

Dear Council Members,

My name is Yunshan Ye, resident of Ellicott City MD. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the proposed bill, CB-9. For the record, I strongly oppose the bill, for reasons that many have already stated clearly and forcefully. For sake of time, I will not repeat what's already been said. I just want to take the opportunity to make one clarification and make a final plea.

I have heard many who support the bill speak about "breaking the US immigration law" as if it was no big deal. Repeatedly, following a so-called expert, an immigration lawyer, they claim that it is not a crime to break the immigration law. Yes, we understand that it is not the same as committing robbery or murder. But when you break a law and are punishable by the government, in my definition, you have committed a crime. It may be called a misdemeanor, or felony. But it is a crime, no less! And when we talk about possible impact of illegal immigrants on the security of our community, let's listen to our police, the true and trustworthy experts, not an immigration lawyer who has an obviously vested interest in gaining more customers, nor politicians who are counting on gaining more votes from certain population!

Many CB-9 supporters repeatedly lump all immigrants together, legal and illegal. As a first generation, legal immigrant, I find it very misleading and personally offensive. I came to US as student in 1997. After six years of graduate school, I graduated, got a job, and applied for green card in 2003. I did not get green card until 2012, a total of 9 years' wait. And then I had to wait another three years to become a US citizen. It was a long, often painful process. But I understand, for those of us born outside the country, the US citizenship is a privilege, not a right. Through the long immigration process, I did numerous finger prints, three physical exams, many face to face interviews with immigration officers. In other words, I was thoroughly vetted. When I took my first job, my position was advertised nationally and my employer had to prove to the government that no US citizen would want or was qualified for the job, to ensure I was not taking jobs from US citizens. My employer also had to pay me above average salary, again to ensure I was not cheap labor and undercutting wages of US citizens. This is what it takes to become a legal immigrant. Can we say the same about illegal immigrants? I understand by far the majority of undocumented immigrants are good, decent, hardworking people, people just like us in search of a better life. But the crucial difference is that there is no vetting process for illegal immigrants. That's why we are worried. We are worried that there might be bad guys mixed in them. Again, nobody is saying that all illegal immigrants are criminals. But as someone said earlier, one criminal, one crime, in our community would be too many, if we could have prevented it. If you think this is just fear mongering, tell me why this concern is not justified. When you invite more illegal immigrants coming to our community, don't just cite this number or that number. Just tell me how you would prevent bad guys from coming to our community. If you have a plan, go ahead and tell us. I am all ears. If you have no plan and choose to ignore the concern, then you are being reckless and do not deserve the seat in our government.

I want to end my testimony with a plea. I want to plea with everybody present, all the concerned citizens on both sides of debate. Let's **not** stop propagating this either/or logic inherent in this bill. That is, either you support the bill or you are a bigot; either you welcome illegal immigrants or you are

xenophobic, racist. Instead, let's agree to disagree and try to find middle ground. Let's find solutions instead of pointing fingers. Despite our differences, I believe we have plenty in common. We all love Howard County, our home. We all take pride in its rich diverse culture and beautiful environment. We all want and need safety. And more importantly, we are not mean spirited people. We all want to help, no matter the homeless, refugees, illegal immigrants, and their children especially. What differs among us is how. Is "Sanctuary County" really the only way to help? Is it really worth it, tearing apart our community, pitting neighbor against neighbor, in order to pursue this bill? Can we wait another 90 days, take a breath, clear our heads of our prejudices and pre-conceived notions, and have more constructive discussions? Can we explore together other, maybe better solutions, solutions that could both help those in need while not destroying our own community?

Public Testimony Transcript
Howard County Council Public Hearing
Bill: CB9, Sanctuary Legislation
Formally Submitted Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Testimony provided by: Nicole Dvorak, Howard County Resident, District 3
Address: 9858 Lyon Ave., Laurel, MD 20723

Testimony:

I would like to formally thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. You've listened to so many individuals testify so far and I appreciate all of your time and patience. My name is Nicole Dvorak and I have lived in this area for about 5 years and in Howard County since May of 2016. I live in Council Member Terrasa's district and would like to thank Council Member Terrasa and Council Member Ball for your leadership on this bill.

There have been many who have testified thus far with important data which is necessary for this conversation. I have come to offer a perspective and that is that I think what needs to be added to this discussion is the need for all of us, including each council member, to imagine if you were in the shoes of someone who has immigrated here and might be undocumented. Imagine for one minute what that must be like – you're leaving behind everything, you're risking your life and safety over hundreds or thousands of miles and the risks of that journey pale in comparison to the risks that you face if you were to stay where you live.

You arrive with little to nothing. You don't speak the language. What would you hope for?

When you arrive, many people refuse to even see you as a person, as a fellow human. Some see you as a criminal even though they don't know you or your story. NO ONE will help you. You will need to find some place to stay—and might be constantly at risk of someone kicking you out. You will need to find something to eat, which might be impossible because you don't have the means. You need to provide for your kids—your innocent kids—but they are considered criminals as well.

You have someone tell you that their property values will plummet if they help you. They cannot help you. There is no willingness to understand you—perceptions of who you are have been crafted before you even arrived. You are seen as having no value. YOU. Each of you.

Unfortunately Americans sometimes fail to imagine what it would be like if our roles were reversed with those who we claim don't belong here.

This hearing, this bill, they aren't just about immigration and law enforcement – this is about the essence of humanity and that you need to HAVE some humanity and aspire to be a higher, more enlightened, more compassionate version of who you already are. This can at times be very challenging and challenge personal beliefs that have been molded over time and that have come to form personal and political identities.

This Bill is not an example of empty rhetoric but rather an example of humanity-driven leadership.

EVERYONE was born with a kind heart, without prejudice, without judgement, and from that heart, yours, I implore you to support this legislation.

Dear Council members,

My name is Yong Ma, I live on 4979 Wild Olive Ct, Ellicott City. I moved to Howard County last October. Living here only for 3 months, I already love the beautiful place and the very friendly people of Howard County. Coming from Montgomery county, I want to tell you, do NOT vote for CB-9. If the bill passed, two things will happen, as I witnessed during my 17 year stay in Montgomery County: higher crime rate, and lower rating schools.

Last night I came to listen. I didn't plan to speak. But after listening to folks supporting the bill, I decided to sign up, I simply could not agree with what they said.

One person mentioned that 70% of Howard County voted against Donald Trump. And because Trump is against illegal immigration, the same 70% people must all support the bill. Wrong, that is completely wrong! I, for one, did vote against Donald Trump, but, I want to speak loud and clearly, I oppose bill CB-9. And here is why:

1. Nobody should go beyond our law. Not you, not me, not someone from other countries. The United States is a great country and Howard County is the place we call home. We love our country and our county. Why? Because this is a place law is respected and things are in order. Illegal immigrants are illegal, they came to our country illegally. They broke our law first, why should we put their interest above ours? The immigration law was put in place to protect us, if it needs to be amended, let's work together at the federal level, through the legal route. The CB-9 bill does not serve that purpose, rather, it'll open a flood gate, calling all illegal immigrants to come here. That is not what we need and that is not what we want.
2. There is a difference between legal immigrants and illegal immigrants. Mind you, I am an immigrant, a legal immigrant. Please don't mix up us with illegal immigrants. The CB-9 bill wants to think that we are all the same, but we are NOT. We, the legal ones, followed the law, worked every step of the way to become US citizens. It took us years to gain the permanent residence status. And, we don't have any fear, we didn't break our law. What are we afraid of?
3. One person claimed that statistics showed crime rate is lower among immigrants. Yes, that is true for the legal immigrants. But I DOUBT that is true among illegal immigrants. Before we can have solid data, let's be cautious and protect our lawful citizens first.

Testimony of James N. Purcell, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, US Association for International Migration, before the Howard County Council, Re: Bill No. 9-2017, January 18, 2017

My objective is to put the sanctuary cities debate on a higher plane. It is part of a much bigger issue that is playing itself out around the world.

For nearly 50 years, I have worked to promote the principle of safe, orderly, and legal migration. Working in the U.S. and with other governments around the world, I have sought to establish and promote national and global migration regimes that are open, generous, diverse, that provide opportunity, and that are legal.

I have found that the greatest enemy of efforts to promote orderly and safe migration are governments, local, state or national, that lead people (rejected or unvetted asylum seekers, visa overstayers, or those who decide to avoid the legal migration route altogether) to skirt the system, to work around the system, to gain immigration advantages. Sanctuary cities – counties – is a noteworthy example. Let me illustrate.

At the end of the Vietnam War, Secretary of State cyrus Vance asked me to head up an effort to create a rescue mechanism for the millions of Southeast Asia allies (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian) left behind after American troops withdrew. That led to creation of State “Refugee Program” which I led for most of the next decade. As Assistant Secretary of State for Refugee Program, I was the head of the American refugee program, involving multiple federal agencies, state and local governments, NGOs, multilateral organizations and partner governments.

Over the next decade, we resettled almost a million refugees in the United States and almost that many in other governments. We also helped many gain political asylum in this country or to return those who did not qualify. We convinced doubting government heads, legislative bodies, NGOs, state and local governments, etc, that we could manage the social, political, and economic consequences of this vast movement of people in beneficial ways for our societies. We established vetting procedures that ensured that those who migrated met legal requirements for admission. After many hours and days of contentious testimony before the U.S. congression and multilateral organizations, we achieved consensus on humane and lawful admissions programs.

We assisted people like many of those we have heard about over the past two days. These were people fleeing persecution for reasons of religion, race or national origin, forced out of their homes because of war, corruption, or natural disasters, enterprising young people seeking to expand their horizons and world view, people seeking to better provide for their families, and a host of other legitimate reasons. They made incredible contributions to our societies. And, they came legally.

I was introduced to the notion of sanctuary cities almost four decades ago, in Central America. Some groups opposed to Reagan administration policy in Central America convinced large numbers of people who did not qualify for refugee or asylum status to surreptitiously flee to the United States and seek safety in secure places beyond the reach of U.S. law, which they called sanctuary cities. Our efforts to convince the CA governments to undertake needed reforms to keep their citizens at home or to convince protected populations to return and seek legal entry were under-mined by the so-called sanctuary cities. Why should they risk guaranteed protection offered by uninformed local governments?

After the State Department, I was nominated by President Reagan to become the U.S. candidate to be Director General of the IOM in Geneva. I won a five-year term in 1988 and was renominated by President Clinton in 1993 for a second term.

My job there was to work with the world's governments to "again" promote the safe, orderly and beneficial movement of people between governments and societies. Over my time there, we helped over four million relocate from danger, poverty, corruption, or to find better opportunities. We found many governments and societies willing to become their brothers' keepers, and to do so lawfully.

Today, global conditions are worsening. Populations of endangered people around the world are rising to epic proportions. The number is now estimated at 65 million and rising. Governments in all regions are reacting defensively, setting up walls or other defensive barriers to keep people out. Previously welcoming doors are slamming shut. That's obviously a reaction to terrorism and a growing concern that governments and societies can no longer control their borders and protect their citizens and economies.

How do we counter these negative trends? We must work to assure people in this country and around the world that even as we reach out to help the multitudes of deserving people around the world, we can identify and keep out harmful or unlawful elements.

Why so much concern about rejected or unvetted asylum seekers, migration system abusers? Just look at Germany today. About 1.2 million unvetted asylum seekers came last year. The result: Germany and the rest of Europe fractured, migration barriers cropping up around the world, societies turning inward.

We can do better. We must do better. This proposal diminishes efforts to make needed course adjustments in migration regimes and approaches.

January 17, 2107

Testimony in opposition to CB9-2017

I'm a third generation Howard Countian and have been a Howard County resident for over 50 years. I operate a business in Howard County and own seven properties in the county. I'm invested here emotionally, financially, and spiritually. It has always been and always will be my home. It's been a great place to live and raise my family. One of the things that has made our county such a pleasant place to work and live is the low crime rate, and for the most part, our resident's natural instinct to obey our laws. By making our county a place of refuge for those who are here by willingly disobeying the law, we are creating and encouraging a new county culture. A culture that says it's OK to disobey federal law if you belong to a certain group of people. Why on earth would we encourage people to break the law and why would we encourage law breakers to take up residence in Howard County? Our country, state, and county are governed by laws set in place to protect the citizens. By allowing people to break these laws you are advocating lawlessness. I urge you to reject this bill and uphold your oath of office to follow the rule of law in Howard County. We can remain welcoming, kind, caring, and civil and still maintain a lawful society.

Respectfully,
Paul Harvey
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Highland, MD 20777

Undocumented worker sues San Francisco for violating sanctuary law

By Alex Dobuzinskis
Reuters January 18, 2017

(Reuters) - An undocumented immigrant from El Salvador is suing San Francisco alleging police violated the city's sanctuary city policy by turning him over to U.S. immigration authorities after he reported his car stolen.

The lawsuit was filed on Tuesday on behalf of Pedro Figueroa Zarceno, 32, in federal court in San Francisco against the city and its police chief for violating his right to due process and breaking an ordinance barring municipal employees from cooperating with federal immigration authorities seeking to deport a person.

Figueroa walked into a police station in November 2015 to report his car stolen, according to the lawsuit. Two days later, the car was found and when he went to recover it, he was handcuffed and led outside where federal immigration agents were waiting for him, the lawsuit said.

The civil action comes as San Francisco and dozens of other U.S. cities face pressure from President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on Friday, to abandon their policies of limiting cooperation between law enforcement officers and U.S. immigration authorities.

"We'll obviously have to review the lawsuit before we can comment on it," John Cote, a spokesman for the San Francisco city attorney, said by phone. "That being said, San Francisco has strong policies in place to encourage victims and witnesses to report crimes without fear of being deported."

The incident occurred about five months after an undocumented immigrant was charged with murder in the shooting of a woman at a San Francisco pier.

The shooting drew nationwide attention because the alleged killer, Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, was previously arrested on a drug charge and released from jail months before the shooting, despite a request from federal officials that he be held until they could pick him up. Sanchez has pleaded not guilty.

Figueroa's attorney, Saira Hussain of the nonprofit group Asian Americans Advancing Justice, said by phone it was a "possibility" that officers arrested her client because they were influenced by the controversy over the Sanchez case.

The Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, supports the Sanctuary Legislation- CB9 as a proactive measure that Howard County should take to preserve local resources for local priorities and make the distinction between local agencies and federal authorities.

Howard County is home to approximately 60,000 foreign-born people, like the Mohammeds, who were featured on the front of the Clarksville neighborhood magazine. Families like the Mohammeds contribute to the strength and diversity of Howard County.

Immigration enforcement is the responsibility of the federal government. Local participation with federal immigration enforcement is completely voluntary. Local law enforcement enforcing federal immigration law erodes community trust and does not prevent crime. As a civil rights organization, CAIR receives many reports of hate crimes, but victims are often reticent to speak to law enforcement. When people are afraid to report crimes, it makes a community unsafe.

According to research conducted the Department of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 70 percent of undocumented immigrants and 44 percent of Latinos surveyed are less likely to report if they were the victim of crime and 45 percent of Latinos are less likely report crimes or voluntarily offer information about a crime for fear police officers would about their immigration status.

The threat of deportation for undocumented individuals is real. Many children report fearing that they will return to empty homes if their parents are taken away while they were in school. When families are broken apart, communities are also destroyed. In order to promote strong families and communities, local law enforcement should not entangle itself from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

County policies that assist ICE with deportation open localities to liability and discourage residents from reporting criminal activity.

County policies that limit assistance with federal immigration enforcement are proactive actions that preserve local resources and keep families and communities intact. Prohibitions on asking about immigration status discourage profiling and discrimination. When people feel like they belong then it fosters feelings of community.

Looking at cities across the country, we find that sanctuary cities face lower crime rates after passing this legislation. Murder rates in San Francisco, one of the oldest sanctuary cities, were at their lowest in 2014 (with 45 murders) since the 1989 "City of Refuge" ordinance was enacted. There are approximately 39 cities (including Las Vegas, Tucson, New York, Boston, and Chicago) and 364 counties (mainly in California, Colorado, Florida, New York, Oregon, and Washington) with some sort of sanctuary policy as of Nov. 17, 2016. Additionally, four states have statewide sanctuary policies: California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Howard County can be a leader in Maryland on this issue, giving peace of mind to many families and their communities.

Hina Zuberi
CAIR; Editor-in-Chief, Muslimmatters

Statement from HCDCC

Howard County prides itself on being a caring, inclusive community that is welcoming to all. Our County is strengthened and enriched by our diversity. What Bill No. 9-2017 is trying to prevent is inquiring or questioning an individual's immigration status simply when they encounter and interact with law enforcement or County government personnel. This bill would encourage anyone who is a victim of a crime or a witness to crime to assist the police without the fear that their resident status might be used against them. Therefore, this bill will improve the safety of every resident of Howard County because it will increase the likelihood that people will communicate freely with law enforcement. We want safety for all of our citizens regardless of their nationality, or background. We cannot truly claim to be "One Howard" or that we "choose civility" if we do not act in a consistent manner. The current rhetoric both on-line and public forums is not consistent with these values. This bill proposes no concept that would cause us to violate State or Federal law and therefore the concern that we would lose federal funding or resources is unwarranted. Moreover, the idea that there will be a flood of immigrants rushing to our county is not supported by the fact that Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County are all sanctuary Counties and experienced no explosion in their immigrant populations since adopting that status.

As Ghandi stated "a civilization is measured by how it treats its weakest and most vulnerable members", this bill is a small step towards the goal of being a better, more just community. The members of the Howard County Democratic Central Committee support this bill.

Good evening, my name is Lorraine Savoy, and I am a resident of Columbia. I am here to speak in support of CB 9. I have had the dubious benefit of being able to listen to many of the speakers before me, and I will try to respond to some of the issues I kept hearing.

One argument against this law is that it's not needed. Police Chief Gardner stated that it was already the unwritten policy of the police department to treat all individuals equally. An unwritten policy is not a guarantee to a reluctant witness or a traumatized victim. An unwritten policy is worth the paper it is written on. This law will reassure a portion of the community that they can come forward to report a crime, give a witness statement, or testify in court without fear, and that can only make the whole community safer.

I have heard from multiple speakers that they fear an influx of gang activity, targeting the recruitment of undocumented youths. The single best way to ensure that happens is to make those young people feel that their society does not care about them and does not value their future. If this law is passed, there will be fewer reasons for undocumented youths to join gangs, not more.

Many people in opposition to this bill have stated that they fear it will bring droves of undocumented people to this community, putting a strain on our resources. We all know that they are already here. They are children in the classroom, and families shopping at the grocery store, and dishwashers in the restaurant kitchens, and home health aides caring for elderly patients, and construction workers building downtown Columbia. They didn't come to Howard County because of its policies, written or unwritten. They don't research places with favorable laws or ask a real estate agent to help them find a house in a sanctuary area. They came here and stayed for the same reasons we all came here and stayed: jobs and families. Undocumented people are simply looking for a chance to work and way to make the world better for their families. This law won't attract more of them; it will simply allow them to be a more active part of this community.

Some immigrant speakers who are against this law worry that it will affect how people view them. They have stated that they fear that people will look at them and wonder if they are undocumented too. Let us be very clear; no one can tell from looking at another person what their immigration status is...but most of us do have a vision in our heads of what an immigrant looks like. If you look like an immigrant, people already wonder about your immigration status. This law certainly won't prevent any of us from making assumptions in our heads, but it will prevent those assumptions from becoming actions.

I have learned so much in the last 24 hours. I have learned that the democratic system of government as seen in Howard County is not perfect, but it truly tries to give everyone an equal voice. I have learned that a deeply felt belief can inspire people on both sides who have never been active in government, never even slapped a bumper sticker on their car to come out on a weeknight, stay for hours, and speak in a public forum. To all of the speakers, thank you for inspiring me. I have also learned that those in opposition to this law are well organized, passionate, and care deeply about this community. I honor their commitment, and though we see this issue differently, I know that we all want the best for Howard County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening.

I agree and support the testimony that has been presented to the Council to not support this Bill CB9, No Sanctuary Howard County.

I would like to add that if this Council votes to made Howard a Sanctuary County the message to the undocumented immigrants in this country is Howard County is open for business, free medical, education, housing all paid for by the tax payers. We do have limited resources and the Council's should be beholding the tax payer first and good stewards of their money. Good Government dictates that the Council should prepare a cost benefit analysis/fact base impact study. Cost benefit analysis should be a pre-requisite to introducing such a socially divisive bill that threatens our "One Howard."

With this new influx of illegal immigrants there will be good people and there will be those that are not desirable with the intent to do harm. Both types consume resources.

As it has been seen in Baltimore, Chicago and other sanctuary counties and cities that the homicide rate will increase due to gang violence. Why should our Police Officers, and citizens be subject to this increase in crime only for a few on the Council for political posturing?

Michael Knowles
2822 Saddlebred Court
Glenwood, MD 21738

No human being is illegal.

Said Elie Wiesel who died last year after along life of being our conscience.

I am an immigrant.

Since Mr. Trumps immigration speech, I have been distressed.

Since his election to the highest office, now more so. I have trouble sleeping.

I have papers. I can not imagine the despair in those families, that do not have them.

I have already felt a sharpness at passport controls when reentering from overseas.

There are reports that at the Mexican border Immigration officials already sent asylum seekers away, ignoring the law.

No Mercy? No kindness?

Who do we want to be?

In the New York Harbor stands the Iron Lady--- and I do not mean Primeminister Thatcher, with her torch. The Statue of Liberty is known all over the world as the symbol for America and for me also the image of strong immigrant woman that settled the prairies, worked in the factories, shops and homes.

I arrived on the 8th of April 1976, the year of the Centennial, a proud year for American Democracy! The year my first child was born.

Last year was not a proud year.

There are the stains of the Holocaust and War on my birth country, as there are stains on this country. Slavery, the dispossession and almost extermination of Native Americans, the Japanese Internment, torture and injustice.

But there also was the Marshal Plan, generosity in many ways, a thriving for justice and a willingness to engage with the world and make people's lives better.

This bill may end up being just symbolic, but it makes me feel proud of the community I live in.

And I thank you for it.

These are Elie Wiesel's words:

There may be be times, when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

That is why I am here.

Thank you

Ortrud D. H. Dixon

I am Mary Lou Koudelka Boris I am proud to say that I graduated from Glenelg High School in 1964 My husband & I are retired and live in the home my parents built back in the '50's in Clarksville Ridge – we have invested a great deal of time and money in the property to bring it into the modern world and feel that this bill is not only a threat to our county but also to our investment in the county and our way of living.

It has long been the very fabric of this country to absorb those people who come to us needing and wanting to make a new life here in a safe and compassionate land. It has also historically been the wise policy to vet those who struggle to find freedom here – not because we are a snobbish people but because our early government realized that if we want to continue to offer a safe harbor we must first have that to offer. The current global economy and political events bring danger to our doorstep. And let us be very clear – we are not talking about immigrants here – despite what some are saying, this is about illegal immigration and illegal immigrants.

Assimilation becomes difficult if not impossible when people enter the country illegally – for whatever their reason. They chose to enter a country of laws illegally. This was their choice. Citizenship in this country is a mighty and powerful right that most of us received at birth and usually take for granted. Illegals know the benefits but did not earn them the way our grandparents, parent and forefathers did.

LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM – LOOK CAREFULLY - We are all mutts. And we should be very proud of this because we are a strong, determined and loving people – we want to provide a safe and loving environment for the future of our country and county. Declaring Ho. Co. a sanctuary county is not in the best interest of the county or its tax payers who will have to foot the exorbitant bill to cover the cost of the hundreds, if not, thousands, of illegals who will gravitate here. The entire economy of the county will be negatively affected and the county will find housing prices fall and the cost of living (especially for retired seniors like us) negatively impacted. If schools are facing cost issues now the ripple effect will be more than costly – if this happens prepare for drastic changes in the quality of your tax paid services. A life time ago I chose to live in Ho. Co. not Baltimore City, Montgomery Co. or DC, If this bill goes through you will see an

exodus of your reliable tax base - I have listened to people who say they will leave. Seniors who have lived here all their lives and built this county into what it is today are already complaining about how hard it is for them to stay here on their (my) fixed incomes. Remember what Kruchiev said when he was pounding his shoe on the table in the UN – “We will destroy you from within.” I implore you – do not vote for this bill - assist our illegals to become citizens “if” they deserve it – properly vetted and legally. If not – let them return home. No visa – here illegally – either choose to seek legal assistance (and we heard last night that there is lots of that here) and work within the law or leave. IF YOU WANT TO BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN THEN YOU MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS. Do you know the meaning of the word Hutspah...The child who begged the judge for leniency after murdering his parents – why because he was now an orphan. YOU MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS.

Don't forget the unintended consequences for good intentions and un-needed legislation. Remember that there is a huge difference between a citizen of Ho Co and a resident of the county. We are playing with non-citizens voting in elections that form and mold the shape of our government. Do I need to pound my shoe on the table! I am working from within. And please integration and education is a glittering bandwagon that has nothing to do with illegal citizenship. If you are not a citizen you should be a visitor.

There is no benefit to the county or its tax payers if this bill is enacted – in any form. I must say that I find it appalling that so many people have engaged in political fear mongering and even resorted (as was displayed in testimony last night) to political blackmail of one of our council members. Ladies and gentlemen of the council you were reminded last night that you took an oath and let me remind you that you are here not just for your district but for the county. Let me remind you of the ethics of your position. Do not allow one group to gut your integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to present not only my views but the views of countless other silent majority county citizens. Howard Co. is largely Democratic and I hope you listen to the silent bipartisan majority who voted in our Republican Governor and Republican County Executive...I truly hope that you will vote no to this and any sanctuary bill.

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Testimony AGAINST Council Bill No. 9-2017 "Sanctuary Howard County"

1. No part or portion of Howard County government should ever refuse to cooperate in any way with any other Local, State or Federal Law Enforcement Agency for any reason what so ever.

As a county citizen, I want my county government to cooperate fully with other law enforcement agencies, including Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This is a public safety issue and is particularly important post 9/11/2001. That day showed there were numerous 'walls' between various law enforcement agencies, and those 'walls' in part caused the perverse 'success' of those terrorist strikes that day.

I want Howard County to be at the forefront of cooperation between all levels of law enforcement. This bill would erect an unnecessary and harmful wall between Howard County government and other governments and law enforcement agencies. That would place our citizens at unnecessary risk, and must not be allowed to happen.

2. County Council members swore an oath to uphold the US and Maryland Constitutions. Our Federal ICE agency draws its enforcement powers from the Constitution and the due process passage of federal laws under our Constitution.

The introduction let alone passage of a 'Sanctuary' law like CB9-2017 is a violation of the oath of office taken by all County Council members. That bill should be withdrawn.

3. CB9-2017 If passed would place the citizens of Howard County at undue and unnecessary risk. The withdraw or refusal to enact CB9-2017 is necessary from a public safety standpoint.

In San Francisco CA on July 1, 2015, an illegal alien in possession of a stolen handgun shot and killed an American citizen on Pier 14 of the Embarcadero, a public gathering and popular tourist location. That illegal alien had been deported 5 times previously, and had 7 felony convictions at the time of the shooting. Prior to the shooting on July 1, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) had received a request from ICE to hold this illegal alien for ICE pick up. But because of the designation of San Francisco as a 'Sanctuary City' the SFPD refused to cooperate with ICE, and the illegal alien was left free to roam San Francisco. And on July 1, 2015 in possession of an illegal firearm, this illegal alien did shoot and kill American Citizen Kate Steinle.

There is a straight line from the Sanctuary Law in San Francisco to the shooting death of Kate Steinle. If CB9-2017 became law, what happened on Pier 14 in San Francisco could happen at Centennial Park, or Ellicott City Main Street or the Columbia Mall. That must not be allowed.

I do not want Howard County Citizens put at risk by the unnecessary and irresponsible designation of Howard County as a "Sanctuary" location. To the contrary, if any part of Howard County government receives any kind of request from ICE, I want that request honored to the quickest and fullest extent possible. This is necessary to ensure the safety of Howard County citizens.

In consideration of the above, I ask that CB9-2017 be withdrawn by the sponsors and that no similar legislation be introduced ever again. If the sponsors refuse to withdraw the bill, I ask that all remaining County Council members vote against this bill.

John W. Taylor
January 17, 2017

CB-9 Testimony of Tonya Tiffany in Opposition

I have already submitted testimony via email, but after sitting through 4 hours of last night's testimony I thought that a different perspective was warranted. Last night I tried to really listen to not only the words, but also the feelings behind the words of the supporters and opponents of the bill as well as the council members. I heard fear and anger on both sides.

This bill is supposed to fight against the rhetoric of hate, bigotry, racism and islamophobia and is supposed to make citizens feel safer in our county. However, the way that it is presented is in a way that is frankly upsetting too many other citizens of our county and may in fact be making the situation worse. The election of President-elect Trump is not the problem, but a symptom of what has been brewing for well over a decade. You see, for quite a long time people like myself have been bullied and called names not for the color of my skin or for the sex of the person that they love, but for the stance's that they have politically.

We have been called Islamophobic for caring about homosexuals and women's rights in the Middle East as we worry about the rise of Radical Islam and the terrorism that they are spreading around the world. We have been called racist for wanting to figure out how to transition people off of welfare. We have been called homophobic for supporting traditional marriage and religious liberties. We have been called a whole host of names for caring for the lives of unborn children. For these views we have been called all kinds of things and they aren't just by jerks who are trolling the internet. Often times it is by elected officials like yourselves as well as the media.

So over the past decade this resentment has been simmering and lately it has gotten to the boiling point, but not just on our side. It has infected our society down to the core. All this name calling on both sides has got to stop. We have got to stop and listen to the hurt and the pain of our fellow citizens. I may be against CB-9, but that doesn't make me a hateful person. If you actually bother to talk to me and listen for once you will find that I have my valid reasons as well.

Don't pass this bill as a knee jerk reaction to a narcissist becoming President. Please stop insulting your fellow citizens and dismissing our valid concerns about safety and law and order. You have heard them for two nights now. Be apart of healing our nation. Talk with us, let's try to find some common ground.

We didn't die when we thought the end of our country was coming 8 years ago and you won't either. It is time we figured out how to do this together. Thank you.

Alec Adams

Subject: FW:

The limited express powers of a Maryland charter county, the subject matter of the bill and the legislative overreach between the legislative/executive branches makes CB 9 way above the “pay grade” of this Council to address. As recognized by the Bill itself, issues of citizenship, naturalization, immigration are the sole and exclusive providence of the federal government.

The apparent argument of the sponsors that it doesn't *really* affect anything, so it doesn't hurt, is politically dishonest and abusive of the cost to taxpayers for this publicity stunt in the context of the personal political ambitions of term limited politicians. Mr. Weinstein is the only councilperson eligible to run for reelection. What has been the cost to Howard County taxpayers? If I counted right there was double digit presence of uniform officers. What is the Council afraid of- maybe angry taxpayers at another government waste of tax dollars?

Our founding fathers carefully drafted our federal system, to minimize the power of government by an elaborate system of “checks and balances” and to protect against the tyranny of the majority, ergo our presidential electoral system and the proportionally represented House of Representatives and the Senate of 50 equal states.

Under your Oath of Office and Art. 2 of Maryland's Declaration of rights you are mandated to follow the Federal Constitution, its laws and treaties. Voting for this Bill would advocate violating federal law and breaching your individual oath.

To our founding fathers an ***oath was the essence of a person's integrity***. The sponsors of this Bill and any council supporters are in my opinion violating their Oath of Office if you vote for this Bill.**

Former State Delegate Hugh Burgess often quoted the truism “**No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session.**” The outrageous 3rd and 4th Whereas clauses of this bill validate Mr. Burgess' sentiments.

Those clauses constitute a ‘deplorable’ political attack, abusive of your elected positions ostensible representing *all citizens in your council districts, and worst yet* using taxpayer resources and funds to advance a single political party agenda. It is more than a little Ironic that your nominee advanced scathing attacks against her opponent for refusing to honor the results of the election-- *until oops, she lost*.

**

On November 29th, 2014 you all took the Maryland constitutional (Section 9) Oath of Office, to **support the Constitution of the United States; and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof; .. Incidentally if you don't take the oath you forfeit the office.(Section 11)**

Under the Maryland Declaration of Rights:

Art. 2. The Constitution of the United States, and the Laws made, or which shall be made, in pursuance thereof, and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, are, and shall be the Supreme Law of the State; and the Judges of this State, and all the People of this State, are, and shall be bound thereby; anything in the Constitution or Law of this State to the contrary notwithstanding.

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Good Evening,

My name is Jianning Zeng. I am here to present my strong objection to Bill CB-9.

16 years ago, I came to America from China. I got my PhD degree, and work as a system engineer. My husband is a meteorologist. As Christians, donation is our life. We follow the law of this country, and the law protects us.

I have been lived in Maryland, Baltimore County and Howard County, for more than 15 years. Through these years I have seen the fact that the undocumented immigrants in Howard County are already warmly embraced, welcomed, accepted, accommodated, treated and given many benefits.

Historically, charity and social welfare has always been done most efficiently, and compassionately through churches, volunteer organizations, local communities, and individuals, as many of us are diligently and faithfully doing now.

Our church members are involved in helping poor including undocumented people living in McDonald House and other charities in Howard County and Baltimore city. I know many local churches have free English teaching classes and free summer camps for the kids including undocumented kids. According to Giving USA and Bureau of Labor, American have given to charitable organizations almost \$400 billion or 2.1% GDP, and volunteered almost 63 million hours in 2015.

Charity begins at home and is not the purview of professional politicians!

James Madison, (one of our great nation's founding fathers) who wrote the first drafts of the U.S. Constitution and sponsored the Bill of Rights, once said, "Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government." Those who crafted the Constitution did not intend to limit the government's role in helping less fortunate people out of mean-spirit; they did so out of a sense of what would best serve the public. They believed that bureaucrats spending other people's money – funds taken by force – is not the best way to promote charitable activities.

We have grown weary of elected politicians enacting legislation for their personal political gains or recognition. We are tired of legislators spending our money to further their political aspirations and agenda, and we are angry that elected government officials are once again ignoring the will of the people.

I urge you to vote NO to Howard County Bill-9, 2017 or we need more public hearing.

According to a 2012 Congressional Research Service report, combined annual federal and state spending on antipoverty programs exceeds one trillion dollars. These programs, are notoriously wasteful, often counterproductive and frequently motivated by political gain rather than a sincere, intent to help people. These programs allegedly intended to assist those who are less fortunate, use monies extracted from taxpayers, dispensed by bureaucrats, and subject to rules and regulations designed by government administrators, remove personal responsibility from both the giving and receiving ends of the equation.

In addition to waste, the subsequent unintended consequences of these social engineering experiments have produced government dependency, family breakdown, and have eliminated the sense of accountability by the recipients in that they are primarily responsible for their lives.

Private charitable giving and the spirit of volunteerism have been essential bulwarks of the American

character, and they remain indispensable to our national success. Can there be any doubt that a trillion dollars, derived from private sources, provided to those in need, and managed by private entities (not government) that the money would be better spent, less wasted and the recipients more benefited?

Thank you.

Regards,

Jianning Zeng
5004 Linder Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 20142

Good Evening:

My name is Greg Soon. I live on 11857 Tall Timber Dr., Clarksville, District 4. I am a resident there for 13 years; I lived in Maryland for over 20 years. And I came to this country more than 30 years ago and paid all taxes every year; I received my citizenship in 1999, waiting in the line patiently for 12 years.

That is the only way I know then on how to become a citizen. Unfortunately, I did not know the people in the council who drafted this legislation, or otherwise they might have been able to advise me on how to legally staying here illegally, and get all the benefits such as going to school, going to college with full financial aid, going to emergency rooms for both minor and major problems without paying a dime. I wish I knew you sooner. However you must be happy to know that, there are hundreds millions people all over the world, after hearing your amnesty, may want to come to Howard county, so you will have a chance to squeeze further the hard working tax payers. May be this is the beacon you intended in the first place, maybe not.

Dear Council members, Mary Kay you are in my district, I am worried about the safety of my kids and family, when people moved here without going through the vetting process. I do not understand why legal immigrants have to go through background checks, but illegals do not have to do. Why do you want to tie the hands of our law enforcement, either the police or immigration officers? I consider immigration a federal issue and we need to respect the authority of the federal government, even if you do not like the new administration. You are so concerned about the safety of the illegal immigrants; wouldn't you please also look after the safety of my kids?

I am also worried about the long-term economic consequences for my family. With each illegal immigrant, kids and adults, the residents here have to pay for whatever the expenses they incur. As a father of three kids, both my wife and I have to work to be able to pay various taxes and assessments, and making our ends meet. When my children go to college, the chance for them to get any financial aid is pretty much non-existent for no reason other than we are paying enough taxes, we have to save money for their tuition. I would also like my wife to stay home to raise the children, because that would be of best interest to them, but we could not afford it. I am very much worried. Do you understand?

Last night's testimony included several from lawyers who profit from illegal immigrants, it is obvious that they are biased and will do things that harm the interest of the residents, but I am very disappointed that the chair person invited them to the work session. Could you get people who truly represent the voters to the working session, not the special interest? Could you at least disguise your bias better?

I'm here tonight to strongly oppose CB9-2017. I think it is a bad legislation, and have bad consequences for the county and the nation.

This is the testimony of John Liao on Howard County Sanctuary Bill (CB9-2017)

Good Evening! My name is John Liao and I have been a resident of central Maryland for 8 years. I am a financial advisor and a pragmatist. My job is to work out numbers for people.

I am very critical of CB9 because I think the motivations for the bill are weak, they lack depth and insight, and worse of all, it provides no scenario analysis on how to deal with different types consequences if the bill is passed. Nevertheless, I am not here tonight to go through the list to criticize this proposal. Instead I want to share something with you from a mother who is deeply troubled by CB9 not because of what it can protect but what it could destroy. Her message and her fear touched me and I want to share her thoughts with you all.

The core message states that while we have laws to provide basic protection but more often we rely on mutually agreed civic values and virtues to build a prosperous society. In my understanding, that means trust between one another is an essential component for people to come and work together. In this hour of fear and uncertainty, I strongly feel that being able to work together and define common value is so important simply because we do not know what to expect tomorrow. In her original words:

This country has come a long way since Dr. King's speech and many civil rights movements. Yes, Law has been put in place as a result of those movements. But BELIEVE IT OR NOT, it's not any legislature or law enforcement that has changed so many hearts of Americans. It's from Dr. King's speech! It's from stories from many suppressed minorities in the past. It's the education from our parents, our teachers and pastors through many generations. Just like how we would teach our kids not to speak foul words or hurtful things to others, and we should do nothing but to respect one another. That is the MORAL VALUES among all of us that had kept this society a secure place to live. The police chief who testified yesterday told us that the police department has always implemented a policy not to inquire immigration status to the county residents and their policy is to treat all individuals equally. Let us not insult them by saying: "Your Policy could change anytime without a written legislature". If I am not mistaken, I believe our police officers established their department policy NOT because of any legislature, but because of their MORAL VALUES and COMMON SENSE.

Dear Council Members – it should be obvious to you now that CB9 will create divisions in our community and this will only breed even more prejudice, bigotry and even hate.

This will not be easy going forward; what we need is to work together and blend our values to create a stronger sense of unity and stand together. Declaring Howard a sanctuary city without diligent review of problems and well planned policy measures will only add more problems on top of the ones we are already struggling to resolve. The sanctuary status will surely worsen our overall capability as a county to resolve future threats regardless where they come from. I ask you to review this bill carefully and our thoughts, and please evaluate the consequences. I appreciate your effort and consideration.

Thank you

Mr Chairman and Council Members,

My name is Sandy Parlett and I live on Willowind Ct near Glenelg Country School.

I have to start by seconding the opinion of Keith, the last person to testify last night ... you council members are ROCK STARS, and by the way Keith it was worth staying up to hear your statement.

Council Members...Thank you for your service and dedication. This is important and hard work and I value your fortitude.

This is an important time in our country, and this bill clearly represents important issues.

I strongly support CB9-2017 because I choose the side of codifying what our police describe as their current policy to respect confidentiality regarding immigration status, without changing the ability of police to investigate suspected violators of criminal law.

I have some research results here to leave with you that support positive results of this policy in regards to safety concerns and crime statics, as well as federal funding issues.

I think the number of our passionate, contributing foreign born neighbors who are working hard to make where we live a better place, documented, or undocumented far exceeds those few who garner the headlines as evidenced by multiple testimonies last night.

Therefore:

I choose our inclusive values of promoting trust over fear.

I choose to extend a welcoming message of community to those who had to flee poverty, violence & fear.

I choose to place compassion for people above finances and politics.

I stand on the side of doing the right thing, to giving those more vulnerable the opportunity to live without fear.

I stand in strong support of Sanctuary Status for Howard County and am very proud to be part of this process and call Howard County Home. And because this is a process I urge those on the Council who are not completely comfortable with the bill as it is written to offer counter proposal until a middle ground agreement can be reached to pass the bill.

Respectfully yours,
Sandy Parlett

Dear County Executive and members of the County Council,

I have lived in District 5 of Howard County for 17 years.

As a retired social worker I believe strongly in the core values of human rights, the inherent worth of each individual and the importance of respecting those rights, and providing equal services to all, regardless of ethnic background, race or immigration status. In making Howard County a Sanctuary County we are taking an important step to prioritize the safety, security and confidentiality of all residents regardless of nationality or citizenship.

Someone who has witnessed a serious accident, who is concerned about their legal status, or that of a family member can feel at risk to call for help or to report what they have witnessed. Sanctuary status could lower that risk, assisting all those affected. It could also empower a resident to seek protection for their child who is being bullied, increasing a wider sense of safety. Additionally, all parents should have the right to feel comfortable to advocate for their child's learning needs and ability to feel safe both at home and in school. When my now grown daughter, who is a marketing and development professional, experienced learning issues as a Howard County student I felt it important to advocate for her educational needs from time to time. It felt like an essential responsibility, as well as a right to support and advocate for my daughter, but I do not know if I could have done so if I thought there could be repercussions for anyone in my family due to a question about immigration status, religious beliefs or the color of our skin.

I stand for all residents of Howard County, and value the benefits of being a part of a diverse and inclusive community, therefore I stand in support of CB-9.

Respectfully,
Sandy Parlett

Sanctuary Cities Are Safe, Thanks to Conservatives



139 NOV 29, 2016 2:52 PM EST

By Noah Feldman

President-elect Donald Trump says he will make “sanctuary cities” help deport immigrants by taking away their federal funding if they don’t change their policies. The good news is that he and Congress can’t do it -- not without violating the Constitution.

Two core rules of federalism preclude Trump’s idea: The federal government can’t coerce states (or cities) into action with a financial “gun to the head,” according to Supreme Court precedent developed by Chief Justice John Roberts in the 2012 Affordable Care Act case. And federal officials can’t “commandeer” state officials to do their work for them under a 1997 decision that involved gun purchases under the Brady Act.

Behold the revenge of conservative federalism: Judge-made doctrines developed to protect states’ rights against progressive legislation can also be used to protect cities against Trump’s conservative policies. Ain’t constitutional law grand?

QUICKTAKE

Immigration Reform

As you may recall, Roberts’s landmark opinion in *NFIB v. Sebelius* both upheld Obamacare and gutted it at the same time. Roberts voted to uphold the individual insurance mandate as a permissible use of Congress’s power to tax. But he simultaneously struck down the Medicaid extension except insofar as states might choose it voluntarily.

The ACA as written threatened states with eventual withdrawal of essentially all their Medicaid funding unless they agreed to the extension of the program to millions of new patients.

Roberts analyzed the issue by saying that, under the spending clause of the Constitution, Congress can't create a funding condition that is unrelated to the original funding purpose and is so coercive that it amounts to a "gun to the head" of the states. Roberts's doctrine applies with full force to Trump's threat to pull cities' existing funding if they remain sanctuaries by declining to cooperate with federal officials to enforce immigration law.

Existing federal funding for cities isn't connected to immigration. It's less connected than existing Medicaid funding was to the ACA Medicaid extension. That funding, like Medicaid, is justified in the first place by Congress's power to spend for the general welfare.

And pulling the funding would be just about as coercive as pulling Medicaid. New York City alone could lose \$10.4 billion annually in federal money.

In the *only case* in which the Supreme Court allowed conditional funding, Congress threatened to take away 5 percent of highway money if states didn't raise the drinking age to 21. Taking all federal funding from cities is certainly much closer to the ACA precedent than the highway one.

Nor does it matter that the ACA case involved states not cities. As a matter of federal constitutional law, cities are just instruments of states. Coercing cities amounts to coercing states, which would have to come up with money to help the cities.

The "gun to the head" doctrine alone would be enough to render Trump's proposal unconstitutional. But there's more.

Another federalism doctrine, known as the "anti-commandeering principle," says that the federal government can't require state officials to enforce federal law. Its leading formulation was written by the late Justice Antonin Scalia in the 1997 case of *Printz v. U.S.*

The Printz decision struck down provisions of the Brady Act that required state and local law enforcement officials to do background checks of firearm purchasers. Scalia reasoned that the federal system separates state officials from the executive chain of command that covers federal employees. And he concluded that the constitutional system of federalism bars Congress from pressing state officials into service to execute federal laws.

That's exactly what Trump wants to make city officials do: cooperate in the enforcement of federal law. The Constitution makes immigration law the purview of federal, not state government. 1

That means it would be illegal commandeering to require state officials to enforce federal law. Checking immigration status is no different from doing a gun background check.

It's well worth noting that the gun-to-the-head doctrine and the anti-commandeering principle were both developed by conservative justices to thwart progressive results. But the beauty -- and the sting -- of constitutional law is that doctrines developed in one political setting can be deployed in another.

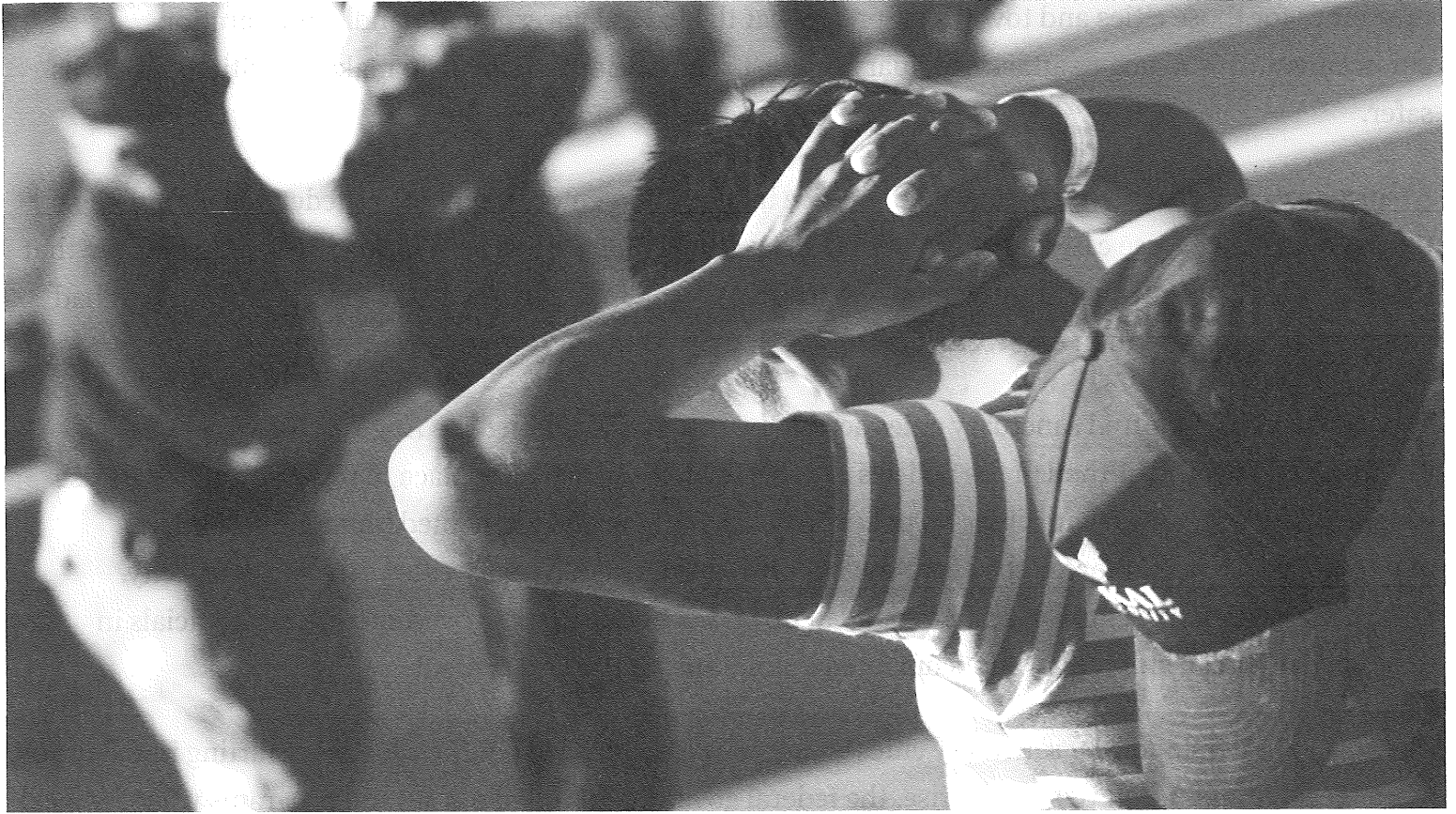
When Congress passes progressive laws like the ACA or the Brady Act, conservatives dissent using federalism arguments. Now, with a Republican Congress and president, it will be progressives' turn to rely on states' rights.

That isn't hypocrisy -- it's the natural progression of the law, which should apply neutrally, regardless of who's in power. What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

As I argued in a [column](#) I wrote at 3 a.m. after the election, it's all about the Constitution now. The protection of sanctuary cities is an example of how the Constitution protects minority rights -- in this case the rights of cities that dissent on immigration policy. 2

1. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4, gives Congress power to establish a "uniform rule of naturalization."

Sanctuary Cities Actually Make Us Safer



Undocumented Guatemalan immigrants are searched before boarding a deportation flight to Guatemala City at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport in Arizona in June. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency recently announced a set of adjustments to the "Secure Communities" program after many local communities and some states insisted on opting out, saying immigrants were being deported for minor offenses such as traffic violations. (Getty Images)

By **RAUL A. REYES**

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Sanctuary cities increase safety by leaving immigration enforcement to the feds.

AUGUST 4, 2015

Before the July 4 weekend, a tragedy occurred in San Francisco. Kate Steinle, 32, was walking with her father on a busy pier when she was allegedly shot and killed by Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico with a long rap sheet.

The randomness of this crime shocked the nation, and led to a renewed debate over so-called sanctuary cities like San Francisco. Several of the leading Republican candidates for president, including Donald Trump, Jeb

Bush and Rand Paul, have since weighed in against sanctuary cities.

Not so fast. "Sanctuary cities" is a misleading label that has caused a great deal of confusion. The term is a misnomer for those cities and towns that prefer that the federal government handle immigration enforcement. It is wrong to attack sanctuary cities: Their policies actually help make our cities and towns safer.

A sanctuary city is a city that has decided to leave immigration enforcement to the federal government so that its own police force can concentrate on fighting crime. That's hardly a radical idea; it is a principle that the Supreme Court affirmed in *Arizona v. U.S.* (2012), which found that only the federal government had authority over immigration enforcement.

There are several hundred sanctuary cities across the country, including Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle. Although the policies of sanctuary cities vary from place to place, it might surprise people to know that sanctuary cities do not provide a haven for undocumented immigrants. Federal immigration laws are enforced in sanctuary cities just as in non-sanctuary cities. In a sanctuary city, undocumented immigrants can still be rounded up and deported by the government. Local officials in sanctuary cities can still report undocumented immigrants to the government.

One way to understand why sanctuary cities are a smart idea is to look at their history. Starting in the 1990s, when illegal immigration was on the rise, the federal government rolled out several programs whereby local law enforcement would assist them in catching and removing undocumented immigrants. As it turned out, local police didn't want to do this — and with good reason.

State and local police are not trained in immigration law and procedures. Holding undocumented immigrants in local jails proved to be very expensive for cities, and led to additional liability and legal issues. Local police forces found that they didn't have enough time to do their main job, protecting their communities from crime, because they were chasing after people for immigration violations, which are civil infractions.

Worst of all, when local police were turned into immigration agents, it had a detrimental effect on community relations. A 2013 study by the University of Illinois-Chicago found that increased (local) police involvement in immigration enforcement eroded trust of law enforcement among both undocumented and legal immigrants.

As a result of this confusion and pushback, cities turned to sanctuary policies, which in effect tells the federal government: You do your job, we'll do ours.

Sanctuary cities are doing something right. Crime in San Francisco, for example, is lower than in several

other non-sanctuary cities. Sanctuary cities make sense because they allow undocumented immigrants to report crime and volunteer as witnesses with local police, which makes everyone safer. Consider that a long list of cities, mayors, crime victims and law enforcement groups have spoken out against a proposal by House Republicans to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities.

Steinle's death was a horrific crime and her killer must be brought to justice. But we shouldn't let an emotional response to this crime blind us to the realities of the case. Steinle's death occurred because of a bureaucratic error; given his criminal history, Lopez-Sanchez should never have been released by San Francisco police.

Similarly, a Haitian immigrant in Connecticut allegedly fatally stabbed a woman when he should have already been deported. "If our federal agencies had been on top of this, my daughter would still be here with us," her mother told a Connecticut paper. But immigration authorities tried repeatedly to deport the alleged killer to Haiti. They were hampered by the fact that Haiti refused to accept him back — not by a sanctuary city policy.

So instead of scapegoating sanctuary cities, lawmakers should be taking steps to ensure better communication between federal and local law enforcement. Besides, we don't need more immigration enforcement (our government spends more on immigration enforcement than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined); we need smarter and better immigration enforcement. One step in the right direction is the recent news that the Obama administration will be focusing its immigration enforcement efforts on convicted felons, recent arrivals and security/terrorist threats.

Until our country tackles comprehensive immigration reform, sanctuary cities make our cities safer. It is misguided, uninformed and myopic to attack them as bad policy.

Raul A. Reyes is an attorney and television commentator in New York City. A third-generation Mexican American, he writes frequently on issues affecting the Latino community. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

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This article is related to: Immigration, Crime

January 18, 2017

CASA Testimony in Support of CB9

Councilman Weinstein and members of the Council,

CASA writes to express our strong support of Council Bill 9-2017, to make Howard County a Sanctuary County for Immigrants. As the state's largest immigrant rights organization, we represent over 11,000 members in Howard County, who are immigrants from dozens of countries that have chosen Howard County as their new home in the United States.

Many of our members have established strong roots in the county – raising their families here, starting businesses, and participating in daily civic activity in their communities. Council Bill 9 would be a strong step in recognition of all that they contribute to Howard County, and a demonstration of the values of inclusion, diversity, and civility that the county is known for across the state.

During this critical time in our country, CASA members are worried about what the future could hold for their families. Passage of CB 9 will reassure them that in a country where political winds are shifting, their local communities remain a place where all are welcome, where diversity is valued, and where local law enforcement are here to protect and serve, not to tear families apart.

As the council considers this critical issue, I urge you to consider the following answers to some of the questions raised in recent days, and am happy to provide any additional resources that may be helpful to you as you consider this legislation. Once again, on behalf of all of CASA's members in Howard County, we urge a favorable vote on Council Bill 9.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Alex
Regional Director
CASA

Howard County Council Bill 9: Questions and Answers

1) Do we have the authority to do this?

Yes. More than 400 jurisdictions¹, including 4 states and 364 counties, have enacted policies like this to protect their immigrant residents. The U.S. Constitution prohibits the federal government from mandating that local or state officials enforce a federal regulatory program² and this prohibition includes the enforcement of civil immigration violations – that responsibility rests solely and exclusively with the federal government.

2) Could we be in violation of state or federal laws (now or in the future)?

No. Bill No. 9-2017 contains explicit language which dictates that it shall not apply where it conflicts with state or federal law. In addition, the language provides a mechanism for the County to change any practices or provisions which preempt the law. These “savings clauses” effectively insulates the legislation from violating any provision of state or federal law.

The provisions of the proposed legislation are not in conflict with state or federal law, however. As discussed below, the federal government cannot mandate that state or local officials assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law. States and localities have wide latitude to enact policies which bind their employees, including prohibitions on inquiring about an individual’s immigration status.

The specific provision of Bill No. 9-2017 which protects the confidentiality of information about citizenship status (Section 12.2105) is limited by Section 12.2101(C)(1) which states that “[t]his subtitle does not prohibit disclosure of information regarding citizenship or immigration status if the disclosure is required or authorized by County, State, *or Federal law...*” (emphasis added). These confidentiality provisions are essential for ensuring the County residents feel safe and secure when interacting with County officials, including with law enforcement, and are in harmony with similar provisions enacted by other state and local governments across the United States.

3) Will our city/county suffer financial consequences by being labeled a "sanctuary" jurisdiction?

Likely Not. The same constitutional protections that prohibit the federal government from mandating that local officials assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law protects jurisdictions from financial coercion by the

¹ Jasmine C. Lee, Rudy Omri, and Julia Preston, “What Are Sanctuary Cities”, *New York Times*, September 3, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/02/us/sanctuary-cities.html? r=0>

² *City of New York v. United States*, 971 F. Supp 789 (S.D.N.Y 1997)

federal government to accomplish the same end³. In 2012 the Supreme Court ruled in *National Federation of Independent Businesses v. Sebelius* that the federal government could not withdraw federal Medicaid funding from states due to their failure to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, stating that such “... economic dragooning that leaves the States with no real option but to acquiesce..”⁴ violates the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

These protections are rooted in Constitutional principles⁵ and thus will apply equally in the Trump Administration⁶. The Supreme Court has held that “...if Congress intends to impose a condition on the grant of federal moneys, it must do so unambiguously.”⁷ The federal government is thus prohibiting from cutting off federal funding to localities for enacting pro-immigrant policies, unless the legislation authorizing such funding contained an explicit prohibition on such policies – which very few funding sources contain. Even where such a prohibition does exist, either in current law or future legislation, they are potentially subject to challenge under the Constitutional principles discussed above, which prohibit the federal government from coercing state and local officials to enforce federal law.

³ Erwin Chemerinsky, Annie Lai and Seth Davis, “Trump Can’t Force ‘Sanctuary Cities’ to Enforce His Deportation Plans”, *Washington Post*, December 22, 2016, https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/02/us/sanctuary-cities.html?_r=0

⁴ *Nat'l Fed'n of Indep. Bus. v. Sebelius*, 132 S. Ct. 2566 at 2574

⁵ *Printz v. United States*, 521 U.S. 898 at 933

⁶ Ilya Somin, “Federalism, the Constitution, and Sanctuary Cities,” *Washington Post*, November 26, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2016/11/26/federalism-the-constitution-and-sanctuary-cities/?utm_term=.b99e4e8c44b1

⁷ *Pennhurst State School and Hospital v. Halderman*, 451 U.S. 1 at 17.

January 17, 2017

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Mary Kay Sigaty District 4

Greg Fox District 5

Dear Council Members:

I am a 42-year old resident of Howard County and live in Clarksville. I want to thank Dr. Ball and Jen Terresa for sponsoring this bill. In the interest of full disclosure my wife is a member of Howard County Disability Commission and was appointed by Allan Kittleman and confirmed by this Council last year. Our son, who became paraplegic in an accident at the age of 17, knows how the walls closed in on him despite the fact he was born and raised in Howard County.

The law is equal opportunity but the fact is that discrimination exists in at least overt form and sometimes not in so overt form.

This bill will enable people of the "not right color" to have due process under the law. I urge you to follow the example of New York and California and to do what is right for the voiceless by approving the bill and by strengthening this bill. My wife could not be here today as she is attending a seminar of National Association of Mentally Ill, but she supports this bill.

Sincerely,



Shafqet ("Sam") Ashai

11906 Hall Shop Road

Clarksville, MD 21029

District 4 - Mary Kay Sigaty

Linda Kangoga
5163 Endynton Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Three minutes, not long enough. I came to support the intention of this bill as I fear for people living in a subculture detached from the civil liberties that America is known, loved and hated around the world for. I can see both sides of most arguments. Dad was trained as a lawyer and I was often his sparring partner.

1. My Dad was a D.P., A Displaced Person. A person without a country. In 1941 he was a medical student in college when the Nazi's annexed Yugoslavia and closed all medical schools. As a 20 year old he joined the underground to resist both Nazi and Communist forces. He ultimately was imprisoned in Mauthausen in Austria for his trouble, lost all his teeth due to malnutrition over the course of two years there, weighed 89 pounds when American forces discovered the camp in May 1945 and was told he might never walk again. Viktor Frankel in his book about finding meaning in life mentioned that prisoners in other camps hoped not to be sent to Mauthausen. My Dad told a neighbor that he refused to allow his Nazi captors to see his pain, because he believed to do so gave them power over him and he refused to give them that satisfaction. Years later when my little brother bought a used VW, my father had an outburst asking how my brother could disrespect him in such a way. Many don't remember that slave labor was used by Hitler's People's Wagon, VW. My Dad knew how to reupholster furniture. I always thought that was weird for a med and law student, but he didn't talk about it. Most of what I know about him came from stories my mother shared with me. From 1945 to 1952 my father began to rebuild a life, married, went to law school and had a son. Then Tito went on a witch hunt and my father was required to provide names of people with whom he fought in the underground during the war. My father said, "Tito threatened to take away his mother's heart medicine" if he did not comply. He provided a fake list and was arrested with the expected outcome to be his death. His mother, overcome with grief, committed suicide. Other family members were forbidden to move her body and my father was returned to personally arrange for her burial as part of his punishment and as an example to others. He escaped by hijacking a plane to Germany, the pilot being a friend of his, and he hid out in the German countryside for 6 months until he was permitted to go to Canada as a DP. The US quota for Yugoslavs had already been met when he applied that year. His family disowned him as they likely had to do to survive and he ultimately disowned them in return. I cannot imagine that this was easy. My Government professor at Mills said it might have been better for my father if he had never been born. His struggles give me sympathy for people who dream of a life in the USA. There is no way I can tell you his story here. There is so much more.
2. I am a Naturalized Citizen. I was born in Canada. My mother was an American by birth with Canadian roots that go back to a Huegenot sea captain who settled in Quebec in 1625. I came by train on Christmas Day in 1961. Someone tore up the immigration forms my mother had filled out for my brothers and I informing my mother that my little brothers and I had citizenship through her. In 1980, I was informed that according to the immigration law, my mother being born in 1928 would have had to attend grade school for 7 years for me to automatically be American and when they researched it, my mother only attended 3 and 1/2

years, so I did not qualify. The INS lawyer suggested I cross the border and reenter to apply as a new arrival. I was appalled. I was married to an American in the Army and had already voted, not knowing I was an undocumented alien. I had been waiting for over a year to be granted a passport and had well documented my life, my 3.8 GPA in high school, my years in girl scouts and as a choir member, my Math degree and marriage certificate. INS called saying they had lost my file and I would have to start over, adding years to the process. I offered to bring them copies of everything the following day and was told not to bother, they would locate the file. I was fortunate that my in-laws permitted me to live with them in SF as it allowed me to continue my original application for citizenship. If I had left the area, they could have dropped my file and I would have had to start over elsewhere.

3. My father never became a citizen although I believe it had been his dream. He died of heart failure while I was in college. He was happy to be a legal resident, able to soak in a hot bathtub and smoke a cigarette, luxuries that camp inmates dreamed about when they were able to sleep according to Victor Frankel's book. Dad entered the US legally after my grandmother brought my mother, my brothers and myself to California to live near my great aunt and her family. My mother had to establish residency for 6 months so that her husband, the DP, could join us legally. She worked for the Elks Lodge while I finished first grade. My parents both did a lot of volunteer work in addition to having many jobs while struggling to make ends meet. They were both hard working and demanded hard work of their children. I see both sides of the arguments for and against this bill as written and I am grateful for living in a country where this dialogue can take place out in the open in a public forum. I am grateful for the Howard County Police and the job they do enforcing the laws in and around my Harper's Choice neighborhood and village center. I worry for the women and children who are enticed to this country illegally and then trafficked. I am also sick with worry for those here legally and illegally who are afraid to contact police when they witness crimes for fear of reprisals, whether that be deportation or being hurt by those they know here, as I see that as escalating crime in our county and elsewhere. It is my hope that this process will find a middle ground and remind us all of us how very fortunate we are to live here, and how fortunate we are to be a beacon to the world. In my perfect world, there would be no undocumented aliens. My father would have been against this bill because he lived in constant fear of former Nazi's (refused better paying jobs in South American for this reason) and Communists("Do not go to Yugoslavia with your name Kangrga, they keep lists", he warned me.)

When Dr. King was assassinated Watts rioted and innocent businesses were burned. My father drove us on a family outing to the residential neighborhood of Watts. He told us that he wanted us to see what fear looked like. That was all he said. What I saw was a neighborhood that looked very much like mine except that there were no people walking along the sidewalks. There were no people or children on porches or in yards. There were not even any pets in fenced yards. Blinds and curtains were drawn and block after block looked like a ghost town. I am still learning the lesson he tried to teach me that day. That is why I am here.

Good evening Councilmembers, my name is Greg Dahle, I have been a Howard County resident for almost 50 years, currently residing in Ellicott City, District 1, and have worked in the county for 30 years. I am testifying this evening in **strong opposition** to the proposed CB9 legislation. I feel confident that once everyone's testimony and all **facts** are considered, by **all** council members regarding this bill, it should die by a majority vote in opposition. If it doesn't, it will most certainly be vetoed by our County Executive.

However, I still believe it important to express my views about how troubling it is that we currently have elected officials that would seriously consider proposing legislation that would label our great county as a "**Sanctuary County**" given there's absolutely no benefit to those you represent by doing so. We as law abiding, taxpaying, US Citizens gain nothing, but risk losing a lot.

Make no mistake, there has been a drastic increase in serious criminal activity, and a tremendous strain on resources, experienced by other municipalities throughout the country that have passed similar legislation. At the end of this week, we will have a new federal administration that could deny our county federal funding that might be needed to address a variety of serious issues we may encounter at any time, and some that might be **created** by, this proposed legislation. All very serious risks at least a couple of you seem to be willing to take simply for political posturing, pandering, and potential electoral advantage in future elections.

When I originally proposed, and Councilman Fox, and former Councilmember Courtney Watson, kindly cosponsored CB30-2011, an act allowing for a 100% property tax credit for all of our county's nonprofit 100% volunteer swim clubs, at a cost of about \$50K per year out of an overall budget of \$1.5B, despite multiple local municipalities having previously enacted this same legislation, this council previously enacting similar legislation, and the **zero nay** unanimously supported state enabling legislation allowing the county to do so; it was voted down by the same councilmembers co-sponsoring this legislation.

I find it very difficult to understand how they would now be willing to risk losing the \$1.2M that ICE alone annually contributes to the county's general fund, to help their constituents live safely. And that would be just the beginning as this new federal administration begins systematically, and deservedly, defunding all "sanctuary cities" throughout our great nation.

This proposed legislation puts an embarrassing beacon on our community encouraging those that commit illegal acts to flood into our communities. We **are** a nation of immigrants, but we are **also** a nation of laws, and those laws are meant to protect your tax paying constituents. You might not like the laws, and you can work with our congressional representatives to change the laws, but you cannot arbitrarily choose the laws you feel are worth following, while ignoring others. This is when societal order begins to fall apart.

The results of the most recent Presidential election have made it quite clear that most Americans have officially rejected the political ideology of borderless countries, as evident by the Democratic party losing countless offices, seats, and states, all over our great nation, for the past 8 years, including, most recently, our local County Executive position, Maryland State Governor, and Republicans now have the majority in the House, Senate, and now the Presidency. So please, keep this up, I'm quite sure Councilman Fox is looking forward to more Republicans joining him on the council as your seats are up for re-election.

Howard County CB9 Testimony

Patricia Hatch, Oakland Mills Village, Columbia MD 21045 (443) 604-5394

Over the past nearly 40 years I have had the privilege of working closely with literally hundreds, if not thousands, of immigrants in Howard County. The vast majority of those with whom I have worked have been legal permanent residents or persons to whom the US has granted refugee status. I have great respect for the difficult journey they have endured and considerable patience they have demonstrated in entering the US through our lengthy immigration processes.

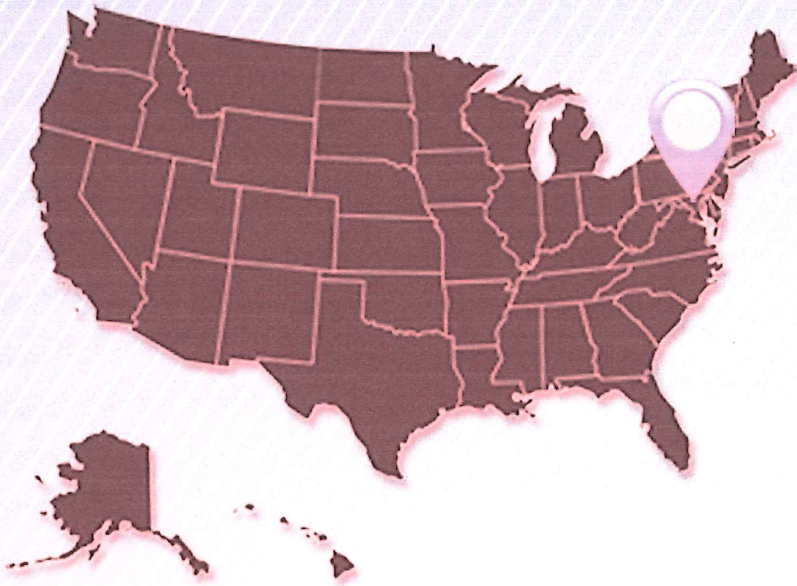
When I first started working with immigrants, I thought that any person who had not entered the US legally ought to be ejected summarily from the US. But then I started to meet real people who were undocumented, and as I heard each of their stories, I realized that for many, there was absolutely no legal pathway to the US, and yet, in many cases, no way to remain in their homeland safely, or to provide for their families if they stayed. I started to imagine myself in their shoes, and began to realize that had I been born in their circumstances, I might very well have made the same choice that they did.

Our immigration laws are seriously broken. Picture a road between two cities – Let's say Route 70. At one time, two lanes may have been sufficient. But then the population of both Baltimore and Frederick increased. Imagine what would have happened if the state highway administration had not added lanes. Imagine the chaos that would ensue, with people driving on the shoulders or median! It is similar with US immigration law. At one point our process was orderly and the visas available met the need with reasonable wait periods. But these days, a person wanting to sponsor their spouse or minor children can face waits of between 4 and 14 years before they will be legally admitted. Stressed by long family separation, many have eventually "driven on the shoulders" to reunite, and are now present without authorization.

About 66% of undocumented immigrants have been in the US for at least a decade. There are at least four million US-born US citizen children living in mixed-status households – households where at least one parent is undocumented. There are hundreds of such families in Howard County. Perhaps one of those children is your own child or grandchild's good friend – and they may be severely anxious that tonight or tomorrow mom or dad will be taken into custody and removed. Many undocumented persons have started their own businesses in order to survive in the US. Perhaps your lawn care person? Or babysitter? The cook or wait staff at your favorite restaurant? The unseen persons who clean your office building, your doctor's office? Or the home care companion for your elderly relative, making it possible for them to remain in their home rather than a nursing facility?

It is my sincere hope that Congress will soon update our broken immigration system, and that one element of that would be a program of earned legalization – similar to that under President Reagan. But until such time, I believe that local legislation of this nature can at least offer assurance to the undocumented persons who are already a part of the fabric of our county that, in these uncertain times, they will continue to be treated with dignity and respect by County employees, regardless of their immigration status.

NEW AMERICANS IN MARYLAND



COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Maryland is home to **842,250 immigrants.**

14.2% of Marylanders are foreign-born.

15% of Marylanders are Latino or Asian.

ENTREPRENEURS

20.9% of all business owners in Maryland are foreign-born.

\$2.8 BILLION in total net business income is generated by immigrant businesses in Maryland.

VOTERS

49.9% of immigrants in Maryland are naturalized U.S. Citizens and are potential voters.

PARENTS

87.1% of children with immigrant parents in Maryland are U.S. Citizens.

87.1% of children with immigrant parents in Maryland are considered English proficient.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTORS

- ➔ Latinos and Asians in Maryland have purchasing power of **\$34.2 BILLION**.
- ➔ Undocumented immigrants pay **\$293.8 MILLION** in Maryland state and local taxes.
- ➔ Maryland would lose **\$15.3 BILLION** in economic activity, **\$6.8 BILLION** in gross state product, and approximately **73,267 JOBS** if all undocumented immigrants were removed.

Howard County Council Legislative Public Hearing

17 January 2017

Testimony in support of CB-9

Jennifer E. Scott, Ph.D.

3792 Plum Spring Ln., Ellicott City

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Jennifer Scott. I live in Ellicott City, in Jon Weinstein's district. I've been a resident of this county for 13 years. I prize the diversity and inclusiveness of my community, and I think supporting CB-9 is the right thing to do.

I wrote emails and called in support of this bill, but it is the testimony of brilliant and inspiring DACA students, both here in Howard County and from Towson University, where I am a professor of physics and astronomy, that has especially moved me to testify in favor of CB-9 tonight. Our country is stronger because of the contributions of so many scientists who came here from elsewhere, including the forebears of Benjamin Banneker himself, including Albert Einstein, including many of my Towson colleagues, some of whom live in Howard County as I do.

I am alarmed at the rhetoric of our President-elect and those with whom he surrounds himself. I am disappointed by the level of anger and mistrust in the public discourse over this bill on the part of those who oppose it. I am troubled by the recent hateful speech and vandalism in

our public schools and parks.¹ These all show why codifying current practices in law through CB-9 is not only just but also necessary. Those who claim there is no purpose for this legislation use their cultural privilege to erase the experiences of those for whom this matters enormously.

Other opponents of this bill make exactly the opposite argument: that this legislation would have dramatic effects by increasing crime or threatening federal funding to our county.

This bill will not interfere with the prosecution of real crime in our county, and fears about increased crime are not supported by the experiences of other sanctuary cities.² I'll point to the unassailable logic in the arguments that others have made that if all people in our county feel protected in coming forward to cooperate with authorities if they are witness to or victims of a crime, if they are confident this will not threaten their livelihood and their families, we are all safer.

Second, President-elect Trump's threats to pull federal funding from jurisdictions that enact sanctuary policies are misguided. According to

¹ <http://www.abc2news.com/news/region/howard-county/man-charged-with-a-hate-crime-in-swastika-vandalism>
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/education/ph-ho-cf-racist-video-students-0204-20160130-story.html>
<http://patch.com/maryland/columbia/superintendent-county-executive-ask-hoco-choose-civility-after-election>

² <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/nov/28/javier-m-gonzales/santa-fe-mayor-defends-sanctuary-cities-says-studi/>

Noah Feldman, a professor of constitutional and international law at Harvard University³:

“The federal government can’t coerce states (or cities) into action with a financial ‘gun to the head,’ according to Supreme Court precedent developed by Chief Justice John Roberts in the 2012 Affordable Care Act case⁴. “

Furthermore, as others have stated, we in Howard County do not put a price tag on our values.

Howard County officials of fifty years ago resisted efforts to desegregate the Howard County schools, years after it was mandated by the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. It wasn’t popular but it was right. Those officials may have been good and honest people in every other aspect of their lives, but their apathy, their fear or their lack of knowledge about and empathy for their neighbors made them wrong, while the bravery of others like Robert Kittleman put *them* on the right side of history.⁵

I say this because it isn’t easy to see in the tide of current events, but I believe we are now at a similar crossroads in our communities and in our country. How will we in Howard County treat the strangers in our

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-11-29/sanctuary-cities-are-safe-thanks-to-conservatives>

⁴ *NFIB vs. Sebelius*

⁵ <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/howard/ellicott-city/ph-ho-cf-desegregation-schools-anniversary-0924-20150922-story.html>

midst, many of whom are not strangers at all but our friends and neighbors, our students, our clients and customers?

Others have quoted from their faith traditions and so I will close by doing the same. In the Gospel of Matthew, in his parable about the people who fed and clothed the stranger, Jesus says "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40 RSV) So for me, the question "What Would Jesus Do?" is answered. And he didn't ask for papers.

What we do to stand for our values here in this county will be judged by history. So I ask you to stand with all of our neighbors without regard to their immigration status and support CB-9. Thank you.

To: Honorable County Council Members of Howard County

From: Victor McGonegal, 7905, Helmart Drive, Laurel, Howard County, MD 20723

Date: January 18, 2017

As a thirty+ year resident of Howard County, I've enjoyed its many benefits in those years. I've always had confidence in HC government leaders to provide basic services, secure and stable environment and to be responsive to their constituents.

But that confidence is eroding: Specifically the proposed **CB9 -2017** bill is an absurdity. I oppose the bill for the following reasons.

Briefly

- First the Council's crafting of the bill conflicts directly with their recent oath to support the laws and Constitutions of the United States and Maryland.
- To harbor, support undocumented immigrants will impact County welfare costs
- It's unfair to legally-documented immigrants, waiting in line for years hoping to attain the benefits of U.S. citizenship only to be usurped by the undocumented immigrant.
- Increase the likelihood of illegal voter registration.
- I believe it's immoral, untenable to expose HC employees to potential legal or political actions by compelling them to ignore superseding State or Federal laws and regulations.
- HC could be flooded with homeless undocumented immigrants, e.g., San Francisco.
Does HC provide housing? At who's expense?
- Possible creation of crime ridden "No Go" zones where victims fear retaliation of criminals, and where police are reluctant to enter.

- Finally, the tone and characterizations in Bill No. 9 -2017 betrays the ideological and political bias of its authors; and to use derogatory invectives insult the integrity and character of a third of Howard County Voters. Pejorative attacks are vindictive and immature rationalizations. [i.e., "President-Elect Trump...hate...xenophobic, Islamophobic, and racist sentiments..."].

It's been said, that avid proponents are on the wrong side of history. Maybe.
But Trump and the duly elected congress will stop the flow of funds to "sanctuaries."
Agree or not, the American electorate has spoken.

If you object to the electoral process that elected them then change it through constitutionally means, not rioting at the Capitol Steps.

The "Sanctuary" beacon is NOT a shining light on the hill: it's a path leading into darkness.

Testimony in Opposition to Howard County CB9 2017 (Ball, Terrasa) on January 17, 2017

Benjamin T. Johnson, Ph.D.
10201 Breconshire Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042

I rise in opposition of CB9, an ACT designed to extend Howard County Code, Title 12 – Health and Social Services by adding Subtitle 21: Rights of Non-US Citizens.

I have three primary points of opposition.

The first point is general in that an undocumented person residing in the United States is in violation of federal law, regardless of whether it was an overstayed visa or those who entered without permission. Any jurisdiction that attempts to interfere with federal law is subject to possible loss of federal funding for being non-compliant. I cannot support legislation that encourages continued violation of federal laws – it is patently unjust, particularly for those people who are legal immigrants to the United States.

The second point comes from the use of the term “sanctuary” in the preamble of this bill. The term “Sanctuary” here has a fairly broad range of meaning and application. In this particular case, the bill provides almost no protection for undocumented immigrants, and doesn’t rise to the level of sanctuary provided by other counties / jurisdictions. This bill has two key effects (1) to make undocumented people feel safe in communicating with county officials without fear of being reported to federal authorities. (2) As such, this bill effectively becomes a “don’t ask don’t tell policy” – if a county official learns of a person’s undocumented status, they will still be compelled by law to report that person to federal authorities.

Unfortunately, many undocumented people will not fully understand the limitations of CB9, and some will be enticed to move to Howard County under false hopes of sanctuary -- adding to the already 250,000+ illegal immigrants living in the state (Pew Research Center, 2012).

The third point is regarding the socio-economic impact of this bill, should it become law. Proponents of the bill would point to the harmlessness of it, and that it’s simply “a political statement”. My concern is that by enacting harmless legislation enables future, substantial legislation to be built upon it, with potentially more severe impact to the residents of Howard County. Additionally, the influx of undocumented people seeking sanctuary will bring increased costs to the county, such as infrastructure, education, medical, and law enforcement, to name a few. These costs will continue to be subsidized by tax paying, legal residents of the county.

I’m fully supportive of inclusiveness, diversity, and preservation of the rights of all people to the extent allowable by law. However, I simply do not believe the county should risk additional tax payer burdens and the potential loss of federal funding by harboring increasing numbers of undocumented people regardless of their gender, age, race, religion, and nation of origin.

Sincerely,

Benjamin T. Johnson

Testimony for CB9-2017
January 17, 2017

My name is Chris Krupiarz and I am a resident of Ellicott City.

In October of last year, police in Wyoming, Michigan arrested Raul Perez for murder. An undocumented immigrant, he had been twice deported and charged with other crimes.

I mention this event because it, and others like it in California and Kansas, impacted my immediate reaction to this bill.

I have a couple of kids at home. I want them to be safe.

To alleviate some of this concern, I request the Council consider an amendment to the bill. This revision would add flexibility for law enforcement to contact immigration authorities in cases of repeat violent offenders. In the aftermath the terrible killing of Kate Steinle, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors implemented a similar revision to their sanctuary policy. There is potential to learn from their experience.

That said, safety must sometimes be balanced against ideals. We should never forget tragedies such as what happened in Michigan or Kansas or California. But we should also remember there is another side of humanity: our common rights that know no borders.

Thus far I have focused on the very few, if any, that may cause strife, but what we cannot miss seeing is the vast majority of undocumented immigrants for who they are.

They are people escaping conditions I would never want for my two boys.

They are people who have found no choice but to uproot their lives and put themselves at the mercy of others.

They are people who are simply seeking what I, and many of us here today, were lucky enough to be born with: the human right of freedom

from oppression and the opportunity to live, study, and work in a welcoming community.

These brothers and sisters of our global family have become members of our local family. Let's treat them as such.

Last fall, I read an essay written by Jason Motlagh entitled "A Terrifying Journey Through the World's Most Dangerous Jungle." This piece tells the story of the Darién Gap between Colombia and Panama, a jungle passageway for many migrants. Mr. Motlagh writes:

"Some ugly myths have taken root in the United States that these people are predisposed to be criminals, a dormant threat to our national security and a gathering drag on our economy...Yet, somehow people of all stripes keep angling for our faraway borders with their dreams intact, risks and distances be damned.

Maybe they will be spared the onerous jungle crossing; maybe they will get a berth on an airlift; or maybe they are bushwhacking a new route through the darkness of Darién Gap at this very moment, their feet and gazes in lockstep forward against the inertia of fear and cynicism, driven by visions of something better.

They are our past, our present, and our future.

And they are worthy."

1-18-2017

Testimony

John Rice

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

I have been a lifelong Howard County resident. I consider Howard County one of the best counties in our country and one of the most accepting counties to all immigrants. All of the people testifying last night in favor of the bill are hard working, law abiding citizens or undocumented immigrants thriving to become America Citizens no different then many of the families in our country.

- I am strongly against this bill because the problem with this bill - is that it encourages and attracts illegal immigrants that intend to do harm and perform illegal activities to the citizens of Howard county - that is why this bill is so wrong.

What's really the ultimate Purpose of this bill?

- Is it Politically motivated,
- is it to protect illegal immigrants or
- is it to protect the citizens of Howard County.

I believe the main purpose was political motivation. Ball and Terrasa were upset by the election results and decided to write this bill out of spite. The one lady that mentioned waiting 90 days for a cooling off period made an excellent suggestion. Also,

rumor has it -that Mr Ball might be running for County Executive in 2018 and planning on trying to capitalize on the 60% of the vote that Hillary Clinton received in Howard County. If this is true and he decides to run for county Executive then this bill would be a self-serving and not in the best interest of Howard County Residents.

- This bill feels like a No Snitchin Bill because it's like lets not work with or assist Federal Authorities in enforcing Immigration law because we don't have to. Is that right
- If for some crazy reason that this bill passes and a situation arises in Howard County like what happened in San Francisco with Kate Steinle - Are you prepared to accept responsibility of a bill that has your signature on it that might have contributed to the potential death of a person. .
- Mrs Terrasa you were questioning Police Chief Gardner last night in regards to if he had spoken to any other police chiefs of sanctuary counties to see what they have seen in regards to the crime rate. Well, I just went home and googled MS13 in Montgomery County and what comes up first. July17, 2016 "Members of the MS-13 street gang enlist a 19 yr old woman to lure another teenager in a darkened Montgomery County park, where he was stabbed more than 40 times, according to police accounts of the county's 10th gang-related killing in past 10 Months." This might help you out in regards to how's it going in other counties.

This bill was not intended to protect the Citizens of Howard County but was a political move and knee jerk reaction against our president elect Donald Trump. When you vote on this bill please disregard your party affiliation and vote on whether or not this bill is going to protect the citizens of Howard County. Let your conscious make your decision when you vote on this bill.

Thank you County Council Members for giving me the opportunity to speak.

A Maryland teen, lured to the woods and stabbed 40 times, becomes latest victim of gang-related killings

By Dan Morse July 7, 2016

Members of the MS-13 street gang enlisted a 19-year-old woman to lure another teenager into a darkened Montgomery County park, where he was stabbed more than 40 times, according to police accounts of the county's 10th gang-related killing in the past 10 months.

The accounts, filed this week in Montgomery District Court, underscored the horror of the slaying, with at least three assailants — one of them just 16 — who either held down the victim or repeatedly stabbed him.

"We really are seeing an unprecedented level of gang-related homicides," said Capt. Paul Liquorie, director of the Montgomery Police Department's Special Investigations Division.

In one of the suspected MS-13 killings last year in the county, assailants allegedly threw heavy rocks down on a victim as he crawled away from an attack toward a stream, according to court records. In another, the victim was told, "Get on your knees," before being shot in the face, neck and shoulder while in the woods.

In the June 16 death of Cristian Antonio Villagran-Morales, 18, in Malcolm King Park in Gaithersburg, police said the 19-year-old, Vanesa Alvarado, used the promise of sex to entice Villagran-Morales into the park.

Once they arrived, MS-13 members came up to Alvarado and Villagran-Morales and asked him whether he wanted to go into the woods to smoke marijuana, police said.

"Unfortunately, Cristian made the decision to go into the woods with them. He did not come out of those woods," Capt. Darren Francke, Montgomery's major crimes commander, said Thursday.

MS-13 Gang Violence Reemerges in Montgomery County

County members of the Salvadoran gang have been linked to murders in the region

BY ANDREW METCALF



VIA MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE

Montgomery County law enforcement officials are concerned the murder of a Gaithersburg man in Montgomery Village earlier this month and other recent violence may be a sign that the MS-13 gang is rebuilding in the area.

The murder led to the arrests of three county teens and warnings from Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy that the violent El Salvador-based gang may be recruiting again.

"It's pretty evident based on the intelligence I'm being provided, that they are attempting to reestablish a toehold in the metropolitan area and specifically back here in Montgomery County," McCarthy told NBC4 last week.

The gang arrived in the Washington, D.C.-area in the 1990s and spread to Silver Spring, Wheaton and the Langley Park area of Prince George's County in the 2000s, according to a 2009 legislative report on gangs in Maryland.

In the early 2000s the gang was targeted as part of a concerted effort by local law enforcement to jail leaders and members, but *The Washington Post* reports police believe the latest violence may be part of "MS-13's drive to renew itself."

Prosecutors said the three teens suspected in the Nov. 1 murder of 22-year-old Roberto Gutierrez Cruz killed him execution-style and left him in the woods off of Contour Road. The suspects were identified as Luis Avelar Morales, 17, Daniel Adonai Ramos, 19, and Juan Espinal Rapalo, 18—all from the Gaithersburg area.

One of the suspects was reportedly arrested as he walked out of Gaithersburg High School, according to WAMU 88.5. County police said the murder of Cruz was carried out because he was believed to be a member of a rival gang.

The Washington Post reports MS-13 members have been arrested in other recent murder cases in Virginia including that of a 17-year-old gunned down in Sterling in September and that of a man whose body showed signs of trauma when it was found

Testimony Against Making Howard County a Sanctuary County in Maryland

Testimony Against CB 9- 2017 of Howard County, Maryland

Writer

Dr. Brenda Stewart
(Howard County Farm Resident 45 years)

TWO MAJOR REASONS AGAINST MAKING HOWARD COUNTY A SANCTUARY COUNTY

1. Risk Loosing Federal funding money to fund Loans, Grants, Contracts, Emergencies, Education, Research, Small Business Support, and Public Health.

Comments: - Universities face loss of funding if declared a sanctuary campus.

- Counties and cities that adopt immigrant-friendly policies run the risk of losing funding or face other federal sanctions.

Howard County this year received federal funding dollars of \$1,613,136 to fund organizations that help crime victims in our county.

Howard County received \$7.7 million dollars in federal funding to help restore and rebuild Ellicott City after the disastrous flooding of the City.

- Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services announced in 2016 that it was awarded \$201,524 in a federal grant money given by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

-Howard County can't afford to loose federal funding by trying to predict what the funding priorities of the incoming FEDERAL Administration will be towards a sanctuary county. Trying to quickly pass local policy decisions at making Howard County a Sanctuary County could result in yanking federal funding to Howard County. This could paralyze every aspect of economic growth and funding upon citizens that live in Howard and their educational opportunities.

-Can anyone assure the citizens of Howard County that they will receive at least the same amount of federal funding than before becoming a sanctuary county? If not, what is the "rush" in trying to pass this bill before we know how it will impact our financial standing with federal support? Why not table this bill for now?

2. Creating Local Sanctuary Counties Conflicts with Federal Law.

- Comments: Howard County and other local governments don't set the nation's Immigration policies, the Federal Government does.

-Federal law out ranks county law when it comes to illegal status.

- Making a county a sanctuary can be interpreted as a matter of civil disobedience by those that attempt to over step and contradict federal laws.

- Those that urge such illegal practices may possibly be jeopardizing their own credibility as well as compromise their leadership status in the community when federal action is applied.

- Local governments cannot pick and chose to follow some federal laws and ignore others.

- By Federal law, state and local governments are required to cooperate with the immigration laws and policies of the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Brenda Stewart drsjbstewart@AOL.com 410 442-2471
2752 Daisy Road
Woodbine, MD 21797-8124

Good Evening Chairperson and members of the County Council. I am here to share my testimony in support of CB9-2017.

My name is Razia Kosi and I live the in the Taylor Village neighborhood of Ellicott City. I am an immigrant who was brought to this country when I was two years old with my parents. My father came to the U.S. to earn his Masters in Engineering. He worked in this profession and owned several businesses until he retired last year and the age of 77. I have lived in Maryland since I was three.

When I was in the 1st grade and attending an elementary school in a neighboring county, the assistant principal pulled me from class and asked if I had a Green Card. I had no idea what a Green card was, and answered "I didn't know what that was." He then asked me if my parents had a Green Card.

This time I became more scared and I said what most kids do when they think are in trouble, "I don't know what it is, but I don't think we do?" He sent me back to class, but I could not concentrate the rest of the day. When I went home that evening, I told my Dad what happened. My dad became angry with the answer I gave. He pulled me over to his desk and showed me our Green Cards, and said if I was ever asked that question again, then I was to answer "yes."

I didn't understand what all of this meant, what that little piece of paper, which wasn't even green, meant to the assistant principal, my family or to me, but I do remember seeing the fear on my Dad's face and how his fear turned to anger towards me in order to make sure I understood we were at risk.... Because of a piece of paper.

This was over 40 years ago, but the fear, driving both sides of this issue are still relevant today. Some of the students, who spoke earlier attended the same schools as my own daughters. I know the stress students are under to be academically successful. The fear of deportation, not feeling safe in your own school, the destructive stereotypes of criminalizing immigrants because of documentation status are not conducive to a healthy learning environment.

Our children should not live in fear of coming to school, of being separated from their families or being sent back to a country that they left as small children. These students could be our future doctors, such as Dr. Quinones, a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins who was undocumented. All children deserve the opportunity to excel and give back to the community.

Much of the opposition has used the argument of “law and order” and not wanting to go against the law. The only reason my father was able to come to this country was because an unjust law limiting immigration from Asian and African countries and giving preference to immigrants Northern and Western European countries was abolished with the Immigration Act of 1965.

I went to the National Museum of African American History on Dr. Kings birthday on Monday and was once again reminded that laws are made to serve the ones in power. They only change when enough people who are currently well-served by the current law demand change for the benefit of humanity. Treating people in our county with dignity, friendship, and safety is at the core of our community and as a naturalized citizen of this country, a 22- year resident of this county and a parent, I support this bill and I urge each of you to support this bill as well.

Dear County Council Members:

My name is Hongling Zhou. I am a Statistician and my husband is a Software Engineer. We have been Howard county residents for 18 years. We are the hard-working taxpayers that are the backbones of this County's revenue source. I am here to express my strong opposition to CB9.

I am an immigrant from China. I became a proud U.S. citizen after 14 years waiting in line. I heard Dr. Ball on Radio saying that CB9 is intended to address concerns of foreign born residents in Howard County. I would like to tell you that this bill not only does not address any of my concerns but also created feelings of uncertainty and anxiety among many people around me.

I personally know a few undocumented immigrants. My husband and I have given materialistic and logistical help to these families. One lady in particular connected with me on personal level. She cares deeply about her children's education and the topic often appears in our conversations. I respect her for that. I informed her that the public school has pre-K program made available first to students with disadvantaged economic status and helped her to enroll her then 4 year old daughter in the program. Through this experience, I observed what these families really need are social, health and educational services, which CB9 fails to mention. And Howard County has already made these benefits and resources available for undocumented residents.

While I agree we, the Howard County residents, should be willing to share our good fortune with the poor and the needy from the world whenever we can as individuals, I take issue with government charity forced upon taxpayers. James Madison once said, "Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government." If this bill is enacted, it will in effect become an advertisement for more and more undocumented immigrants to come to our county, given our excellent public school systems. Can we really afford the increased cost associated with such seemingly moral high ground? Montgomery County as a Sanctuary Jurisdiction had a property tax hike of 8.7% this year. Does Howard County want to follow the suit? Mr. Weinstein, do you want to be the person who breaks the news to us in, say 2019, after your re-election? It is exceedingly unfair to force the cost of such government charity upon the loyal income and property taxpayers who contribute to the county's revenue.

I urge you to vote against this bill!

Sincerely,

Hongling Zhou
7065 River Oak Court
Clarksville, MD 21029

Against CB9

Nancy Shih, CPA
4500 Cornflower Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Email: iping_shih@yahoo.com
Tel: 443-283-2375

Tonight I come here as a Christian with faith in Christ. I am also here as a friend to the undocumented immigrants and those who have Muslim faith.

I would like to tell these people that I love you and I want to embrace you and accept you totally as who you are and as precious human beings.

To the undocumented immigrants and your children, I would like to say: I heard your cry. I am with you. I understand your strife and struggle that you've been thru.

However, I want to tell you that CB9 cannot and will not offer you shield of protection from the act of prejudice or bias as you said you have experienced in the community. NO LAWS CAN. Prejudice is a symptom of a root problem. That is the sinful nature of human beings. A heart problem can only be fixed by being transformed and renewed in the heart by the power of the Gospel. And that is the pastors' job! That's the church's and charitable organizations' job to light the community by showing real actions of love to these people who live as our neighbors, and to influence the society with culture and atmosphere of kindness. This was what Jesus did on earth to reach out to the weak and the needed. CB-9 cannot correct people's heart problems.

The wrong kind of compassion, while using public funding instead of individual and organization funding, that put the majority's public safety, quality of life and education in jeopardy, is not true compassion. It is hypocrisy. *Policeman life matters too!*

While officially being labeled as Sanctuary County, CB9 will inevitably lure a steady influx of new incoming undocumented immigrants including gangsters from neighboring Counties. The existing undocumented immigrants will actually be victimized instead of being benefited.

This Bill's hollow content will do little to help these people. Only the collaborative effort of every individual and organization in the community, combined with the spirit of understanding and compassion can bring about genuine acceptance, comfort and peace for them. I am against CB9 and I urge the Council to postpone your vote till after 60 days of the Hearing.

Good Evening Council Members. I am Jen Nussbaum and live at 8759 Stonehouse Drive Ellicott City, MD

In my view the current proposal to pass Council Bill 9 is not in the best interests of Howard County residents.

The Council was elected by the citizens to act on behalf of their best interests and this Bill is at odds with that duty. The Members who have proposed this legislation are acting on emotion, or worse, are playing politics with our County's future.

I have a couple of simple questions for the Members:

1. How does CB 9 serve the best interests of Howard County citizens? Will the passage of CB9 improve our public transportation, our schools, our social services or our public safety? Will it improve our neighborhoods? Will it increase our income or property tax base?

If the answer to these questions are no, the then converse is likely true. Therefore, the bill is not in the best interests of Howard County citizens.

2. Will the passage of CB 9 place Howard County at odds with the Federal Government and put the County at risk of losing Federal funding for non-compliance or increasing County expenses fighting the Federal government ?

If the answer to this question is yes, then the Bill is not in the best interests of Howard County citizens.

So, how would this one particular resident react if this bill passed? For more than 20 years I have lived, raised my kids, worked, operated a business and invested in Howard County.

Well the answer is that I would leave Howard County. Yes. I would be compelled to leave. And unlike the Hollywood actors who say they are leaving the US but don't...I would.

Howard County will lose a homeowner, an employer, a real estate business owner, and a quality income and real estate tax payer.

It is only a 15 minute ride up route 32 to Carroll County and a 20 minute ride the other way to Anne Arundel. Competition is great and these Counties will have a field day competing against Howard in the future.

Montgomery County made this mistake -- Howard should not.

The great thing about America is that you can vote with your feet! If this Bill passes you can count on one thing for sure... You will be choosing to replace tax paying, law abiding citizens like my family and me, with illegal immigrants. The only sensible reason for your position is that illegal immigrants must make better residents for Howard County than legal citizens of the United States.

However, if CB 9 were to pass and you wanted to make an effort to keep me in the County, then please pass my proposed CB 10 which would provide sanctuary status for "illegal residents" and allow County property owners to not pay their property taxes without consequences under the "illegal resident" protections it would afford. I will then become an "Illegal Resident".

And, if you find my CB 10 outlandish, then you will clearly understand how I find your CB 9.

Read into testimony for Paul Sabella,
Howard County citizen, residential and commercial property owner, business owner and taxpayer
Columbia, MD

Testimony of Theodore F Mariani Re HC Bill CB 9 Sanctuary County

The underlying facts in his matter are clear and can be briefly stated.

When a person enters this country illegally or overstays a visa they are breaking the law. Further as non citizens they do not have recourse to the rights that convey thru citizenship.

I believe it is beyond your legal competence to mandate that public servants not observe and enforce Federal law or to grant legal rights to those who under law are not entitled to them.

The US Supreme Court has repeatedly held that state laws and policies are preempted when they conflict with federal law , as well as when they stand as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress. The governing federal law can be found at 8 US Code - 1373 which prohibits policies that impede cooperation between federal, state and local officials when it involves the sending , requesting, maintaining or exchanging of information regarding immigration status.(See Attached excerpt from 8 US Code 1373)

In addition, the Supreme Court in *De Canas vs Bica* held that any state law or policy related to immigration will be preempted per se if it is a regulation concerning immigration because the “ power to regulate immigration is unquestionably exclusively a federal power”. Thus by Federal law and through affirmation by the Supreme Court, state and local governments are required to cooperate with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in carrying out its responsibilities under the immigration laws.

Being opposed to this proposed Bill does not in any way mean that one is embracing prejudice, bigotry, or hate as your preamble implies. A clear majority of Americans have spoken in support of enforcing our immigration laws , but the justification for this Bill seems to label them as xenophobic and racist.

As the son of an immigrant who came to this country legally, served four years in the US Army and was extremely proud to have earned his hard won citizenship, I am well aware of the blessings that this great Country offers.

As a consequence our family, descendants of immigrants, has over the years extended a helping hand, providing shelter and financial support, to many who have fled war torn Europe seeking refuge in America. These efforts which were voluntary, personal and legal began in the late 1930's with the rise of Fascism and continued through the cold war and the Communist take over of eastern Europe.

Compassion for ones fellow man does not however require the abandonment of the rule of law. If the United States were to change its immigration policy through an Act of Congress we should all, as faithful citizens, respect and abide by that decision. Until then the federal laws are paramount and must be observed, both de jure and de facto, in their intent.

This proposed Bill is unnecessary, unwise, and an insult to those citizens of this county, the state and the nation. who believe in the rational and full application of our current legally enacted immigration laws.

I respectfully request that this harmful and divisive legislation be rejected.

§1373. Communication between government agencies and the Immigration and Naturalization Service

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.

(b) Additional authority of government entities

Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, no person or agency may prohibit, or in any way restrict, a Federal, State, or local government entity from doing any of the following with respect to information regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual:

- (1) Sending such information to, or requesting or receiving such information from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- (2) Maintaining such information.
- (3) Exchanging such information with any other Federal, State, or local government entity.

(c) Obligation to respond to inquiries

The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall respond to an inquiry by a Federal, State, or local government agency, seeking to verify or ascertain the citizenship or immigration status of any individual within the jurisdiction of the agency for any purpose authorized by law, by providing the requested verification or status information.

(Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title VI, §642, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–707.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and also as part of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, and not as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act which comprises this chapter.

The New Jews – by Michael Irving Phillips

I am black
So I do not have to wear the star
For identification
Muslims now can be tracked
By compulsory registration
Mexicans will wear the smear
Of a rapist reputation
Millions will live in fear
Of their immediate deportation
For our new leader
Has body-slammed the constitution

For the Klan
There is jubilation
For once again
We'll become
A blue-eyed nation
"A black president!
What a disgrace!
Now those niggers
Will know their place".

What's this talk of diversity?
In our democracy
Hate is a great strategy
To create political popularity
Hate the blacks
Hate the Muslims
Hate Latinos too
Whether undocumented
Or legit as me and you

For we are the new Jews
Scapegoats of the nation
Lock them in the gas chambers
Of discrimination
And when the police
Shoot us down
They'll need no justification
Just routine persecution

So new Jew
Justice for all
Except you
Let me make it clear
You better learn to live in fear
For America elected a new leader
To the new Jews
He is the brand new
Adolph Hitler

County Council of Howard County, Maryland
2017 Legislative Session – January 18, 2017
Public Hearing Testimony Regarding Bill No. 9-2017
Cathey Allison

Respected County Council of Howard County:

I am here to deliver an essay prior to your Work Session of January 23, please read this essay. It explains the history of the politically charged words “**human rights**”. American governments do not own American citizens nor should they invent a political lexicon containing such words as “**human rights**” to confuse the citizenry.

The Bill states: "WHEREAS, Howard County has a strong tradition of leadership on issues of **human rights**, respecting the rights of and providing equal services to all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status ..."

Indeed, America’s founding charter, the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, state that our unalienable rights come from our Creator and "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Therefore, our law is written in respect of our Creator, and the powers assigned to government are to be **lawful**, i.e., "just."

If this Bill passes, some people in the county will be required to obey laws. Others **will be given preferential treatment and** will not be held accountable to the law. This is **unjust** and is a breach of the Maryland Oath of Office to govern "without partiality."

The Bill's premise of "human rights" is a claim that the Council names the "rights" that will be **granted** to people **from** government. That pretends to be justification for lawlessly--unjustly--codifying Howard County Government's **abdication** from its **duties** to impartially secure the God-given rights of the governed and to protect the community **from** law-breakers. It is illogical that the keepers of the peace (police, sheriff's department, etc) would not be allowed to ascertain the legal or illegal status of a person when dealing with the person for certain concerns.

Additionally, I request that this government acknowledge that the word “illegal” means “not legal”. Howard County Police officers should be well aware of the legal intent of “probable cause” which is already proven law. We request that political punditry not be tolerated in composing bills to obfuscate the enforcement of our

County Council of Howard County, Maryland
2017 Legislative Session – January 18, 2017
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rightful law.

In 1789 the several states authorized a national government with specific, limited powers such as: U. S. Constitution, Article. IV. Section 4, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence."

State laws may not conflict with any provision of the U.S. Constitution or U.S. laws pursuant to it. I assert that a county of the State of Maryland does not have standing to legislate that of which it has no legal authority. Additionally, the very umbrage exhibited by composing such a Bill is an insult to the higher goals and intentions of our rightful law. CB9 is a politically driven, illegal abuse of our esteemed legislative process.

I ask that the Council members vote AGAINST this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathey Allison
Carroll County Maryland

"Human Rights in History

Human rights emerged not in the 1940s but the 1970s, and on the ruins of prior dreams. By Samuel Moyn

Essay is adapted from Samuel Moyn's *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, forthcoming from Harvard/Belknap. Copyright by Harvard/Belknap."

<https://www.thenation.com/article/human-rights-history/>

"A mere thirty-three years ago, on January 20, 1977, Jimmy Carter inaugurated his presidency by proclaiming from the Capitol steps, "Because we are free we can never be indifferent to the fate of freedom elsewhere.... Our commitment to human rights must be absolute." Most people had never heard of "human rights." Except for Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a couple of passing references, no president had really mentioned the concept, and it never had gained much traction around the world either. Carter's words sparked an intense debate at every level of government and society, and in political capitals across the Atlantic Ocean, about what it would entail to shape a foreign policy based on the principle of human rights.

The concept of rights, including natural rights, stretches back centuries, and "the rights of man" were a centerpiece of the age of democratic revolution. But those *droits de l'homme et du citoyen* meant something different from today's "human rights." For most of modern history, rights have been part and parcel of battles over the meanings and entitlements of citizenship, and therefore have been dependent on national borders for their pursuit, achievement and protection. In the beginning, they were typically invoked by a people to found a nation-state of their own, not to police someone else's. They were a justification for state sovereignty, not a source of appeal to some authority—like international law—outside and above it.

In the United States, rights were also invoked to defend property, not simply to defend women, blacks and workers against discrimination and second-class citizenship. The New Deal assault on laissez-faire required an unstinting re-examination of the idea of natural rights, which had been closely associated with freedom of contract since the nineteenth century and routinely defended by the Supreme Court. By the 1970s, rights as a slogan for democratic revolution seemed less pressing, and few remembered the natural rights of property and contract that the New Deal had once been forced to challenge. Carter was free to invoke the concept of rights for purposes it had never before served. (Arthur Schlesinger Jr. once called on future historians to "trace the internal discussions...that culminated in the striking words of the inaugural address." No one, however, yet knows exactly how they got there.)

It looks like Carter was an exception in another sense. He inaugurated the era of human rights in this country, but now it seems to be fading. Bill Clinton dabbled in human rights while outlining a new post-cold war foreign policy, but the Democratic politician now in the White House has spurned them. Few developments seem more surprising than the fact that Barack Obama rarely mentions human rights, especially since past enthusiasts for them like Samantha Power and Anne-Marie Slaughter have major roles in his foreign policy shop. Obama has given no major speech on the subject and has subordinated the concerns associated with human rights, such as taking absolute moral stands against abusive dictators, to a wider range of pragmatic foreign policy imperatives. As his Nobel remarks made plain, Obama is a "Christian realist" inclined to treat human sin, not human rights, as the point of departure for thinking about America's relation to the world's many injustices and horrors.

The rise and fall of human rights as an inspirational concept may seem shocking, but perhaps it is less so on second glance. Ever since Carter put human rights on the table, Republican presidents have found uses for them too, typically by linking them to "democracy promotion" abroad. There is no denying the powerful growth of nongovernmental organizations in the United States and around the world that has occurred since slightly before Carter's time, and impressively ever since. But George W. Bush, placing himself in an almost equally longstanding tradition, invoked human rights as the battle cry for the neoconservative vision of transforming the Middle East and beyond—at the point of a gun, if necessary—perhaps sullying them beyond recuperation. Obama seems to think so. If their current abeyance is surprising, perhaps it's because of a historical mistake: the belief that human rights were deeply ingrained in American visions of the globe in the first place.

But what about the 1940s, when FDR essentially coined the phrase "human rights" and set in motion a series of events that culminated in the United Nations-sponsored Universal Declaration

of Human Rights in 1948? Beginning in the 1990s, when human rights acquired a literally millennial appeal in the public discourse of the West during outbreaks of ethnic cleansing in Southeastern Europe and beyond, it became tempting to treat 1948 as a moment of annunciation, with large political consequences. Carter, and the 1970s, were rarely mentioned. It became common to assume that, ever since their birth in a moment of postgenocidal revulsion and wisdom, human rights had become embedded slowly but steadily in humane consciousness in what amounted to a revolution of moral life. In a euphoric mood, high-profile observers like Michael Ignatieff believed that secure moral guidance, born of incontestable shock about the Holocaust, was on the verge of displacing self-interest and power as the foundation of international relations. In Samantha Power's *"A Problem From Hell": America and the Age of Genocide* (2002), Raphael Lemkin, who crafted the draft resolution of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, was dusted off as a human rights sage and hero, with Carter earning attention only for failing to intervene against Pol Pot's atrocities.

In fact, when "human rights" entered the English language in the 1940s, it happened unceremoniously, even accidentally. Human rights began as a very minor part of a hopeful alternative vision to set against Adolf Hitler's vicious and tyrannical new order. In the heat of battle and shortly thereafter, a vision of postwar collective life in which personal freedoms would coalesce with more widely circulating promises of some sort of social democracy provided the main reason to fight the war.

It's important to enumerate what human rights, in the 1940s, were not. Ignatieff was wrong. They were not a response to the Holocaust, and not focused on the prevention of catastrophic slaughter. Though closely associated with the better life of social democracy, only rarely did they imply a departure from the persistent framework of nation-states that would have to provide it.

Above all, human rights were not even an especially prominent idea. Unlike later, they were restricted to international organization, in the form of the new United Nations. They didn't take hold in popular language and they inspired no popular movement. Whether as one way to express the principles of Western postwar societies or even as an aspiration to transcend the nation-state, the concept of human rights never percolated publicly or globally during the 1940s with the fervor it would have in the '70s and the '90s, including during negotiations over the Universal Declaration.

What if the 1940s were cut loose from the widespread myth that they were a dry run for the post-cold war world, in which human rights began to afford a glimpse of the rule of law above the nation-state? What if the history of human rights in the 1940s were written with later events given proper credit and a radically different set of causes for the current meaning and centrality of human rights recaptured? The central conclusion could only be that, however tempting, it is misleading to describe World War II and its aftermath as the essential source of human rights as they are now understood.

From a global perspective, the brief career of human rights in the 1940s is the story of how the Allied nations elevated language about human rights as they reneged on the earlier wartime promise—made in the 1941 Atlantic Charter—of the self-determination of peoples. Global self-determination would have spelled the end of empire, but by war's end the Allies had come around to Winston Churchill's clarification that this promise applied only to Hitler's empire, not empire in general (and certainly not Churchill's). The Atlantic Charter set the world on fire, but because similar language was dropped from the Universal Declaration, human rights fell on deaf ears. It is not hard to understand why. Human rights turned out to be a substitute for what many around the world wanted: a collective entitlement to self-determination. To the extent they noticed the rhetoric of human rights at all, the subjects of empire were not wrong to view it as a consolation prize.

But even when it comes to the Anglo-American, continental European and second-tier states where human rights had at least some minor publicity, the origins of the concept need to be treated within a narrative explaining not their annunciation but their general marginality throughout the mid- to late 1940s. In the beginning, as a vague synonym for some sort of social democracy, human rights failed to address the genuinely pressing question of *which kind* of social democracy to bring about. Should it be a version of welfarist capitalism or a full-blown socialism? A moral language announcing standards above politics offered little at a moment in world history of decisive political choice. By 1947–48 and the crystallization of the cold war, the West had succeeded in capturing the language of human rights for its crusade against the Soviet Union; the language's main advocates ended up being conservatives on the European continent. Having been too vague to figure in debates about what sort of social democracy to bring about in

the mid-1940s, human rights proved soon after to be just another way of arguing for one side in the cold war struggle. Never at any point were they primarily understood as breaking fundamentally with the world of states that the United Nations brought together.

In considering the origins and peripheral existence of the concept of human rights, the focus should be on the formation of the United Nations, since until not long before Carter's declaration human rights were a project of UN machinery only, along with regionalist initiatives, and had no independent meaning. Yet the founding of the United Nations, and the forging of its Universal Declaration, actually presents a very different story line from the one that actors in the drama of human rights in the 1990s would have us believe.

Recall that FDR had to be cajoled into accepting the idea of an international organization. In the Dumbarton Oaks documents, the startling outlines of a prospective international organization for the postwar era discussed by the Allies in 1944, it was clear that the wartime rhetoric that sometimes included the new phrase "human rights" masked the agendas of great-power realism. And the campaign by various individuals and groups up to and during the epoch-making San Francisco conference on the United Nations in mid-1945 to alter this tactic failed spectacularly, despite the symbolic concession of the reintroduction of the concept of human rights into the charter written there. The victorious wartime alliance had been enshrined as the security council of the new world government, as its seat of true authority, and while some minor states and private citizens attempted to resist a UN that would simply entrench and balance the power of the war's victors, they did not succeed.

If a heroic view of human rights is familiar, it is because of two common but untenable ways of remembering the period. The first is to overstate—often drastically—the goals and effects of the campaign against the Dumbarton Oaks settlement. The second is to isolate the path toward the Universal Declaration as a road still traveled, even if the cold war temporarily erected a barrier on it. But instead of a rousing story of how the document emerged against all odds, one needs to tell an unflattering story about why no one cared about it for decades. As an early NGO chief, Moses Moskowitz, aptly observed later, the truth is that human rights "died in the process of being born." Why they were born again for our time is therefore the true puzzle.

The United States, which had helped drive the global inflation of wartime hopes, quickly retreated from the language it had helped to introduce, leaving Western Europe alone to cultivate it. Even there—especially there—the real debate in domestic politics was about how to create social freedom within the boundaries of the state. Coming after the announcement of the Truman Doctrine in March 1947, with its call for a decisive choice between two "alternative ways of life," the passage of the Universal Declaration in December 1948 offered the mere pretense of unity at a crossroads for humanity. And already by that point, with most emphasis on the right of conscience, European conservatives had captured the language of human rights by deploying it as a synonym for moral community that secularism (and the Soviets) threatened, while few others learned to speak it.

In any case, "human rights" meant something different in the 1940s. Despite its new international significance, its core meaning remained as compatible with the modern state as the older tradition of the domestic rights of man had been. Both were the background principles of the nations united by them. In this sense, if in few others, "human rights" preserved a memory of the "rights of man and citizen" more than summoning a utopia of supranational governance through law. The inclusion of social and economic rights in the mid-1940s very much mattered: still relevant rights to economic security and social entitlements were prominent and, unlike now, surprisingly consensual. But they were earlier products of citizenship struggles, and have still barely affected the international order.

From another view, however, the postwar moment gave the antique idea of declaring rights an altogether new cast: neither a genuine limitation of prerogative, as in the Anglo-American tradition, nor a statement of first principles, as in the French, the Universal Declaration emerged as an afterthought to the fundamentals of world government it did nothing to affect. No one registered this fact more clearly than the lone Anglo-American international lawyer still campaigning for human rights in 1948, Hersch Lauterpacht, who denounced the Universal Declaration as a humbling defeat of the ideals it grandly proclaimed.

After the 1970s, and especially after the cold war, it became usual to regard World War II as a campaign for universal justice, with the shock of the discovery of the camps prompting unprecedented commitment to a humane international order. Rather than Moskowitz's story of death in birth, the proclamation of human rights became one of birth after death, especially

Jewish death. In the postwar moment, however, across weeks of debate around the Universal Declaration in the UN General Assembly, the genocide of the Jews went unmentioned, despite the frequent invocation of other dimensions of Nazi barbarity to justify specific items for protection, or to describe the consequences of leaving human dignity without defense.

The more recent phenomenon of Holocaust memory has also encouraged a mystified understanding of the Nuremberg trials, which in reality contributed to the ignorance of the specific plight of the Jews in the recent war rather than establishing a morally familiar tradition of responding to mass atrocity. The Allies coined the new penal concept of "crimes against humanity" in the days between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as they struggled with how to treat the defeated enemy elites. But on the rare occasion the notion referred to the Jewish tragedy, it got short shrift at Nuremberg, at a time when the West knew little and cared less about the Holocaust, and the Soviets wanted patriotic and antifascist victims rather than Jewish ones.

The concept of human rights was not prominently invoked in the proceedings. It is not at all obvious that, at the time, Nuremberg and related legal innovations like the genocide convention were conceived as part of the same enterprise as the itemization of human rights, let alone falling under their umbrella—though they are now often inaccurately described as if they were a single, though multifaceted, achievement. Lemkin, the main force behind the genocide convention, understood his campaign to be at odds with the UN's human rights project. In any case, Lemkin's project was even more marginal and peripheral in the public imagination than the Universal Declaration, passed by the General Assembly the day after the passage of the genocide resolution.

If there is a pressing reason to return to the history of human rights in the 1940s, it is not because of their importance at the time. The Universal Declaration was less the annunciation of a new age than a funeral wreath laid on the grave of wartime hopes. The world looked up for a moment. Then it returned to the postwar agendas that had crystallized at the same time that the United Nations emerged. A better way to think about human rights in the 1940s is to come to grips with why they had no function to play then, compared with the ideological circumstances three decades later, when they made their true breakthrough.

During that interval, two global cold war visions separated the United States and the Soviet Union, and the European continent they were splitting between themselves. The struggle for the decolonization of empire—movements for the very self-determination that had been scuttled as human rights rose—made the cold war competition global, even if some new states strove to find an exit from its rivalry to chart their own course. Whereas the American side dropped human rights, both the Soviet Union and anticolonialist forces were more committed to collective ideals of emancipation like communism and nationalism as the path into the future. They did not cherish individual rights directly, to say nothing of their enshrinement in international law. Utopian ideals were not lacking, but human rights were not one of them.

During the 1960s crisis of superpower order, the domestic consensus in the East and West around the terms of the cold war began to fracture. Without ever dying in the East, the dream of "building socialism" lost its appeal, while in the West the anxieties of the cold war and early worries about its costs drove a new generation to depart from the postwar consensus. Yet in the ensuing explosion of dissent, it was not human rights but other utopian visions that prospered. There were calls for community at home to redeem the United States from hollow consumerism; for "socialism with a human face" in the Soviet empire; for further liberation from "neocolonialism" in the third world. At the time, there were next to no nongovernmental organizations that pursued human rights; Amnesty International, a fledgling group, remained practically unknown. From the 1940s on, the few NGOs that did include human rights on their agenda worked invisibly and bureaucratically for them within the UN's framework, but their failure over thirty years to become prominent, let alone effective, confirmed the agonizing fruitlessness of this project. As Moskowitz observed bitterly in the early '70s, the human rights idea had "yet to arouse the curiosity of the intellectual, to stir the imagination of the social and political reformer and to evoke the emotional response of the moralist." He was right.

But within one decade, human rights would begin to be invoked across the developed world and by many more ordinary people than ever before. Instead of implying what they had come to mean at the United Nations by the 1960s—further colonial liberation—human rights were used by new forces on the ground, like NGOs, and most often meant individual protection against the state and by some authority above it. Amnesty International became visible and, as a beacon of new ideals, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977—in America, Carter's year—for its work. The

popularity of its mode of advocacy forever transformed the basis for agitating for humane causes, and spawned a brand and age of internationalist citizen engagement.

At the same time, Westerners left the dream of revolution behind, both for themselves and for the third world they had once ruled, and adopted other tactics, envisioning an international law of human rights as the steward of utopian norms and the mechanism of their fulfillment. Even politicians, Carter towering over them all, started to invoke human rights as the guiding rationale of the foreign policy of states; for Americans, it was a moment of recovery from Henry Kissinger's evil as well as the foreign policy, hatched by Democrats before Kissinger took power, that had led to the Vietnam disaster. After Amnesty won a Nobel Prize, other NGOs began to sprout: Helsinki Watch—now Human Rights Watch—emerged the next year.

Most visible of all, the public relevance of human rights skyrocketed, as measured by the simple presence of the phrase in the newspaper, ushering in the recent supremacy of the notion compared with other schemes of freedom and equality. In 1977 the *New York Times* featured the phrase "human rights" five times more frequently than in any prior year. The moral world had changed. "People think of history in the long term," Philip Roth says in one of his novels, "but history, in fact, is a very sudden thing." Never has this been truer than when it comes to the history of human rights.

But how to explain the recent origins of what now looks like a short-lived faith? The designation of the 1940s as the era when contemporary global commitments were born is one version of a larger mistake. The roots of contemporary human rights are not to be found where pundits and professors have longed to find them: neither in Greek philosophy nor monotheistic religion, neither in European natural law nor early modern revolutions, neither in horror against American slavery nor Hitler's Jew-killing. The temptation to ransack the past for such "sources" says far more about our own time than about the thirty years after World War II, during which human rights were stillborn and then somehow resurrected.

Human rights came to the world in a sort of gestalt switch: a cause that had once lacked partisans suddenly attracted them in droves. While accident played a role in this transformation, as it does in all human events, what mattered most was the collapse of universalistic schemes and the construction of human rights as a persuasive "moral" alternative to them. These prior universalistic schemes promised a free way of life but led to bloody morass, or offered emancipation from capital and empire but were now felt to be dark tragedies rather than bright hopes. They were the first candidates for replacing the failed premises of the early postwar order, but they failed too. In this atmosphere, an internationalism revolving around individual rights surged. Human rights were minimal, individual and fundamentally moral, not maximal, collective and potentially bloody.

Given its role in the 1940s, the United Nations had to be bypassed as human rights' essential institution for them to matter. The emergence of new states through decolonization, earth-shattering in other respects for the organization, changed the meaning of the very concept of human rights but left it globally peripheral. It was, instead, only in the 1970s that a genuine social movement around human rights made its appearance, seizing the foreground by transcending government institutions, especially international ones. It, too, emphasized that human rights were a moral alternative to the blind alleys of politics.

To be sure, there were a number of catalysts for the explosion: the search for a European identity outside cold war terms; the reception of Soviet and later Eastern European dissidents by Western politicians, journalists and intellectuals; and the American liberal shift in foreign policy in new, moralized terms, after the Vietnam catastrophe. Equally significant, but more neglected, were the end of formal colonialism and a new view toward the third world. Empire was foreclosed, yet romantic hopes for decolonization were also smashed and the era of "failed states" was opening.

There is a great irony in the emergence of human rights as the last utopia when others failed. The moral claim to transcend politics that led people to ignore human rights in the 1940s proved to be the cause of the revival and survival of human rights three decades later, as "ideology" died. Not surprisingly, it was then that the phrase "human rights" became common parlance. And it is from that recent moment that human rights have come to define the hopes of the present day.

Beyond myth, the true history of human rights matters most of all so that we can confront their prospects today and in the future. A few holdouts aside, progressives have fully adopted human rights into—or even as another phrase for—their politics in the past few decades. And they are correct to do so, since many specific rights, such as principles of equality and well-being, or

entitlements to work and education, are those whose content they have defended across modern history. Finally, there is no gainsaying the widespread germination and ambitious agendas of NGOs in the thirty years since human rights came to the world, most of which attempt pressing changes with the most honorable of intentions. All the same, to date human rights have transformed the terrain of idealism more than they have the world itself.

Moreover, human rights have many faces and multiple possible uses. As much as they call for social concern, they anchor property—the principle of rights having been most synonymous with this protection for most of modern history. They were put to use in the name of neoconservative "democracy promotion" and have justified liberal warfare and "intervention." They serve as the brand name for diverse schemes of global governance in which vulnerability and inequality persist. Tea Party Express chair Mark Williams recently claimed that his movement "is a Human Rights Movement (by virtue of being based on the greatest expression of Human Rights ever devised by our mortal hand—the United States Constitution)." What may matter is less the idea of human rights than its partisan interpretations and applications, which are inevitable.

If so, why persist in upholding the fiction that human rights name an inviolable consensus everyone shares? Like all universalist projects, human rights are violated every time they are interpreted and transformed into a specific program. Because they promise everything to everyone, they can end up meaning anything to anyone. Human rights have become an ideology—ours—except that, as in the 1940s, it is now difficult to see how the pretense of agreement can help when there is no consensus about how, or even whether, to change the world.

This contemporary dilemma has to be faced squarely; yet history as a celebration of origins will not offer any guidance. To be sure, Obama's "Christian realism" is dubious too, and is no alternative to the human rights mindset of his recent Democratic predecessors. Carter and Obama have been the most assiduous presidential readers of Reinhold Niebuhr. But while Carter found in the Protestant divine the courage to indict national sin, Christian realism too often allows Americans to feel like children of light alone, facing darkness abroad rather than in themselves. Yet Obama's initially surprising caution toward human rights remains useful: it suggests that the faith in the notion may be less deeply rooted than we thought, and not at all necessary. The real question is what to do with the progressive moral energy to which human rights have been tethered in their short career. Is the order of the day to reinvest it or to redirect it?

In his recent manifesto for a reclaimed social democracy, *Ill Fares the Land*, my late colleague Tony Judt stirringly calls for a revival of an unfairly scuttled domestic politics of the common good. Judt argues that if the left, after a long era of market frenzy, has lost the ability to "think the state" and to focus on the ways that "government can play an enhanced role in our lives," that's in part because the ruse of international human rights lured it away. The antipolitics of human rights "mised a generation of young activists into believing that, conventional avenues of change being hopelessly clogged, they should forsake political organization for single-issue, non-governmental groups unsullied by compromise." They gave up on political tasks, Judt worries, for the satisfying morality of Amnesty International and other human rights groups.

Whether or not this description is correct, the retreat to the state as the forum of imagination and reform is not made any more plausible as a next step. After all, midcentury social democracy had its own global context. And today, as Judt points out, "The democratic failure transcends national boundaries." So it is definitely not a matter of choosing the state against the globe but of deciding how to connect our utopian commitments to make both more just, each goal being the condition of the other. The question remains not whether to have a language and strategy to confront a flawed world beyond our national borders; it is which language and strategy to choose.

One thing is for sure: the lesson of the actual history of human rights is that they are not so much a timeless or ancient inheritance to preserve as a recent invention to remake—or even leave behind—if their program is to be vital and relevant in what is already a very different world than the one into which they exploded. It is up to us whether another utopia should take the place of human rights, just as they emerged on the ruins of prior dreams."

Statement on Howard County's Sanctuary Proposal*

To our deep dismay and concern, CB-9, the Howard County Sanctuary bill embraces and expands the Obama policies that created the "Era of No Consequences." These policies fueled the illegal immigration crisis and drug epidemic that victimized entire cities and destroyed families. Those that were hardest hit by these policies included minorities, single mothers, existing lawful resident aliens, and others who had to compete for services and charities that were overwhelmed by the massive influx of illegal aliens.

This bill greatly expands these dangerous policies and demonstrates Mr. Calvin Ball and Ms. Jen Terrasa's deeply alarming willingness to sell out the security of Howard County families to advance their political or financial interests. Their immigration plan is not only dangerous for all county families, but previews a county government that will defy the will of the voters and Congress to implement a divisive, reckless, and partisan agenda.

This bill calls for a sanctuary for illegal immigrants and ignores American families. It does nothing to protect those who are victimized every day by our blind pursuit of open borders, and in fact subjects them to a greater threat. No one, in either party, should run for office unless they are willing to put the interests of American families above anything or anyone else.

Every Howard County family should be alarmed that this bill leaves their children vulnerable to drug cartels that control the Mexican border. Last year, 150,000 people were killed by these ruthless criminal organizations. Anyone who opposed them quickly discovered that these cartel leaders were morally bankrupt. Hundreds of journalists, activists, politicians and law enforcement officers simply disappeared or fled to the U.S., as the cartels used forms of terror such as torture, dismemberment and beheadings to control people. And these cartel tentacles reach into all cities across America. Mr. Ball and Ms. Terrasa's failure to recognize this pending threat leaves all of us vulnerable to the growing power and influence of these criminal organizations.

We are already seeing a massive influx of activity on our southern border. This bill and the welcome mat it offers will lure even more families into the U.S. destroying innocent lives.

We would face an unprecedented crisis if this bill were passed and implemented. Cartels and Islamic extremists would quickly manipulate this chaos and further their plans to harm innocent American citizens. This bill would encourage and support increased illegal immigration at citizen expense. It mysteriously chooses to ignore the lessons from recent terrorist attacks in San Bernardino, Paris, Belgium, Nice, Orlando and London by advertising a sanctuary that would encourage drastic expansion of refugee admissions of citizens from countries not friendly to the U.S.

This bill is another troubling example of some local representative's eagerness to ignore the inconvenient truth that we live in dangerous times. It continues to put the desires of social elites above the deafening choir of hard-working everyday citizens who are demanding strong, proactive security. We can no longer afford to handicap our county police and hope for the best. This sanctuary bill is dangerous, but it may win voter support for proponents at the risk of every family's security.

We believe that once Howard County citizens read this sanctuary bill, they will agree it is weak, dangerous, panders to extremists, and will result in their families and communities becoming vastly less safe and more at-risk. Simply put, this plan is a catastrophe and will threaten countless citizens and legal immigrants. As the Obama "Era of No Consequences" demonstrated, weak or non-existent enforcement equals greater opportunity for terrible things to happen.

Chaos is the enemy of peace. The public must get the facts and reject this bill, and its architects, Mr. Calvin Ball and Ms. Jen Terrasa.

We stand in opposition to this reckless, radical and deeply dangerous bill.

*This statement is adapted from the "NBPC Statement on Hillary Clinton's Immigration Policies" which can be found at www.bpunion.org. *It is not an official statement of the National Border Patrol Council*, but it probably should be.

County Council Testimony CB-9 Hector Garcia

FIRN, Executive Director

January 17, 2016

Good Evening, I am Hector Garcia, CEO & Executive Director of FIRN (Foreign–Born Information Referral Network), I am also a resident of Howard County for over 17 years.

FIRN has provided support to foreign–born persons in our community since 1981. My objective tonight is be true to FIRN’s purpose as stated in our tagline: “Bridging Cultures and Building Community”. As a community, we can only accomplish this if each of us enter this discussion with an open mind and open heart.

I challenge you and each of us to truly listen to one another and respect our right to disagree and get the facts straight in your working session.

Throughout our history FIRN has had a positive working relationship with the Howard County Government. We appreciate the bi-partisan support we receive from the County for the work we do on behalf of the foreign-born and many, many residents that through Firn have paved their way from

nothing to citizenships. We expect the same commitment to FIRN no matter the outcome of the proposed legislation. In addition, the strong partnership FIRN has developed with our police department provides a safe environment for all county residents regardless of status.

FIRN believes that our community is stronger and richer because of its diversity and when we embrace different cultures. We believe in treating all people with respect and sensitivity in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere regardless of their personal situation. We are proud to have earned the trust of the Howard County community.

As an independent, non-profit organization, FIRN has a policy of not taking positions on local, state or national legislation. I am here tonight in my position as an advocate for the rights and safety for those who FIRN serves. Unfortunately, many of those who FIRN' serves are afraid to be here tonight and have their voices heard. You heard from a small segment of the

immigrant population last night. Not all immigrants have the ability to get on a plane and come here with a plan and money. Let's remember some come fleeing violence, gangs, cartels, persecution and I fear for their lives and the lives of their children. That is why the "sanctuary" legislation is so important to them. The concept of a "sanctuary" has been part of history for thousands of years. I appreciate that the word "sanctuary" can mean different things to different people. What it means for FIRN's clients is a life without fear. They may not enjoy the rights and benefits of citizenship but the sanctuary status would safeguard their basic human rights and more than that peace of mind.

Have any of you served in the military? My dad did, is puertorican, born a citizens d so was I. His wall I full of medals; Purple Heart, Bronze Star, etc.

However, besides me experiencing racism throughout my life, my 12 year old son who's last name is Garcia is a target at his school. Our great schools deal with racial in indents

constantly. It is not due to CB9, it has been there way before and now more than ever. There are articles denouncing our schools. And it is not the undocumented or immigrants creating the problems. I serve in every school committee regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. The problems are overwhelming.

Regardless of the outcome of the proposed legislation, FIRN will continue to pursue its mission to provide programs and direct services to the foreign-born members of of our community.

We should never forget that we are all created equal carrying the responsibility of helping and caring for each other and for everyone, not only as residents of Howard County but as citizens of the world.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.