICE and CBP are unleashing in our communities.

I support CB 16 2026 to prohibit permits for such facilities.

Kind regards

Charlotte Atkinson  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Ice detention centers

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**From** Fran Donaldson <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:32 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am totally not in favor of the mean and heartless Trump Detention Centers. Do what ever you can to stop this from happening in Howard County.

Fran Donaldson, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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## Written Testimony for February 4 Public Hearing

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**From** Jaclyn Langley <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 7:52 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc** Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

### **WARNING!!!**

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To the Members of the Howard County Council,

I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of Council Bill 16-2026 and the efforts of County Executive Calvin Ball to prohibit privately owned buildings from operating as detention centers in Howard County.

Across the country, ICE has demonstrated a pattern of enforcement practices that are deeply troubling. Communities have witnessed family separation, prolonged detention without meaningful due process, lack of transparency, and actions that generate fear rather than safety. These practices have eroded public trust and caused lasting harm, particularly to vulnerable populations, while doing little to enhance community well-being.

Howard County has a proud history of governing with restraint, compassion, and respect for civil rights. The Liberty Act made clear that our county does not wish to use its resources- or its authority- to advance immigration enforcement practices unless explicitly required by law. Council Bill 16-2026 is a necessary and logical extension of those values.

Allowing privately owned detention facilities to operate within our county would make Howard County complicit in a system that has proven itself to be unaccountable and harmful. Detention centers do not merely house individuals; they introduce fear, trauma, and instability into surrounding neighborhoods. They undermine community cohesion and contradict the values that many residents have chosen Howard County for.

Local government has both the right and the responsibility to act when federal agencies operate in ways that conflict with community safety, human dignity, and the rule of law. This legislation affirms that Howard County will not be a passive participant in actions that harm residents or destabilize our community.

I urge the County Council to support Council Bill 16-2026 and stand firmly behind policies that protect Howard County, uphold civil rights, and reflect our shared commitment to humane and responsible

governance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaclyn Langley  
Howard County Resident

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## Support for Council Bill 16-2026 – Prohibiting Private Detention Centers

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**From** Jennifer Mace <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Tue 2/3/2026 8:07 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc** Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear County Executive Ball and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Council Bill 16-2026, which would prohibit the permitting of privately-owned buildings as detention centers in Howard County.

The reports regarding the potential ICE occupancy at 6522 Meadowridge Road are deeply concerning. Howard County has already established its commitment to being a welcoming and safe community through the passage of the Liberty Act. Allowing a private detention facility to operate within our borders would be a direct contradiction of the values of "clarity, restraint, and compassion" that our local government strives to uphold.

Private detention centers often lack the transparency and oversight necessary to ensure human rights are protected. By passing this emergency legislation, the Council will:

Uphold the spirit of the Liberty Act by ensuring our land-use policies don't facilitate federal immigration enforcement.

Protect our community members from the trauma and instability associated with localized detention facilities.

Prioritize public safety and equity over the interests of private contractors.

I urge the Council to vote in favor of CB16-2026 to ensure that Howard County remains a place where all residents can live without fear. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Mace

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**Support for Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** JOSHUA KAUFMAN <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:18 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc** Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear County Council Members,

I reside at [REDACTED]. I am writing to urge you to vote in support of the emergency legislation, [Council Bill 16-2026](#), which County Executive Calvin Ball filed with the Howard County Council to prohibit the permitting of privately-owned buildings operating as detention centers in Howard County.

Recent reporting and leasing advertisements indicate that Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intends to occupy a privately-owned building located at 6522 Meadowridge Road in Elkrige. Federal enforcement actions across the nation, in the State of Maryland, and in Howard County, have had devastating effects on our vulnerable immigrant populations, including children, and on folks protesting the abhorrent actions of ICE. In the face of such atrocities, local government must act with clarity, restraint, and compassion, and do everything in its power to protect the most vulnerable in our community. This bill in conjunction with the Liberty Act enacted in 2020 should serve to keep ICE from unlawfully detaining people in our community thereby protecting vulnerable persons and persons exercising their First Amendment Rights of speech and protest.

Thank you for the important work that you do.

Best,  
Jessica B. Kaufman



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**Re: CB16-2026 & CB17-2026**

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**From** John Lamb <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:38 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Howard County Council,

I urge you to adopt bills CB16-2026 & CB17-2026.

My high school Chemistry Teacher was fond of telling us when presented with a particularly hard problem to "find the concrete" - What's concrete? Stuff you put in to make a problem harder. Once we identified the extraneous, the problems were easier to identify and solve.

Immigration is a problem that has been filled with "concrete", and I believe I can simplify.

To whit, that which is abhorrent to be done to you, do not subject to another.

Are there any circumstances where you would assent to you or a family member to be taken at an unexpected time, rendered without due process, separated from your home and community, and cast out to an unfriendly foreign land?

The answer is of course no. So those who wish to do it anyway resort to labeling some other group as somehow subhuman or inhuman.

In the abrahamic religions it is stated that the original sin is Adam & Eve eating from the tree of knowledge; I contend that the original sin, or "fundamental problem of humanity" is better expressed in the story of Cain and Abel. Cain convinced himself that he had no obligation to protect and care for his brother, and in doing so found it easy to murder him. Dehumanizing others, and abandoning our responsibility to them is the fundamental flaw of humans and one we must overcome.

Therefore the danger is, when you start dehumanizing some you create the mechanisms that will eventually be used to dehumanize you. When dehumanization is invoked, the immediate necessary action is to circle the wagons around all of humanity. None of us are free unless all of us are free. An attack on the humanity of any group, represents an imminent attack on the humanity of all.

Therefore, we cannot participate in Stephen Miller's inhumane campaign on our neighbors. All children are our children. All families are our family.

A common thought exercise when learning about the Holocaust is to confront how easy it was for German citizens to go along with the genocide, in an attempt to save themselves, or just not deal with reality. We are being given an unwelcome (but it seems, necessary) opportunity to find out what we would have done.

I stand for humanity, our neighbors, and in opposition of those who would set us upon our brothers and sisters. ICE detention centers have no place in Howard County. Never Again means everyone, and Never Again is now!

Sincerely,

John Lamb



## Council Bill 16-2026

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**From** KATHLEEN ARMSTRONG <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:27 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilpersons:

I was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. To see its kindness and diversity attacked by ICE agents is heart-breaking for me. The people of Minneapolis have been nothing but peaceful protestors who only fight back when they are attacked by ICE. Even then, they don't "fight back", they rush to help each other and that is used by ICE to justify their further attacks and shootings, killings and arrests. I stand proud of the continued protests even in frigid temperatures in Mpls.

And I shudder to think the same thing might happen in Howard County. I say ICE OUT, ICE OUT, ICE OUT! Please pass this Bill in order to keep ICE out.

Kathleen Armstrong, resident of Howard County.

**Support for CB16-2026 and CB17-2026**

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**From** Kelly McVicker <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:44 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good evening,

I would like to make known my support as a private citizen of Howard County, MD for CB16-2026 and CB17-2026.

**ICE Intrusion and illegal activities**

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**From** Kumar Rajasekhara <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:29 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Please stop this illegal government overreach in any way possible. I will stand with you if you stand strong for our liberties and rights granted by the US Constitution.

Best regards,

S. Kumar Rajasekhara  
[REDACTED]

**Vote YES to prohibit ICE detention center**

---

**From** Lisa Nugent [REDACTED]  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 12:40 PM  
**To** Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

WARNING!!! This email originated from someone outside of Howard County \*\*\*DO NOT CLICK LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS\*\*\* unless you recognize the sender and know for sure that the content is safe Good afternoon - As a resident of Howard County for over 50 years, I'm writing to urge you to support the legislation to prohibit the development of an immigrant detention center in the county. We don't want increased ICE activity in our communities, or for our neighbors and families to live in fear. Respectfully, Lisa Nugent [REDACTED]

---

**Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Lora Gerlach <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:09 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello County Council,

As a resident of Howard County and an elementary school teacher, I whole heartedly support any efforts to prevent ICE activities in my community, including Council Bill 16-2026. ICE and CBP have proven themselves to be reckless, deadly, and antithetical to the principles of the most fundamental rights afforded to **all** people on US soil, under the US constitution. Every governing body in the US, including our states, counties, and cities must do whatever possible to keep these dangerous, pseudo-law enforcement, terroristic, quasi federal agents out of our community and protect the safety of all people.

Thank you for your time.

Lora Gerlach  
[REDACTED]

## Your ridiculous emergency bill

---

**From** Marc Austin <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:21 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc** Marc Austin <mmfaustin@gmail.com>

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It is sickening to me that you are trying to keep ICE out of the county! You are a thing like these other bobehed liberals who are all anti America can!

Hiw can you possibly justify keeping ICE out of a county where crime has been rising gig years now and illegals are welcomed in by you and your staff.

They are here to protect the tax payers and yourself from these illegals and criminals you are letting in too freeload off our taxes!

Shame on you being such an idiot and not caring about the safety of your residents and tax payers!

Kill this crap bill right now.

Marc Austin

Sent from my iPhone

CB 16-2026

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From Marquita Friday <[REDACTED]>  
Date Mon 2/2/2026 9:33 PM  
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Mr. Ball and Howard County Council Members,

I am a Howard County resident, and I am writing in support of Council Bill 16-2026, which denies private facilities to be used as ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detention centers. One only has to watch what is happening in Minneapolis, MN to understand that ICE agents are not acting lawfully and not upholding the constitution.

ICE agents are creating havoc, disorder, and mayhem in every city they invade, and Howard County residents should not be complicit in their illegal activity. I urge you to pass this emergency legislation and keep ICE detention centers out of Howard County. Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,  
Marquita Friday

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**Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** painnumd@yahoo.com <[REDACTED]>

**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:41 PM

**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

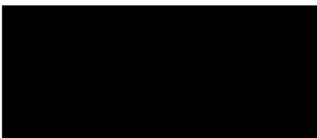
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I support your emergency legislation, [Council Bill 16-2026](#), which prohibits the permitting of privately-owned buildings operating as detention centers in Howard County. I have followed the unconventional and illegal tactics of federal ICE agents. The loss of life, physical damage, psychological suffering even to US citizens they have caused is incorrigible. My grandchildren are as fearful of this as I recall being of the Cuban Missile Crisis. We certainly do not support the facility or ICE activities in Howard County. Humans should be treated as humans, not animals.

Thank you,

Karen and Michael Kaiser



**ICE**

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**From** Mic Wort <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:22 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I strongly recommend that the County Council enact a prohibition on permitting privately owned buildings to operate as ICE detention centers in Howard County.

Thank you,  
Michael Worthington  
[REDACTED]

**Bill to Restrict Use of Private Detention Centers**

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**From** Nikki Highsmith Vernick [REDACTED]  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 3:06 PM  
**To** Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

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We learned late Saturday that the County Executive will be introducing an emergency bill this evening to restrict the use of private detention facilities in the county to be consistent with County policies while it considers future action.

We support adding this bill to the agenda and believe it deserves a public hearing. As you know, the Horizon Foundation envisions a Howard County free from systemic inequities where all people can live abundant and healthy lives.

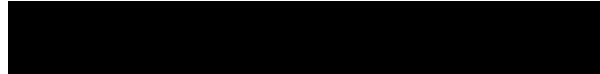
We believe the health of all residents matters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nikki

**Nikki Highsmith Vernick**

President and CEO



[www.thehorizonfoundation.org](http://www.thehorizonfoundation.org)

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**Bill 16-2026**

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From Tom Wimsatt <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 2/3/2026 6:14 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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Honorable Howard County Council and Howard County Executive Calvin Ball,

My wife and I disagree with the proposed bill to "prohibit the permitting of privately-owned buildings as detention centers". We do not believe the county, state or Federal government has any right to restrict the use of any private property for any use that is not criminal in nature or intent. This could arguably be seen as a taking. While the government is not necessarily seizing the property, it is restricting its use for a lawful purpose, thereby denying the owner full use of the property and income derived from the use. Restricting the property could be taken as far as restricting the property for only one use with the rationale that the county is not seizing the property as the owner can still use it but only for this one purpose for which the county has designated - takings, in principle.

Robert and Diane Wimsatt  
[REDACTED]

## I support Calvin Ball's bill

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**From** Sanya Weathers <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:30 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

### WARNING!!!

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Anyone supporting this regime's iteration of ICE is un-American and should be ashamed of themselves. If this building in our county houses ICE in any form or detains a single human being, we will be derelict in our duty as real Americans - we all have a responsibility to stand up for the rule of law and due process.

Sincerely,  
Sanya Weathers

**Please pass Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Shelley Estersohn <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:02 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am deeply opposed to the establishment of an iCE detention center in Howard County. I fully support any and all legal actions to impede ICE's unconstitutional and morally-repugnant activities against our neighbors and friends.

[REDACTED]



Today, I submitted emergency legislation, [Council Bill 16-2026](#), with the Howard County Council to prohibit the permitting of privately-owned buildings operating as detention centers in Howard County. Recent reporting and leasing advertisements that have been reviewed have indicated that this privately-owned building, located at 6522 Meadowridge Road in ElkrIDGE is intended for occupancy by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



As we continue to witness the devastating consequences of federal enforcement actions across the nation, including loss of life and civil unrest, it is more important than ever that local government acts with clarity, restraint, and compassion. In 2020, the Howard County Council passed the Liberty Act with a supermajority. The 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.

The public will be able to provide verbal testimony during a Public Hearing this Wednesday February 4 at 6 p.m. Written testimony can also be sent via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov). To share your thoughts directly with me, please feel free to email me at [Cball@HowardCountyMD.Gov](mailto:Cball@HowardCountyMD.Gov).

**Countcel bill 16-2026**

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**From** Susan Boehm <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Tue 2/3/2026 8:08 AM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Do not offer safe haven for ICE to imprison innocent men, women and children. Vote yes for this bill. If anyone needs to goi to jail AND be deported ....it should be trump ,Bondi and all others who continue to hurt our people.

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**Testimony supporting Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Ting Lei <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:02 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Ting Lei. I am a chinese American and a U. S citizen living in Howard County Recent actions by ICE, particularly those reported in Minnesota, have made me sad and very concerned.

Those cruel actions are tearing apart communities like ours--communities that many of us chose as our home because of their values of mutual care, safety and respect. We had come to the united states seeking exactly that kind of comunity.

These are not only emotional pain. My older daughter, who ihas strong opportunities for PhD programs at several prestigious U.S universities, had told me she was seriously considering an offer from the university of Toronto, due in part to fears created by ICE's brutal actions across the county. This is painful for us as parents.

I strongly support efforts by Howard County to act with clarity, restraint, and compassion, and to prevent the establishment of private detention facilities that could bring such harms into our neighborhood. I hope we can take proactive steps like this bill to prevent a repeat of what has happened elsewhere

Thank you for your time and for listening to the voices of country residents

Sincerely,

Ting Lei,  
[REDACTED]

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**Council Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Tonya Tiffany <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 8:43 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

I am an Independent Voter in District [REDACTED]. I would like to urge you to vote against the Emergency Bill 16-2026. While I truly understand the desire to help our neighbors, please keep in mind that the main targets of ICE and CBP agents are true criminals. We know that there are still thousands of missing immigrant children that were placed in horrible situations. Some have been rescued from that Marijuana Farm in CA, where they were working as slave labor. Some have been rescued from horrible conditions.

We like to think that Howard County is this bubble of safety, but we have MS-13 gangs across the state. I convinced a young man, 2 years ago from jumping off the overpass on rte 216 over 29 into traffic. He told me that they had shot his family, and he didn't know what to do. A young teenager in the next county over was just butchered to death a couple of months ago.

Don't let this bleed into HoCo. Do not be arrogant enough to think that this couldn't happen here.

This Bill could have very negative consequences. Please refrain from making a knee jerk reaction. Not everyone that crosses the border, does so willingly, and not all are great neighbors. There are plenty who are, several are my friends from high school, we talk about our frustrations with the administration and the process. The process has been broken for a really long time, but this bill doesn't help. It adds fuel to the fire.

Sincerely,  
Tonya Tiffany

**County Bill 16-2026**

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**From** Tristan Mohs <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 9:18 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Hello,

Please pass County Bill 16-2026 with all due haste. I am writing as a proud private resident of Howard County and I believe that what makes us strong is the resounding diversity that I witness every day here. I do not want anyone to threaten anyone living here peacefully.

Detention centers have no place here without the express approval of the Howard County Council and people.

Thank you for your consideration.



Outlook

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**written testimony - HoCo Council legislative session - February 4, 2026**

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**From** Adil Ahmed [REDACTED]

**Date** Tue 2/3/2026 4:03 PM

**To** councilmail@howardcountmd.gov <councilmail@howardcountmd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (60 KB)

Letter to HoCo Council- Adil Ahmed - Written Testimony, February 4, 2026.pdf;

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Good afternoon,

Please find my written testimony for the record attached for the two bills up for discussion tomorrow, February 4, 2026. I do not intend to testify in person.

Sincerely,

Adil Ahmed  
[REDACTED]

Dear Distinguished Members of the Howard County Council,

I, Adil Ahmed, am writing to offer favorable written testimony for the two pieces of legislation up for discussion by the Council on February 4, 2026.

As a member of the Howard County Muslim Alliance, I am writing to express my community's strong support for these bills.

**I. RE: County Executive Ball's Emergency Legislation - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group**

Thank you, County Executive Ball, for filing this emergency legislation upon notice that a private owner of a commercial warehouse was intending to utilize a gap in our zoning rules to house detained human beings.

In addition to fixing the gap in our land use law, we must acknowledge that commercial warehouses were never designed to house humans. We have seen the human rights abuses by the current leaders of the federal government against these detained individuals with our very own eyes, and we can only expect more of the same. Requiring a final inspection based on the intended use will ensure that we are holding these private operators to the fullest extent of the law.

Furthermore, it should be noted that when and if the current activities in these warehouses across the country are found to be illegal - the County will have the right to revoke permits at that point as well.

Lastly, we appreciate the social stance you are taking here - Howard County is a county of immigrants, a truly diverse fabric. Allowing this warehouse to operate here, particularly along this critical commercial corridor, will surely scare away the very folks, documented and undocumented, who make Howard County run and thrive. We cannot allow that.

**II. RE: Councilwoman Walsh's CB17-2026 County Executive – Immigration Enforcement – Guidance**

We also strongly urge the Council to support Councilwoman Walsh's legislation.

It's important for a government to operate with one voice. Therefore, establishing policy and educating county staff on that policy will ensure that those public employees who are on the front-lines of interacting with County residents are keeping all of us safe and not utilizing their privileged positions to put our most vulnerable in further jeopardy.

Thank you,  
Adil Ahmed



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## Support for Emergency Legislation to Prohibit Private Detention Centers

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From Beth Polen <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 2/3/2026 6:20 AM

To Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Debra <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear County Executive Ball and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for County Executive Calvin Ball's emergency legislation to prohibit private detention centers in Howard County, including the proposed project on Meadowridge Road.

Howard County has long prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community that prioritizes public safety, transparency, and human dignity. Private detention facilities—particularly those operated for profit—run counter to these values. Across the country, such facilities have raised serious concerns related to accountability, oversight, conditions of confinement, and the erosion of local control over land use and public safety decisions.

The proposed Meadowridge Road project has understandably caused alarm among nearby residents and the broader community. Decisions of this magnitude should reflect the will and well-being of Howard County residents, not the interests of private corporations seeking to profit from incarceration or detention.

Emergency action is appropriate and necessary in this case. Prohibiting private detention centers will protect our community, uphold our shared values, and ensure that Howard County does not become a site for facilities that conflict with our commitment to equity and justice.

Thank you for your leadership and for taking decisive action to protect the interests of Howard County residents. I urge the Council to support and swiftly pass this emergency legislation.

Sincerely,

Beth R. Polen  
[REDACTED]