

Law Offices of  
**Matt P. Lavine**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
8115 Maple Lawn Boulevard  
Suite 350  
Fulton, Maryland 20759

O 410- 997- 9979  
C 301- 943- 9080  
F 240- 363- 7744

January 17, 2017

The Hon. Allan H. Kittleman  
Office of the County Executive  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

Your stated opposition to Council Bill 9 does a great disservice to our community. Undeniably, Council Bill 9, seeking to declare Howard County a "sanctuary" for non-citizens, suffers from poor draftsmanship. Rather than address the Bill's flaws, you rejected the Bill with an appeal to the basest of human instincts.

Traditionally, legislation, at every level of government in America, consists of a declaration of the policy addressed and the provisions implementing the policy. Unfortunately, the current version of Council Bill 9 contains as many clauses objecting to offensive speech as affirmative declarations of purpose. The language of the Bill indicates a hastily constructed counter to the bigotry revealed during the most recent Presidential campaign.

Plainly, much of the Bill involves a fruitless attempt to circumvent the law of Federal preemption. The Constitution dictates that immigration laws are exclusively the purview of the U.S. Government, and many of the Bill's provisions represent little more than a failed attempt to circumvent this basic tenet of Federalism.

The Bill does succeed, and thereby merits your support, in precluding County officials from aiding Federal authorities in the enforcement of immigration laws. Whether based on high-minded principle or an assessment of resources, such a limitation is consistent with federalism and thus fully enforceable.

While Bill breaks from certain procedural norms, its clear purpose fulfills our Nation's highest traditions. Council Bill 9 follows the greatest precedent in defining the American character. More than 150 years ago, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act to appease Southern slaveowners and their allied monied interests. The Act created a Federal crime, punishable by six months in jail, for interfering with the capture of a runaway slave.



In response, fifteen States officially declared their refusal to comply with the Act. The Northern States' defiance of Federal law established the legal fiction of States' Rights; led the Slave States to argue that the Union was nullified; and motivated the forming of a new political party, composed of people whose values compelled them to demand that America provide equal rights to all of its residents. This new party held its first convention in 1860, and its nominee, Abraham Lincoln, became the first Republican President of the United States.

Like the Free States' refusal to aid in enforcing slavery, Council Bill 9 is an official declaration that Howard County will not assist in enforcing our Nation's universally detested immigration laws. The reality is that, for thirty years, Maryland and Howard County officials have unofficially adopted this same practice. In essence, Council Bill 9 merely discloses this traditional response to immigrants in need of assistance.

In stark contrast, your declared opposition presents no new information and no competing principle. First, you claim that the Bill would give a "false sense of security" to those with dubious immigration status. In fact, strict enforcement of immigration laws has always impeded the investigation by law enforcement officers of horrific crimes. Fear of deportation constricts the willingness of immigrants to respond to requests for witnesses. Removing that fear may produce a sense of security, but only if the public goal is to prevent violent crimes.

Second, your stated opposition suggests that Federal law enforcement officials would no longer aid County police in bringing criminals to justice. In the precise case you cited, the truth is that Federal authorities aided the police in Montgomery County, a jurisdiction that has already declared itself a "sanctuary".

It is your third argument that most threatens our community. Your final attempt to justify your opposition to Council Bill 9 speculates that the Federal Government may respond by not funding certain programs. You have thus reduced a debate over principle to a money grab. Anyone sincerely concerned about threats to our American culture must accept that the greatest danger to the American Civilization is not the influx of strangers but our disregard for our fundamental values.

Since time of the Puritans' immigration to New England, Americans have been exceptional because of their choice to follow a moral code. Although rarely of material benefit, Americans feel commanded to welcome the stranger, to provide him with food and shelter, and to treat him justly. Council Bill 9 is an imperfect attempt to declare the County's official adherence to these values. Your stated opposition rests on a willingness to exchange these values for monetary gain. Our Nation's Founders, fully aware of the financial stakes, made the choice of creating a nation of principles.



We now must decide whether to reject or affirm the fundamental moral commandments that activated our Nation. It is my hope that you will reconsider your current position, work to improve the proposed legislation, and demonstrate the leadership that your office demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt Lavine". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

**Matt Lavine**



RE: CB-9

January 17th, 2017

To: The Howard County Counsel,

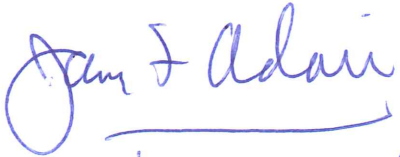
I warmly and sincerely welcome all immigrants who come to our county legally. However, the proposed CB-9 is simply wrong on so many levels. ILLEGALS are defrauding and scamming our system and resources and should not be given the "free pass" that CB-9 would provide. Incidentally, there is no such thing as a "Law Abiding" illegal immigrant. If you don't pay your income taxes you are breaking the law and there are consequences and living in fear of being caught is one of them. Arguing that not paying your taxes for 10 years makes it OK is complete nonsense. The same should apply to the illegal occupiers No matter how long you choose to live in this Country without being properly approved you are still breaking the law. And yes, there are consequences, including living with the fear of being caught. The employees of the Howard County Government and the citizens of Howard County should support our immigration and border enforcement officers in the pursuit of their sworn duties to uphold the law . CB-9 sends the wrong message to the public and especially illegal occupiers that the laws of our country do not apply in Howard County. CB-9 indirectly (but clearly) says that if you are in this country illegally, the welcome mat is out, please move to our self declared "sanctuary". Again, this is simply wrong . CB-9 requires the curtailment of our support for legitimate immigration control and enforcement and that is simply wrong as well.

Illegal occupiers need to immediately go back to their proper home country; either voluntarily or by the helping hand of ICE. There, if they want, they can apply for residency, wait their turn, be properly screened and then be approved like every other law abiding immigrant that legally comes our country.

Then and only then, they should be welcomed here with open and loving arms. And at that time , I for one, will be ready to do so.

But for now..

SAY NO TO CB-9 !!!

  
James F. ADAIR

Testimony by Dr. Xinning Yang (01/17/2017)

My name is Xinning Yang and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ occupation. I have been living in Maryland for 8 years moving from place to place. My former residences include Silver Spring, Rockville, Elkrige, and Gaithersburg. These are all wonderful places but they just cannot offer an overall quality of life that Howard County can do and this is why I finally chose to settle down in a beautiful neighborhood in Ellicott City. I really love this place and I want to do what I can to make it even better.

I come here tonight to oppose Bill CB-9, because I am deeply concerned about the consequence and impact this bill will bring on our public finances if it is passed.

First, CB-9 does not explain how to generate revenue to support all the public services and programs required for the bill, i.e., public schools, hospitals, social welfare program, security force, libraries, and other public services. It is very easy and convenient for politicians to assert their diversity and humanitarian attributes when they can do so simply by spending public funds. That's the money of people sitting in this room, including you and me. According to county fiscal report 2013, about fifty five percent of the county revenue of Howard comes from property tax and income tax. We don't get a whole lot of state or federal grant and so we the tax payers are directly responsible for the bulk of the county's revenue and I think we deserve to know and choose better how our tax dollars are spent.

Based on what we have learned from Montgomery County's experience so far, it is clear that additional funding will be required to support increasing demand for public safety and service as well as education programs if the sanctuary status is declared. Montgomery County is a host of two sanctuary cities and they just announced an increase of property tax rate by almost 9% for this year.

Furthermore, Bill CB-9 does not provide measures on how to cover the potential loss on federal funding toward certain public services and programs. Very recently, city of San Francisco, a pioneer of sanctuary cities, has encountered potential budget deficit, and has to reevaluate their spending, partially because foreseeing that they may lose federal funding due to the sanctuary city status. The financial constraint may result in cut on housing subsidies for current residents with low income, new leases for buildings to shelter the homeless, which I think lots of people including myself and also those who support the bill do not want to see. So my question to you council members is simple: We work hard and pay taxes to earn good quality of life in return and we are already experiencing shortage of funding and resources in some areas. If we declare sanctuary status, are we in position to sponsor all the new requirements on such a large scale and risk reducing what we have built and cherished?

Thanks for listening.



Written Testimony Provided By  
David M. Crawford  
Registered Democrat  
District 1

17 January 2017

Council Persons:

I have read and examined CB 9 and I could not be more disappointed. Not only in the intent, but its language. We are a nation of laws and principles and this bill encourages lawlessness and attempts to repudiate those fundamentals. Immigration is not a new issue with our country. We all come from somewhere else. My family on my mother's side are charter and founding members of St Mary's County (Dysons) --the first settlement of Maryland. From my father's side we emigrated from Scotland and England (they came through Ellis Island).

As a registered and voting Democrat I urge you to please come to your senses and not support this bill. Even as affluent as Howard County is we do not have limitless resources. We already have special needs students in our school system who do not receive all the help they need (my fourth grader). Additionally, our roads and infrastructure need repair. Have you driven the county recently? I am sure you do. Additionally, our police will continue to need more resources as my liberal brethren attempt to pass more "feel good, but ineffective" programs like CB-9 encouraging other law breakers to take up residence.

My wife recently went to an Urgent Care facility in Howard County and none of the patients spoke English. I wonder how many of them were citizens and had medical insurance? I talk to friends of mine that are nurses and this is now becoming the norm. It's the new normal. I seriously doubt any emergency room would fail to provide care and assistance to anyone who failed to display medical coverage. America is a generous nation. We are not those people nor do we wish to be. On the other hand we do not want to publish a "Welcome Sign" to those who boldly violate our laws and rob necessary resources from its citizens.

I recently had a back procedure performed at Howard County General Hospital. The preparation period was just under an hour. The procedure took twenty minutes. Literally. My recovery time added another sixty minutes. Literally. I got the explanation of benefits from Cigna. The insurance company shelled out just under \$9,000 to the hospital for less than three hours of care. I wonder why? I am sure all the supplies and staff amounted to that. Really? Eventually, someone has to pay the outlays of the Hospital.

Also, what do you say to all the immigrants who followed a path to citizenship in our country and were successful? Former neighbors of ours in Greenbelt, Maryland, not exactly a conservative community, were proud of their new citizenship and the journey they traveled to accomplish it. What do we say to them? Oops, citizenship is not really necessary. Sorry! Think of the message you are sending our children. If you don't like a law come to Howard County, Maryland because they choose to not only ignore federal law, but impede it. Local, state and federal officials need to work together. The exchange of information benefits all.

Lastly, the past eight years anytime someone in or out of my party did not agree with the current administration on policy they were castigated as some form of "Phobes." Sadly, I see it here again. Enough is enough. The name calling is unprofessional. This bill reads like a Political Science paper from a liberal university. We lost the election and it's time to grow up. As I did for President Obama, let's get behind our new President. If he is successful so will the country.

I encourage each of you to follow the direction and leadership of our County Executive Allan Kittleman. His published comments on this bill make good sense. As a compassionate Democrat I get it, however, be responsible with our tax dollars. If you can't then maybe you need to work elsewhere. Many of us who do not favor this bill will be watching. I will see you January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

David M. Crawford  
Ellicott City, Maryland  
District One  
Democratic Registered Voter