

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen Alverio <carmenalverio8@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony for CB51-2020
Attachments: Carmen Alverio's Testimony.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi!

Here is my testimony for CB51-2020. I would like to do an oral testimony, so if you can include me, I'd greatly appreciate it. If it is not possible, please submit my written testimony.

Thank you!

Cordially,

Carmen S. Alverio, Ph.D., M.S., CCC
Bilingual Speech-Language Pathologist
Howard County Public School System

Carmen Alverio's Testimony for CB51-2020

My name is Carmen Alverio. I live in District 5 in Woodstock. I'm originally from Puerto Rico and I urge you to vote for CB51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

I am a bilingual speech-language pathologist in our county school system and in my day-to-day, I work with immigrant families and students. Over the 10 years I have worked with them, I have often witnessed their hesitation to pursue services for their children when I ask for a birth certificate which is needed to register their child. They are afraid to go to a government building to request it because they think that they will be deported. All too often, this results in their children, who are American citizens, being deprived of the services they deserve. I have also witnessed the heart-wrenching anxiety in 8-9 year old children as they tell me that they are afraid that ICE will take their parents and send them back to their country while they are in school. It is unjust to allow our children to live this way. We are better than this. I implore you to vote to end this. Please vote "yes" on CB51. Thank you!

Sayers, Margery

From: patricia lins <patricia.lins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 5:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]CB -51 Testimony!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

Dear County Council Members,

I am Patricia Silva, an immigrant woman, born in Brazil, who moved to the USA with my husband and three daughters to live in Howard County (District 1). For the past seven years I have dedicated my time to elevate the voice of the Latinx community in our county. More importantly, every day I teach my daughters to be proud of their roots and to embrace life in the US. Hence, if I would not come to you to urge you to support and vote for CB-51, I would not be true to the core of my family values.

For my family and community members, I take action to build trust and eradicate fear among the Latinx families in the county and I can assure you that a contract with the Immigration Customs Enforcement agency in any level is absolutely an obstacle to that end. I also believe that human rights must be observed to all. Therefore, I cannot “wash my hands” and accept that biased policies continue to take place and disproportionately and negatively impact immigrant families in our county.

Of course, criminals of any origins or descendancy must be convicted and serve their sentences. Let us not forget that they are also entitled to “due-process” for each crime committed. This is the reason why we, as a society, can rely on the justice system to handle these cases, not detention centers that indirectly support all the “weaponizations” of immigration laws happening right now in our country. In addition, the assumption that incarcerated folks cannot be rehabilitated and that immigrants are more likely to reoffend than an American-born person are simply unethical and immoral!

Though Howard County alone cannot change immigration laws, it certainly can make a stand to not support and implement them.

I ask you to vote for CB-51!

Patricia Silva

Sayers, Margery

From: umalovesbooks <umaribeiro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 3:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony Supporting CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Uma Ribeiro. I am a Howard County high school student and district 3 resident, and I am urging you to vote yes on CB 51 to get ICE out of our county once and for all.

As a Latina woman and a child of immigrants, when moving to Howard County I expected it to be a place of acceptance and civility. Unfortunately, those expectations were proven wrong. It disappoints me that a county which preaches equality is associating itself with ICE, an agency that is notorious for abusing the civil and human rights of immigrants. Fathers, brothers, sons, human beings are being ripped from their loved ones and remain detained during these incredibly difficult times.

County Executive Calvin Ball previously stated that only “dangerous immigrants” have been detained. This was proven false. The Department of Corrections detains those charged with nonviolent crimes. This is not the county I want, or the country I believe in, where people are detained based on immigration status. No one in the country, let alone our county, should have to live in fear due to something like immigration status. Howard County is one of only three remaining counties in Maryland that continue to house ICE detainees. Why hasn’t this county ended the contract with ICE?

Each day the ICE detention center remains open, you are putting human beings in danger of further mental, emotional and physical harm. By keeping the contract with ICE, you are failing your citizens and further proving that this county does not believe in equality, civility or humanity. By keeping the contract with ICE, you are openly stating that people who have peacefully worked and lived in this county, people who have contributed to its livelihood and community, are not welcome here.

Everyone living in Howard County should be able to do so peacefully and without the fear that they will be ripped from their families and detained or deported. An ICE detention center is not what Howard County tax dollars should go towards. I want to live in a community that values every member. If you support CB 51, you will be taking a step in the right direction, a step toward a county that truly believes in civility and humanity. So, please, I urge you to end this inhumane treatment by voting in favor of CB 51 and removing ICE from Howard County once and for all.

Sayers, Margery

From: Yinka Ajayi <yinkaajayi12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 2:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony Supporting CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Olayinka Ajayi. I am a resident of Howard County. I have resided in Howard County for 20 years. I have lived here my entire childhood and rising adulthood.

As a second-generation immigrant, I accomplished so much by affording the privilege to be able to live in a stable and fruitful community. My parents came to this country looking for a better life. And they move to Howard County to raise their children in a thriving community with amazing educational standards. Howard County is a diverse community that understands and treats its residents as equals and embraces individuals' cultural differences. We are not just a community of people, we are a family. I urge you to end this inhumane contract that threatens the livelihood of our black and brown family members. Don't tear our family apart, vote yes to support CB-51!

Sincerely,

Olayinka Ajayi

Columbia, MD
A resident of District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: James Goolsby <goolsby.james@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 1:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is James Goolsby, an Ellicott City District 1 resident of 10 years who supports CB51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

My primary argument against the agreement is on the general principle that detention should be reserved for those who present a danger to a community. Immigration status, be it legal or illegal, presents no danger to our community. Separation of individuals from their families and incarceration is not a proportionate response or punishment for the violation of border laws. There are other responses available for dealing with illegal immigrants that are more just, humane and less costly.

Incarceration, and other tactics used by ICE, are retributive actions born of fear and hatred based on racial prejudices. These I do not support, nor do I wish my community to support them.

James Goolsby
3439 Harrington Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Kaitlyn Stewart <kaitlynrosestewart@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 1:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Pass bill divesting from ICE

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon, Howard County Council,

I am writing in favor of legislative bill #CB51-2020, prohibiting Howard County from housing immigrants detained by ICE. Thank you to Councilmember Liz Walsh for introducing the bill; I urge the full Council to pass it. I have similarly written to County Executive Ball encouraging him to sign it.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn Stewart
9059 Baltimore Street, Savage, MD 20763

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristin Lilly <kristin.lilly@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 1:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB-51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Kristin Lilly. I live in District 1. As a social worker, my Code of Ethics requires that I speak for immigrants in this county are afraid of ICE and working with ICE will only increase their distrust in our county. ICE is an oppressive organization that targets people of color. My immigrant friends and neighbors deserve to terminate all cooperation with ICE in housing detainees in our county.

I've heard some say that having an ICE detention center in Howard County is better than having it elsewhere and that it would be better than them being in an ICE detention center somewhere farther away. But most people don't have the money to pay for immigration attorneys and there are not many pro-bono or low bono resources for them to afford. Detainees to be closer to family but if family members are undocumented, they will be too scared to visit. Most immigrants in Howard County and they are moved to different detention centers frequently. They've said that Howard County treats immigrants worse than they are treated in other ICE detention centers. However, I heard first hand testimony from immigrants that had been in ICE detention centers treated very badly, including not being given adequate clothing and being put in solitary confinement.

This line of argument, that we can help people by working within an abusive system, is fundamental to a strategy that was used to try to help victims of Human Trafficking in the past. In the book "Half the World: The horrors of sex trafficking and how he bought the freedom of two women from a Cambodian brothel," Kristoff discusses the freedom of women in brothels in Cambodia and other countries. Ultimately, Kristoff and the church used a buy freedom strategy. By buying the freedom of individuals, they might be able to help a few people but they were not fighting the oppressive system instead of fighting it. Working with ICE, a systemically oppressive and racist organization, tells immigrants in Howard County that we side with ICE- not them- and it builds mistrust.

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Dickson <lisa.j.dickson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 12:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello, my name is Lisa Dickson from district 3. I support CB 51 because I believe Howard County should not cooperate with ICE. This is an organization that separates families and abuses human rights. Speaking specifically about the Jessup detention Center these are men who have already served their time for any crime they have committed and are then turned over to ICE for deportation or to convinced them to self deportation.

A while back I was visiting a man at the Jessup detention center. I was doing this through an agency called the DC visitation network. I saw that they really overuse solitary confinement and segregation. One man was kept in confinement for several months. I was able to communicate with him through videos and letters. I was his only visitor other than his lawyers. He was locked in a cell for 22 or 23 hours a day. This happened because he tried to save his friend from getting beat-up by people in a gang. He was not in a gang, he wanted nothing to do with them. He truthfully was trying to save his friend from gangsters.

He was represented by CAIR, and he was able to have his criminal record expunged. (The crime he had committed was as a juvenile, but he was tried as an adult and deported after serving time as a miner. After that he came back to this country where his family lives. He'd been here since he was 6 years old). He won his case in immigration Court, that was nothing short of a miracle. He asked me to bring him a suitcase on the day of his trial because he thought deportation was possible. I was scared he would be deported too. I packed a suitcase for his deportation when he had his court hearing in Baltimore. I was not allowed to listen to his case, but I brought the suitcase because I knew that I could drop it off in that same building once I learned of the outcome. He was extremely fortunate to win his case. I give his attorney from CAIR the credit. Early the following day he was transported to a state prison in Batavia, New York. Surprisingly, he said the conditions were better there. He waited to see if there was an appeal, he was then returned and released in Baltimore.

He was fortunate in the end, but I will mention that he wasn't a criminal to begin with and yet he spent over a year incarcerated, away from his son. He endured several months of isolation, he was given substandard medical care, had worse food and restricted calories in the 'hole'. They pressured him many time to self deport. He was able to hold on due to the people who cared about him.

People who are detained here have already served their time and are often under false pretenses. Many of them are not criminals, but ICE gladly labels them as such. Many of them have taken plea bargains in the past because lawyers advised them to. Under Calvin Ball's plan I believe that my friend still would be been placed in Jessup.

ICE is an organization that commits human rights violations, abuses children and women and separates families. I feel that my county should not cooperate with ICE because it is cruel and abusive to those it holds in its custody. Now we have a pandemic occurring, that makes conditions worse. We need this contract to end! Please implement CB 51. Immigrants contribute so much to our county and our country! We must do better than this!

Thank you. ♥

Sayers, Margery

From: Locke Joanne <joannelocke@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 12:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I live in District 2 and am a member of Indivisible HoCoMD.

I urge you all to vote in favor of CB 51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center

This is definitely not what Howard County - a county that prides itself on Civility - should stand for.

Especially during a pandemic, I don't want people unnecessarily kept in more dangerous conditions.

Some have already served their sentence and should not be incarcerated again and deported from our jails, possibly to be sent to countries that are not at all safe for them

PLEASE vote for CB 51

Joanne Locke
8575 Autumn Harvest
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: jmubelle03@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 11:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilpersons,

I was born and raised in Howard County and moved back to raise my family - we wanted our children to grow up in a county that values diversity, equity, and humanity. I was recently Horrified to learn of the forced hysterectomies being performed by ICE. In this country. In the twenty first century. This. Must. Stop.

Please think of your constituents - we all have mothers, sisters, daughters. Please don't let your legacy be defined by failure to stand up to this reprehensible organization. This. Is. Not. Ok.

I urge you to vote for CB51 to terminate cooperation with ICE in housing detainees in our county.

Sincerely,
Emily Shreve
District 4

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: kiana fok <kianafok@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 9:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB51 Testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Kiana Fok. I live in District One in Ellicott City. I'm a member of Howard Our Revolution, and I urge you to vote for CB51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center. I have listened, in person, to the stories of the various people who have been or have immigrant loved ones held in detention, and could hear in their voices the various feelings of hurt and fear that they have or are going through. I have heard that this county prides itself on its cultural diversity, and this inhumane treatment should not be what Howard County stands for.

Sincerely,
Kiana Fok

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristina Strakna <strakool@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 8:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in support of CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Kristina Strakna. I live in District Four in Columbia. I'm a member of the Howard County branch of Indivisible, and I urge you to vote for CB51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

The federal government's current immigration policies are cruel, heartless and unjust. How can it be morally acceptable to routinely tear families apart and deport people who have lived and worked peacefully in the United States for decades? Collaborating with this system is inconsistent with Howard County's stated values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We should not be using our tax dollars to enforce ICE's racist policies, period.

While it is true that Howard County represents only one ICE contract, it is also true that social change and social justice begins at the local level, one community at a time. You have the opportunity to stand up for justice and compassion. Take it. Please vote yes on CB 51.

Thank you,
Kristina Strakna
6008 Middlewater Court
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: idee <idee23@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 5:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote FOR CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council members,

My name is Edith Williams. I live in District Three in King's Contrivance, Columbia, and am a member the Howard County branch of Indivisible. I strongly urge you to vote FOR CB 51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

There are no good arguments for continuing to be a part of ICE's racist and unjust, cruel and family-destroying system of arrest and incarceration, no matter how much better Howard County's detention center is than the average ICE-run facility or how much revenue or anything else Howard County may receive from ICE.

There are many definitive reasons for refusing to be a part of the ICE detention system any longer:

1. To build the kind of community we want Howard County to be – diverse, welcoming, compassionate, just, hard-working, peaceful, law abiding, neighborly, committed to protecting human rights;
2. To stand for community, for family, for safety;
3. To stand against cruelty, injustice, the scapegoating and persecution of immigrants in and outside of Howard County;
4. To be on the right side, the moral side of history;
5. To refuse to be a cog in the Trump Administration's xenophobic, unjust, inhumane immigration practices and policies carried out by ICE; policies and practices that have more in common with dictatorships and failed states than peace and justice-loving democracies, democracies where people care about protecting everyone's human and civil rights at the same time that we diligently enforce our laws.

Many who argue against this legislation will argue that they are standing against crime and for law enforcement; that they are supporting "law and order."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

This issue isn't about law and order; it never has been. It is about the systematic persecution and scapegoating of immigrants in our country, and whether or not we in Howard County will continue to be a part of it.

ICE is a disgrace to law enforcement. Its "enforcement" and detention practices are an insult to every honest police officer and detention official dedicated to enforcing the law, to protecting and serving justice and their communities. To place Howard County's own law enforcement officials, indeed, every resident of Howard County, into the position of continuing to support this ICE system is inimical to good, effective law enforcement, injurious to our community, and just plain wrong.

These are momentous times, times when citizens and elected officials alike are called upon to make decisions that change the course of history for better or for worse, times that when we look back on them, define who we were, who and what we served, and what we stood for when it mattered most.

I have no doubt that you will choose to stand for the very best in Howard County, that you will serve the people of our County faithfully, and that you will stand for doing the right thing, both practically and morally, by voting YES to CB 51, thereby removing Howard County from the inhumane and unjust ICE arrest and detention system.

Sincerely, and with many thanks,

Edith Williams
10080 Cape Ann Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Testimony in support of CB51

From: Dr. Anna Rubin, Emeritus Assoc. Professor, UMBC

Dear Council and County Executive, I am a resident of Council District 2 in Columbia. I am writing in support of Liz Walsh's legislation that would ban the county from cooperating with federal agents with regards to detaining immigrants.

I am a second generation citizen. Both of my parents immigrated to the US in the early 1900s to escape the persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe. Their respective families came with little but through struggle and determination, made new lives for themselves. I know that my life literally wouldn't have been possible had they remained in Europe.

I have watched with horror as ICE agents have detained immigrants whose only crime was escaping their own horrendous conditions in their home countries. ICE has shown itself to be a rogue agency in such actions as dividing children from their parents and guardians with a cavalier attitude towards documenting family members. A lack of transparency prevents citizens from knowing what exact charges have been made against detainees. I have been appalled that Howard County has continued to cooperate with ICE as other Maryland counties have stopped.

The cosmetic changes proposed by Dr. Ball will only maintain this terrible agreement. I feel I must honor my parents' dream of a country that is a haven to persecuted and oppressed people seeking asylum and safety by supporting CB-51. Vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anna Rubin

Sayers, Margery

From: Ahmed Maregn <ahmedletif40@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Ahmed Mohamed
Subject: Vote Yes on CB-51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Greetings:

Any law enforcement institution that functions in disguise with no transparency is very likely to abuse the Constitution of the Nation as well as violation of Basic Human Rights.

There is no excuse not to be transparent when they are enforcing a written law. Functioning in disguise paves the path to dictatorship not to a democratic nation.

I appreciate your vote in helping the helpless and the realization of the Ideals of the Constitution in our day to day life.

Thank you,

Ahmed Maregn Mohamed

9200 Livery Lane, Apt M
Laurel, MD 20723

Phone: 301-640-8960

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

From: Roslyn Lindner <roslynlindner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 3:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB51-2020 testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Roslyn Lindner. I am a citizen of Howard County residing in Columbia in Wilde Lake. I am fully in favor of CB51 and completely ending Howard County's ties with ICE.

Howard County is a richly, and beautifully, diverse county in which people of all cultures have been able to make a home and raise their families. As a county proud of our diversity, we must strive to protect every member of our community, no matter their race, religion, or citizenship status.

ICE has shown time and time again that it is firmly opposed to the values Howard County holds dear. ICE separates children from their families, keeping both adults and children in disgusting, inhumane conditions, allowing sexual assault, disease, and death to run rampant all for the crime of coming to the US to seek safety. ICE has now been exposed as forcing sterilization on women who have come to this country seeking asylum, seeking safety for themselves and their families. Although it is completely legal for immigrants to come to the US to seek asylum, ICE has made this a crime punishable by internment in conditions that wouldn't even be imposed upon the worst of this country's criminals. On top of these atrocities, ICE has also participated in violently attacking peaceful Black Lives Matter protestors. It is clear that ICE is a racist institution fueled even more by a racist presidential administration. Rather than keeping people secure, they spread violence, fear, and hate. These should not be the values of any American city and they absolutely are not the values of Howard County.

As a citizen of Howard county, I see that immigrants only make our community better, stronger, and more reflective of the kingdom of our Creator. Even undocumented immigrants bring strength to our community. Undocumented individuals pay taxes without being able to apply for government benefits. They are less likely to commit crime due to their status. Beyond those basic facts, they are also hard workers, good neighbors, good friends, and an essential part of our community.

Please uphold CB51 and sever ties with ICE, whose only aim is to ruin lives and destroy communities such as ours. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Roslyn Lindner

Sayers, Margery

From: Nadine Bernard <nadine.bernard@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 2:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CG 51 written testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon Council Members,

My name is Nadine Bernard, I live at 8676 Doves Fly Way Laurel, MD 20723. I am in council woman's Deb Jung's district. I have lived in this county for over 45 years. I am asking you to end the contract with ICE. I am asking you to do this for two reasons: First, it is our duty to serve our county first. It is not our responsibility to assist ICE in detaining immigrants. Our budget is under duress, and our officers should concentrate on our county residents and what constitutes a responsibility to the safety of our county residents. This does not include detaining immigrants for ICE. The second reason is moral. ICE has proven lately to be deceitful and using tactics to lie, and cheat and putting people's lives at risk to follow this administrations objectives. I have included two article for you to read, if you have not already done so. To capsulize them for you, the first article should be of great alarm to all of us. ICE used the ruse of moving detainees from Texas to Virginia in order to use a chartered plane to get border patrol up here to Lafayette Square to remove peaceful BLM protestors. They were not allowed to charter a plane for any reason except to move detainees. So, they decided to move them. They did this at great risk to the detainees, not testing them for covid and as it turns out infecting the detainees and possibly staff at the detention center in Virginia. I strongly believe we should not work with deceptive agents for the government because it will come back to bite us. Morally we have an obligation to be truthful, honest and above board. If you choose to work with those that are dishonest, it will reflect poorly on Howard County, Dr. Ball and our entire community. The second article is how ICE deceived an undocumented person by entering his home, after he had a monitor on his ankle, under the ruse the monitor needed repair. He believed them, he had no criminal history, they literally went onto church grounds and lured him out with a false story. Now we have our US Senator, a congressman, a judge, and multiple attorneys working on this man's behalf. What if this was happening here in this county?

It is simply not the responsibility of our county employees to work on behalf of ICE. It is like taking payola from the mafia, doing their dirty work for them. Our neighbors Montgomery, and Anne Arundel and well as Baltimore County and Baltimore City have ended their contracts and arrangements with ICE. We need to do the same. Separating more families, causing immense stress, putting people at risk for covid, and then being part of some strange coalition that moves these people all over the country from center to center to spread the wealth, is nauseating to this long time resident. I am appalled by our resistance to end the contract. On first glance, it appears we are willing to retain the contract for monetary gain, an aberrant reason in itself, but, we apparently aren't making any money from our arrangement, and it appears to be a moot point. All contractual transactions must be above board, and with ICE, it is apparent this might not be the case. Why would we ever jeopardize our good name in joining them possibly in illicit activity?

Please, I am asking you to vote to end the ICE contract, they have demonstrated they can't be trusted.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/coronavirus/ice-air-farmville-protests-covid/2020/09/11/f70ebe1e-e861-11ea-bc79-834454439a44_story.html?utm_campaign=wp_afternoon_buzz&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_buzz&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-In-tr%2F2b7cabf%2F5f5bd8ed9d2fda2c3692725c%2F596be67a9bbc0f403f9a5bc2%2F8%2F57%2F0e1015f797f1640405e550df0306d29d

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/glenmont-church-ice-deportation/2020/09/17/e57febd8-f855-11ea-be57-d00bb9bc632d_story.html

I do hope with all of my heart CB51 will be voted on in a way I will be once again be proud of and respect the integrity of Howard County Government. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nadine Bernard

301-490-9022 (H)

443-745-6845 (C)

Sayers, Margery

From: Emma Denlinger <emmamdenlinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 1:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony for CB51 - 2020 Hearing
Attachments: CB51-2020 Testimony (1) (1).docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

My name is Emma Denlinger and I am a resident of Howard County. Below I have attached a testimony in favor of CB51-2020 that I would like to submit for the upcoming hearing.

Thank you,

Emma Denlinger

University of Maryland Class of 2021

Neurobiology and Physiology BS Candidate

Integrated Life Sciences Honors Program

emmamdenlinger@gmail.com



Hello,

My name is Emma Denlinger. I live in Kings Contrivance and am a constituent of Christiana Rigby's. I am writing to testify in favor of CB51-2020, and I strongly encourage that the council vote in support of this legislation.

One thing I have always loved about Howard County is its promotion of diversity. Living and attending school in Columbia, I got the opportunity to meet people from a variety of backgrounds, something that I might argue was even more important to my development than the material I was taught in my classes. So, when I recently found out about the contract that my county has with ICE, I was severely disappointed. I was even more disappointed to discover that we are one of only three counties that voluntarily house ICE detainees. How can we as a county that boasts inclusivity associate ourselves with an agency that discriminates against the same people it claims to welcome? By participating in such an agreement, Howard County has played a shamefully active role in the abuse of immigrants, and as a resident, I am ashamed and disgusted. This contract completely invalidates our values as a community. I will not stand for this.

It has been argued in the past (and the present) that there are stringent regulations regarding who is detained in our detention centers. Yet, Jack Kavanaugh himself admitted that there were several cases in which the detainees we kept did not meet any of the criteria. However, even if the criteria were to be met by every detainee, it still would not justify Howard County's partnership with an agency that is known to treat immigrants so heinously. ICE detains immigrants, sometimes regardless of their official status in the United States, and subjects them to terribly inhumane conditions in detention centers for crimes they supposedly committed but for which they were never given a fair trial. A recent article by the New York Times told the story of a woman who was given an unwanted hysterectomy while detained. Even in our own detention center, ex-detainees have spoken of disgusting conditions including, but not limited to: human feces tossed at detainees by other residents remaining on the floor for days before being removed, improper footwear being given to detainees, toilet paper being withheld, guards making racist comments about detainees such as that they "all had the same face." Is this the reputation we want for Howard County? Are these actions representative of our values? While it may not seem it, our association with ICE serves as quiet support for their disgusting and racist

practices, and by providing this support, we are actively perpetuating racism ourselves. This is not what Howard County claims to be, nor is it what Howard County *should* be.

Despite our failure to pass previous legislation to end this contract, I still believe in Howard County. It is not too late to admit that agreeing to this contract was wrong. We can still do the right thing. So, please vote in favor of CB51-2020, and end our county's contract with ICE, once and for all. The passage of such legislation is long overdue, and I, as a resident of Howard County, refuse to accept the rejection of it. We cannot progress as a county without the richness of diversity, and by continuing the contract, we continue to place targets on the backs of those who contribute to that diversity.

Sayers, Margery

From: michael <bionlaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 1:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jones, Derrick
Subject: Oral Testimony Supporting CB 51
Attachments: Oral Testimony Supporting CB 51.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please find attached, and also as text in this email, a copy of my upcoming testimony in support of CB 51. Please confirm receipt. Thank you.

Michael David
410-370-2122

Oral Testimony Supporting CB 51

My name is Michael David. I reside in Councilwoman Deb Jung District. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views; I support CB 51.

I am an immigrant. I am a decorated veteran, having served in Vietnam. I know well my fellow immigrants; we serve our communities, and we are proud to be productive contributors. For a long time, we had but limited reason to feel unappreciated.

But things have turned ugly. Some of my fellow citizens are ready to tear up immigrant families, to detain immigrants for flimsy reasons or for no reason. Howard County's Contract with ICE supports such behavior.

I heard much spin in support of the contract with ICE. But false spin has been put mostly to rest, as evidenced by this Bill, CB 51. But, a new, dangerous spin has emerged: Howard County will, possibly, have a new Policy guiding immigrant detention on behalf of ICE. And that, the spin goes, would be sufficient change.

No, a change in policy is insufficient. For one, Policy needs constant implementation. I have interviewed ICE agents and I am told, convincingly, that each agent states as reason for incarceration whatever he feels like. But Director Kavanagh has stated, he has not felt the need to question ICE statements. So, a changed Policy, prone to implementation errors and subject to a reversal of the Policy, would be nowhere as good as a terminated Contract.

This is an important issue. I am a new retiree, with some times on my hands. I will follow closely the passage of CB 51 and will devote my support accordingly. Please pass CB 51.

Thank you.

Oral Testimony Supporting CB 51

My name is Michael David. I reside in Councilwoman Deb Jung District. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views; I support CB 51.

I am an immigrant. I am a decorated veteran, having served in Vietnam. I know well my fellow immigrants; we serve our communities, and we are proud to be productive contributors. For a long time, we had but limited reason to feel unappreciated.

But things have turned ugly. Some of my fellow citizens are ready to tear up immigrant families, to detain immigrants for flimsy reasons or for no reason. Howard County's Contract with ICE supports such behavior.

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This is an important issue. I am a new retiree, with some times on my hands. I will follow closely the passage of CB 51 and will devote my support accordingly. Please pass CB 51.

Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Roslyn Zinner <rozzinner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 12:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Testimony in favor of HB51

My name is Roslyn Zinner. I live in Long Reach and am a constituent of Opel Jones, District 2. I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of HB51.

In defending the Howard County contract with ICE to house immigrant detainees, some have said that the horrors committed by ICE are a federal issue, and that ending one contract in one county will not change the policies and conditions in prisons around the country. While there is truth to this objection, we can't lose sight of our own obligations as citizens to stand up for what is right.

We can refuse to support or implement harmful policies. Change starts at home. Local political action puts pressure on national leaders to change laws. We have an obligation to our foreign-born friends and neighbors in Howard County to work against cruel and unjust policies and practices. Howard County should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve social and racial justice, not in the rear. Changing the rules a little as County Executive Ball recently announced, is wholly inadequate. I hope you will vote in favor of HB51.

Roslyn Zinner
8112 Sea Water Path
Columbia, MD 21045

410-934-2442
roslynzinner.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Francis <francis.uy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 11:05 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Jung, Deb
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Testimony regarding ICE contract (CB51 et al)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

Hello. I'm one of the people who protested behind Calvin Ball at the Hispanic Heritage press conference. As you might guess, I support CB51 and strongly oppose working with fascist thugs who beat & abduct people in the streets and commit crimes against humanity (forced sterilization, which the UN classifies as a form of genocide).

However, I'm also a realist. If a majority of the council prefers the "compromise" proposal, there is one egregious loophole that you need to fix. Howard County should only hold detainees WHO ARE **CURRENTLY SERVING THEIR CRIMINAL SENTENCES**.

ICE is notorious for using this "former criminal" loophole to hunt down reformed, productive members of society. Someone who made a terrible choice years ago, was duly punished for it, and has since been a law-abiding aspiring-citizen, should not be in a prison cell, and we definitely should not be the people putting them in that cell.

Be Better,

-Francis Uy
District 4 (Wilde Lake / Running Brook) homeowner

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Vestal <robinvestal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To: Howard County Council Members
Dr Calvin Ball and Christina Rigby District 3

From: Robin Vestal
8420 Savage Guilford Rd
Savage, MD 20763
(301) 675-9313

Re: CB 51-2020

FOR

I want to thank Liz Walsh for introducing this legislation and hope it can be swiftly passed.

I had been volunteering every Saturday for Catholic Services at Howard Country Detention Center since 2012 till this past March when all visitation stopped. I have gotten to know many of the men (and women the one year that Howard County Detention Center held women for ICE) held at HCDC. Some have stayed in touch after they were able to obtain their release (either in this country or the country of origin).

I have found it very troubling that men and women are held in jail for civil infractions without the right to legal representation or easy access to family, friends, visitors. Many of these people are very fine, hard working individuals that anyone should be proud to have as a neighbor and to see their distress has been heartbreaking. I will share a few stories; a man from Togo who was at the Detention Center when I first started volunteering (in 2012) was detained for 3 years while he attempted to obtain asylum, which was denied, however he could not be deported as Togo would not accept him back. He was eventually released after being sent to the hospital for a severe kidney infection when he collapsed at the detention center. After that point he was granted a green card and obtained employment working at a restaurant in the Langley Park area. He would touch base periodically so I knew he was he was doing okay. Shortly before visitation was stopped he was picked up at his apartment suddenly by ICE. He looked shell shocked. His lawyer was unable to assist him but assured me that he could not be deported as Togo still would not accept him. I checked case search and there were no legal troubles for him since his discharge from the detention center. . After visitation was stopped he called me from Arizona where ICE had moved him, a few months later he called again from Howard County Detention Center crying. He had been sent, during a pandemic from Arizona then to Texas and then had been returned to Howard County. He was desperate for help. I have not heard from him again.

I generally got to know the people that were lucky enough to find legal help and were fighting deportation. Detention is a challenge to overcome as well as at least two people that I got to know gave up after being detained for a year and accepted deportation simply to get out of detention. One was a young man from Nicaragua who had been in the country since he was 2, his entire family was here and were distraught.

I also have heard from several people that were in Howard Country Detention Center and have been released and now live in the community and are working again. All universally report that being in the detention center was a horrible experience and was very traumatizing. A few of these men have testified about their experiences. All hoped that Howard County would stop participating with ICE.

Participating in the detention and deportation of our fellow human beings is not a thing that I want to participate in and I hope that our county council will join with our neighboring counties to stop participating in holding detainees for ICE.

Sincerely,

Robin Vestal
8420 Savage Guilford Rd
Savage, MD 20763

Sayers, Margery

From: Theresa Reuter <treesrpeace@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Theresa Reuter
Subject: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you : CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello, I am a citizen of the United States , and like you and every immigrant; of the world .

I am in complete agreement with the Howard council Coalition for Immigrant Justice .

We in every community have an obligation to our foreign born friends & neighbors to protect them from unjust laws that often tear them from their families for no violent offense; most likely they are jailed for minor traffic violations or possession of a small amount of marijuana.

I heard Howard county detains people who have been charged but not convicted , and those who have already served their complete sentences in jail .

This is not just, is cruel, and reflects badly on our country .

Most of all the immigrants serve our country well , doing good work we depend on, so let us make our communities stronger by keeping immigrants working with us , not costing us money unnecessarily In jail . Vote for Justice
CB51

Theresa Reuter
Treesrpeace@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: FeiTian Ma <feit1@umbc.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB-51 and end contract with ICE

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a Howard County resident for the past 12 years, I implore Howard County to end its contract with ICE.

Current immigration policies routinely tear families apart, target Black and Brown immigrants and deport people who've lived and worked in this country peacefully for decades. The county detains people who have NOT committed or been convicted of violent crimes. The Department of Corrections accepts detainees charged with nonviolent crimes. They also detain people who have already served their full sentences in jail. The ICE contract imposes cost on Howard County's taxpayers like myself.

ICE compensates HOCO \$110 a day per detainee. According to the county, the actual costs associated with housing each ICE detainee is \$8 more. *Howard County is effectively subsidizing ICE.* Continuing the contract with ICE makes Howard County less safe. Immigrants are less likely to cooperate with county police and less likely to report crimes with ICE present in HOCO.

Many undocumented immigrants pay taxes, work, and contribute to the community in so many ways, yet so many live in fear of detention and deportation. While incarcerated, detainees cannot easily find or pay for competent legal representation. It is much harder to find a lawyer from inside the detention center than in the community. While HOCO has many lawyers, there is no evidence that detainees at the Jessup jail are more likely to have legal representation than detainees in other facilities.

Furthermore, detention tears families apart. Families are broken up by detaining people at the Howard County Detention Center who are parents and breadwinners in the family. Family members of detainees often cannot pay rent, get evicted, lose jobs, and suffer other hardships as you can imagine.

HOCO is *one of only three counties remaining in Maryland that continues to house ICE detainees.* We cannot pride Howard County in its diversity and community when this is happening in Jessup.

Please end the cruel and inhumane treatment of Black and Brown immigrants now.

Sincerely,
Feitian E. Ma

Sayers, Margery

From: Shari Rendall <srendall@fairus.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Comments Opposing Bill 51-2020
Attachments: Howard County Comments Opposing Ending ICE Contract - Shari Rendall.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Member,
Please find attached FAIR's comments opposing efforts to end Howard County Detention Center's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Bill 51-2020).
Sincerely,
Shari



Shari Rendall
Director of State and Local Engagement
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Ste.330
Washington, DC 20001

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*Board of Directors Emeritus

FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Deb Jung
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Chairwoman Jung and other distinguished Members of the Council:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). Founded in 1979, FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment. FAIR has about two million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 100 members in Howard County. I am submitting comments today on behalf of FAIR in opposition to Bill 51-2020, which would end the Howard County Detention Center's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Supporters of this bill argue that it is critical to end cooperation with ICE because it causes distrust within the immigrant community which will result in crimes not being reported and witnesses unwilling to come forward.

There is zero empirical evidence of a so-called chilling effect from local law enforcement cooperation with ICE, and this claim has been repudiated by a number of credible studies.

Importantly, cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE will not reduce the number of non-citizens reporting crimes or coming forward with testimony about being criminalized. Besides the fact that anonymous tips can be given, there are already a number of programs that allow state and local law enforcement to encourage victim and witness cooperation by granting lawful status to illegal aliens who aid in the prosecution of criminals. If illegal aliens provide helpful information to police, they may qualify for a "U," "T," "S" or "VAWA" nonimmigrant visa, which, in turn, would allow them to apply for permanent legal status in the U.S. By contrast, efforts to conceal them only deprive them of the opportunity to take advantage of these federal programs.

Furthermore, the Howard County Detention Center cooperates with other federal law enforcement agencies. Howard County Detention Center has a contract with the U.S. Marshals Service to house individuals under arrest for



them. In fact, the most recent contract with the U.S. Marshals Service from 2019 pays Howard County Detention Center \$110 per individual/day – the same amount the Howard County Detention Center receives from ICE. Why should Howard County Detention Center's cooperation with ICE be any different? Howard County Detention Center officers should be able to cooperate with all local, state and federal law enforcement officials. The contract to house individuals for ICE has been a long-standing contract that brings an additional \$2 million annually to the community.

Additionally, Howard County Detention Center does not get involved with immigration enforcement. The ICE detainees in the Howard County Detention Center are simply being housed in that facility. In fact, the Howard County Detention Center narrows the aliens ICE can house at their facility. It only allows ICE to house individuals in its facility that are convicted of crimes, charged with jailable offenses, members of a criminal gang, or if they are deported criminal felons who have reentered the United States illegally.

Currently, there are only three facilities in Maryland that contract with ICE to house detainees – in Frederick, Howard, and Worcester counties. If the Howard County Council ends your Detention Center's contract with ICE, it will not stop ICE from detaining and removing individuals to accomplish its mission of protecting America from cross-border crime and illegal immigration that threatens national security and public safety. The effect of ending the contract with ICE means that individuals will be sent to other detention centers that will likely be further from their families and from their legal counsel.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR respectfully asks the Howard County Council to reject Bill 51-2020 and allow the Howard County Detention Center to continue to house individuals for ICE.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari Rendall

To: County Council, Howard County, Maryland

From: James Caldiero, Resident, 4128 Lotus Circle, Ellicott City, MD 21043, tel: (410) 465-7452

Date: September 18, 2020

Subject: In Support of Council Bill 51-2020

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of CB51-2020, an act that prohibits the Howard County Department of Corrections from participating with Federal authorities in detaining individuals while they are pursuing immigration proceedings.

The detention of non-violent undocumented immigrants, as the story I will tell you demonstrates, violates basic principles of humanity and decency, particularly when other means to track these individuals are available.

I offer here Charley's story.

Charley is not his real name. As with most immigrants, fear envelops Charley's life, so no real names, no videos or films in which gangs can recognize him.

Charley came to the U.S. from a Central American country with his mother when he was 6 years old. We might call him a Dreamer. An uneventful childhood turned upside down in his teen years after an altercation with his stepfather that resulted in Charley's arrest and subsequent deportation to a country he barely knew despite his protestations of "credible fear" of violence if returned.

Charley, after saving enough money for the journey north, re-entered the U.S. in California and for the next ten years integrated himself into American society, marrying, starting a family, paying taxes. Then, a routine encounter with police led to his detention and a subsequent call to ICE which took Charley into custody.

Charley ended up at the ICE Detention Center in Jessup, MD, a part of the Howard County Department of Corrections facility that the County rents to ICE under an Intergovernmental Service Agreement where ICE pays the county a lucrative per diem rate for each of the 100+ immigrant detainees.

Charley and all the undocumented immigrant young men held in the detention center are housed in "general population" dormitories along with gang members. The immigrants, most of whom are non-violent, are faced with two choices: join a gang for protection – begin a life of crime, the very event we are trying to prevent – or be beaten by gang members. Charley didn't join a gang and was beaten. Guards, who don't speak Spanish, seeing Charley's bloodied and bruised body, concluded he had been fighting and placed him in segregation/isolation, a mixed blessing. At least he was safe from the gangs, but alone in a small, dark, windowless cell for 23 hours a day, with only one hour outside for exercise and phone calls to family and lawyers. The facility does not provide counseling or mental health support that the most vulnerable detainees need. There are few books and nearly none in Spanish. Only one television and gangs dominate the programming. Families, if local, don't visit because they are afraid of ICE.

Fortunately, a non-profit organization took on Charley's case. An immigration judge ruled that Charley's original deportation was unjust because of "credible fear" in returning to Central America and so his re-entry violation was consequently invalid. Charley was granted asylum. He has graduated from a trade

school, obtained a driver's license and is reconnecting with his family. He wants to become a lawfully admitted permanent resident (Green Card) and eventually to become a U.S. Citizen. After all, the United States is really the only home he knows.

The violence Charley encountered at Jessup is unconscionable, especially for an enlightened community.

My Unitarian Universalist faith tells me to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations and, as such, calls me to help end our county's participation in this cruel and unjust system.

Please vote to enact CB51.

Thank you.

James Caldiero

4128 Lotus Circle, Ellicott City, MD 21043

(410) 465-7452; email: jimcal87@gmail.com

Member, Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Co-Chair, Immigration Task Force, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Sayers, Margery

From: Hansel Motiram <sjmotiram@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:54 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Jones, Opel
Subject: Testimony for CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I SWEAR TO THE GODS SO HELP ME IF YOU DO NOT END THIS ACCURSED CONTRACT WITH THE US AGENCY COMMITTING LITERAL ETHNIC CLEANSING. WHO THE FUCK LET THIS HAPPEN IN THE FIRST PLACE? AN INTERN? YOU TELL THE KID TO GET COFFEE AND THEY CAME BACK WITH A TEMPLATE FOR 1940s GERMANY, AND YOU WERE LIKE "DAMN, CANT LET THAT GO TO WASTE"?? SERIOUSLY. KIDS. CAGES. PANDEMIC. NONE OF THAT SEEMS LIKE A BAD COMBINATION TO YOU???

MAY IT WEIGH ON YOUR SOULS FOREVER, THAT YOU DID NOT STOP EVIL WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE. FUCK ICE.

Sayers, Margery

From: Eileen Singleton <eileenmgs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:11 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony Supporting CB-51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Ball and Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my strong support for CB-51, and to thank my Councilmember Liz Walsh for introducing the bill.

Undocumented immigrants should not be considered criminals and should not be housed in prison. There are humane ways to ensure that undocumented immigrants follow the rules, and putting them in prison makes them less safe and makes our community less safe. They are people, like us, looking for a better life for themselves and their families.

I am reminded of what Lt. Col Alexander Vindman said in his testimony to Congress - "here right matters." Passing CB-51 is the right thing to do - does right still matter in Howard County? I hope so and I hope the Council passes and County Executive Ball signs this critical bill.

Wishing you all well,
Eileen Singleton
3710 Takoya Drive
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Philip Curran <pncurran@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: ICE Contract

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I serve as pastor of Columbia United Christian Church; while I cannot speak for the congregation, I do want to express my opposition to the county's contract with ICE.

I sought to be understanding of the county's rationale for partnering with ICE, but after a trip to the nation's southern border last January, and news reports of ICE's deceptive tactics in luring a migrant out of a Silver Spring congregation of faith last Thursday (breaking protocol and respect for sacred places of sanctuary), it is no longer possible for me to understand Howard County's relationship with ICE.

ICE, as you know, came into existence in 2003 as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Sadly, it has morphed into a deportation force. This 2018 article from the New York Times speaks to the issue: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/03/us/politics/fact-check-ice-immigration-abolish.html>

I hope you will reconsider your current position and leave the contract with ICE.

Sincerely,

Philip Curran

It is in the shelter of each other that the people live (an Irish proverb)

Sayers, Margery

From: Ray Donaldson <rtdonaldson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:31 PM
To: tellhoco
Cc: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; Salgado Leslie; IndivisibleHoCoMD
Subject: Re: Testimony support CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi Stephanie and Calvin,

I am NOT impressed by your effort to justify maintaining your contract with ICE. The Trump administration is acting unethically. I have read the book Situation Ethics multiple times in my life; see the

following: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/situation-ethics>

My version of the words its author, Joseph Fletcher, uses to summarize Christian ethics are these: "What is the **loving** thing to **do** in each **situation**?"

I often quote these words. In my opinion, by this standard, your policy is clearly a failure. Please cancel the county's contract with ICE.

Ray Donaldson

On Sep 17, 2020, at 11:28 AM, tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov wrote:

Greetings,

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of the County Executive with your concern regarding the Howard County Detention Center during this global pandemic. Please click on the link below. Your email has been forwarded for consideration.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Corrections/Detention-Center-FAQs>

As always, our office is appreciative of your continued advocacy to ensure every resident of our community remains safe during this pandemic. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office by calling (410) 313-2013.

On behalf of the Office of County Executive, Calvin Ball

Ref:MSG1305699

Sayers, Margery

From: Jack Lewis <jacklewis.4548@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:26 PM
Subject: Testimony for CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Testimony for CB51-2020

I attended Howard County Public Schools from K-12. I learned to ride a bike in Patapsco Valley, learned to drive in the Dunloggin Middle School parking lot, and I learned many of my values from Howard County teachers who modeled empathy and compassion. I am so grateful I was able to grow up in a community full of neighbors who showed me care, kept me safe, and treated me with kindness. My lived experience gives me faith that the people of Howard County embody their values of respect with their actions.

My question is: will our government do the same?

I support CB51-2020 because I want Howard County to stand firmly against the mission and tactics of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Since its creation in 2003, ICE has committed state-sanctioned acts of violence against the immigrant community to protect a status quo of white supremacy. Their purpose is to criminalize immigration, with a disproportionate impact on black and brown people. Their organizational practices defy both Constitutional rights and any sense of human decency. ICE will grab people off the street and throw them into unmarked vans, they detain people without trials, and they force families to separate. The ACLU National Prisons Project determined that ICE detention "poses life-threatening health and safety risks for the tens of thousands of people who are locked up across the country." This is especially true for the pregnant women who are detained, as many of them suffer miscarriages, according to a [2017 complaint](#) filed on behalf of hundreds. A USA Today [investigation](#) into ICE last year found over 400 allegations of sexual assault or abuse, over 800 instances of physical force against detainees, and nearly 20,000 grievances filed by detainees. The exact number of deaths in ICE detention is difficult to discern, since, as a New York Times investigation summed up, ICE has a "[culture of secrecy](#)." However, they could not conceal the images we've now all seen of small children ripped from their parents and locked in cages. Then in August it was [reported](#) that ICE had allowed more than 5,000 of the people they're detaining to contract the COVID-19 virus. Just this month, a whistleblower stepped forward to report doctors may be performing unwanted hysterectomies on women that are detained. The collective portrait painted by these abuses is as clear as it is horrifying.

With this legislation, there is a simple question you must answer: Do you believe these violations of human rights are morally acceptable? If you agree that what ICE has done, and continues to do, is abhorrent, then you cannot continue any kind of partnership with them.

Some of those who oppose this bill have taken a position that our continued cooperation with ICE is acceptable based on the specific treatment ICE detainees receive in the borders of our county. I want to make it clear that I support this bill because *any partnership* with ICE is morally reprehensible. It is absurd to argue that we can cooperate with ICE in Howard County, while at the same time condemning their caging of children, forced hysterectomies, and medical neglect at facilities around the nation. Every local government that works with ICE, in any capacity, contributes to their legitimacy as an agency and their ability to commit abuses against undocumented people. If we continue any contract with ICE, we are part of the institutional network that allows them to function. If we as a community truly stand against those abuses, we need to stop working with the organization committing those abuses. To support ICE is to be complicit in their national campaign of violence against marginalized people. It's that simple.

The abuses of ICE have been brought to the public eye thanks to the incredibly brave risks of journalists, whistleblowers, and most importantly, those who have been detained or had family detained. The families that have suffered have told us, again and again, who ICE is. Please do not ignore their stories. With this bill, you have an opportunity to help shape the values of Howard County. Who are we: a community that stays silent in the face of injustice, or one that acts to do what is right?

I hope you will vote 'yes' on CB51-2020. Thank you for your time,
Jack Lewis

Sayers, Margery

From: Roslyn Zinner <rozzinner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 2:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in favor of CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Testimony in favor of HB51

My name is Roslyn Zinner. I live in Long Reach and am a constituent of Opel Jones. I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of HB51.

In defending the Howard County contract with ICE to house immigrant detainees, some have said that the horrors committed by ICE are a federal issue, and that ending one contract in one county will not change the policies and conditions in prisons around the country.

While there is truth to this objection, we can't lose sight of our own obligations as citizens to stand up for what is right. We can refuse to support or implement harmful policies. Change starts at home. Local political action puts pressure on national leaders to change laws. We have an obligation to our foreign-born friends and neighbors in Howard County to work against cruel and unjust policies and practices. Howard County should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve social and racial justice, not in the rear.

8112 Sea Water Path/Columbia, MD 21045

410-934-2442

roslynzinner.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fw: CB51

From: Harriett Katzen <hkatzen7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Representative Jones,

I strongly urge you to support CB51 which ends the ICE contract in Howard County. All people deserve to live free of fear and to be treated humanely. It is the least we can do for our fellow citizens. Please make this a reality by voting for this bill.

Thank you,

Harriett Katzen

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Fw: Testimony for CB51-2020

From: Tessa Loazer <tessaloazer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:09 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Testimony for CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I was born and raised in Howard County and I know that ICE has no place in this community. I'm sure you've seen the recent headlines about migrants in ICE facilities have hysterectomies performed on them without their consent- this couldn't be farther from "choosing civility" and creating a safe, inclusive community for all Howard County residents. Our cooperation with ICE makes us complicit in a cruel and unjust system that tears families apart and that makes immigrants in our community less likely to cooperate with the police and reach out to government services in times of crisis. I STRONGLY support CB51 and ending our contract with ICE.

Best,
Tessa Loazer
tessaloazer@gmail.com
301 922 2088

Sayers, Margery

From: Tessa Loazer <tessaloazer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony for CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I was born and raised in Howard County and I know that ICE has no place in this community. I'm sure you've seen the recent headlines about migrants in ICE facilities have hysterectomies performed on them without their consent- this couldn't be farther from "choosing civility" and creating a safe, inclusive community for all Howard County residents. Our cooperation with ICE makes us complicit in a cruel and unjust system that tears families apart and that makes immigrants in our community less likely to cooperate with the police and reach out to government services in times of crisis. I STRONGLY support CB51 and ending our contract with ICE.

Best,
Tessa Loazer
tessaloazer@gmail.com
301 922 2088

Sayers, Margery

From: Arthurs, Maureen
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David
Cc: CouncilMail; Jones, Diane; Williams, China; Gick, Ginnie; Dvorak, Nicole; Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; Alston, Ashley; Harris, Michael; Skalny, Cindy; Knight, Karen; Sidh, Sameer; Jones, Jennifer D.; Manley, Josh; Robbins, Lonnie
Subject: Administration Correspondence: Detention Center / ICE Policy Modification
Attachments: 9.17.20-DetentionPolicy_Final.pdf; DetentionPolicy C-205.pdf
Importance: High

Good Morning Councilmembers,

On behalf of County Executive Ball, please see the attached correspondence and policy clarification regarding the ICE policy at our Detention Center.

Maureen

Maureen Evans Arthurs

Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Partnerships
Office of Howard County Executive Calvin Ball
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

O: 410-313-3075 | M: 443-355-9890
marthurs@howardcountymd.gov

[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



Important | Easy | Safe



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051

September 17, 2020

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Councilmembers,

As a follow up to our correspondence on September 8th, I'm pleased to share that Howard County Government and CASA have agreed on a policy clarification to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contract with the Detention Center in Howard County that I believe will preserve public safety while adhering to our values of integrity and respect. I have continued to work toward having policies that clearly protect our community from convicted offenders while maintaining our commitment to just treatment for all members of the community, regardless of immigration status. The attached policy clarification accomplishes this goal.

Throughout our discussions with CASA and other stakeholders over the last year, my goal was to ensure the policy regarding the ICE contract with the Detention Center in Howard County addressed community concerns about justice and fairness while balancing the need to keep the safety of our community a top priority. The attached clarification ensures the Howard County Department of Corrections only accepts detainees from ICE who are convicted of a "crime of violence," as stated under Maryland Criminal code section 14-101. Furthermore, it formalizes notification and reporting procedures related to ICE detainees.

Under the revised policy, only persons convicted of violent crimes would be housed in the Detention Center. This revision significantly differs from Council Bill 51, which was introduced on September 8th. If enacted, CB-51 would effectively prohibit the County from housing any person who is in federal custody in the Detention Center under the contract with ICE. We believe that our policy revision strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring the fair treatment of our immigrant populations while protecting our community from those convicted of a "crime of violence."

As you know, immigration policy is enforced from the federal level and no local law or policy can change that. If we were to prevent our Detention Center from accepting an ICE detainee, that individual would not be set free. That individual would likely be transported to facilities outside the county, and given the limited number of detention facilities state-wide, very likely outside of Maryland. At this point in time, we believe the attached policy revisions takes a thoughtful, responsible approach to addressing several concerns we've heard from our community.

While it would be our preference to institute this policy immediately as we discussed with CASA, it was not known or expected that CB-51 would be filed this month, especially given the public nature of our discussions.

While it was unfortunate that intent was not communicated with either of our offices prior to filing, I respect the Council's legislative process. If the Council feels strongly about continuing forward with CB-51, we will step back to allow the public process to unfold over the next couple of months. Then, based upon how that is resolved, revisit this policy and next steps.

As previously communicated, my hope is that we can make progress as a community in a unifying way, building upon areas of agreement and responsibly addressing issues of concern, not division.

All the Best,



Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Civil Immigration

(A) No County employee, agent or agency may coordinate with an immigration enforcement official in furtherance of a civil immigration enforcement operation, including by:

(1) permitting immigration enforcement officials access to non-public space within a government facility or any area where County business is being conducted;

(2) permitting immigration enforcement officials access to a person being detained by, or in the custody of, the agent or agency;

(3) permitting immigration enforcement officials use of agency facilities, information, or equipment for investigative interviews or other investigative purposes;

(4) detaining a person when they are eligible for release; or

(5) expending County resources (including but not limited to facilities, equipment, cell phones, office supplies, radios, emails, databases and employee time while on-duty) to assist or facilitate ICE civil enforcement, including by directly or indirectly providing access to immigration enforcement officials of confidential personal information, unless the employee's action is expressly authorized under this Policy.

(6) notifying immigration enforcement officials that an individual has been or is ready to be released from custody, unless the individual has been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in Maryland Criminal Law Code Annotated section 14-101.

(B) Howard County will only accept detainees from ICE for the purposes of temporary housing under the county Inter-Governmental Services Agreement if those individuals have been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in Maryland Criminal Law Code Annotated section 14-101.

(C) Notwithstanding any of the provisions set out in subsection (A) above, Howard County may notify immigration officials of the imminent release of a person for whom a civil detainer request has been received from immigration officials only if the person has completed a criminal sentence after being convicted of a crime of violence as defined in Maryland Criminal Law Code Annotated section 14-101 and allow immigration officials access to the facility as necessary to take that person into custody.

(D) The above provisions set out in subsection (A) above do not apply to audits or other actions necessary to carry out the terms or purpose of the Inter-Governmental Services Agreement.

Reporting

Agencies shall report to the County Executive every six (6) months the number of requests received from immigration enforcement officials and the manner in which each request was handled and whether any County agent, officer, employee or official violated any Section of this Division.

Agencies shall respond to any request for information for matters covered under this Division by the County Executive within seven (7) days.

Compliance with Division and federal law.

No provision in this Executive Order shall be interpreted as preventing a law enforcement agent from sending to or receiving from any local, state, or Federal agency information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual if required under Sections 1373 and 1644 of Title 8 of the United States Code, state law or regulation, court order, extradition agreement or any other agreement that allows a County agency to accept custody of an individual pursuant to a criminal warrant. Any intentional violation of a Section by a County public safety agent, officer, employee or official shall be referred to their appointing authority for appropriate discipline.

Sayers, Margery

From: Scott Hagaman <scottdhagaman@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jung, Deb
Subject: Testimony in ****Support**** of CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive of Howard County, and all Members of the Howard County Council:

I write in **-SUPPORT-** of CB51-2020, to prohibit federal immigration detainees from being housed in the County Department of Corrections.

I am a 29-year resident of Howard County - living in Columbia - and a physician practicing Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The practice of such detentions (that this bill would prohibit) is barbaric and traumatic when compassion is called for, instead. Further, it is racist. County Executive Ball and the Howard County Council now have the opportunity to remove us from active engagement in this. I urge you vote for, pass and sign into law CB51-2020.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Hagaman, M.D.
6614 Windsor Court
Columbia, MD 21044
Cell: 410-746-7695

Sayers, Margery

From: McKenzie Scott <mckenziescott1@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in support of CB 51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I'm writing to provide testimony in support of CB 51-2020 to pass. First, I thank Councilmembers Liz Walsh, Deb Jung, and Christiana Rigby for their push for this legislation essential towards making Howard County a safer and more just place.

I believe that Howard County needs to live up to our values of welcoming others and promoting safety and justice, and the only way I can see us doing this is by ending our complicity with a government agency that has torn families apart and committed rampant abuse and violence against immigrants. I do not wish my tax dollars to go towards an institution that makes all Howard County immigrants feel unsafe, and that places people in detention for minor crimes without even being convicted. To add to this cruelty is the spread of COVID-19 in the Jessup facility, for which folks have no way to isolate themselves. It is beyond inhumane for us to participate in this system, and us ending our contract would send a message to state and national leaders that Howard County does not stand for the human rights abuses that ICE has committed. So I urge you to pass this legislation towards the Howard County we all envision.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you do the right thing.

McKenzie Scott, Wilde Lake High '16

Sayers, Margery

From: Eric Miller <em8643a@alumni.american.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Eric Miller and I am a resident and homeowner in Dorsey Search.

I'll be brief since others who are more directly impacted can certainly speak to the issue better than I can.

Howard County's arrangement with ICE is simply unconscionable under the agency's current leadership. As recent news reports illustrate, the coming years may well see ICE officials, agents, and decision-makers indicted in the ICC for crimes against humanity. Whatever the future may hold for our country, there will be a reckoning with what has happened in our immigration system over the past generation and the compliance of local governments that cooperated with these policies will not be forgotten.

Howard County can show true moral leadership by dissociating itself NOW with these proactices and issuing a formal apology before ICE and all of its enablers are brought to light.

Please do the right thing. The \$14 million a year simply isn't worth it.

Sayers, Margery

From: Alice Pham <alicekpham@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 2:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing in support of CB51. I am a resident of District 3. As a Columbia resident of 49 years, I came here and have enjoyed living here in a welcoming, diverse, population. I've enjoyed seeing it become even more diverse. Unfortunately, the presence of ICE detainees in the Jessup Detention Center goes against everything I have long believed this community to stand for. The Howard County contract with I.C.E. that results in imprisoning people who have not been convicted of any crime just because of their immigration status violates both my sense of my community and my willingness to have my tax dollars used in this way.

There are other ways for I.C.E. to keep contact on people who are awaiting their petition for asylum that are less onerous. While some seem to think our facilities are better than those of other counties, prisoner testimony has given the lie to this assumption. Neither is Jessup a convenient place for lawyers and family to visit since I.C.E. prisoners are often moved in and out of prisons from around the country and visitation is severely limited now.

It separates families, often for long periods of time, in conditions that are inhospitable (there are numerous tales of guards failing to respond to prisoner needs), dangerous (especially at this time of COVID), and triggers fear in the immigrant community in general. I know many in the immigrant community who fear that a county that imprisons non prisoners over immigration status will profile them as well! Other counties have already taken the lead in ending such contracts. It is time for Howard County to do likewise!

Alice K Pham
9650 Sandlight Ct
Columbia MD 21046
301-362-7517

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF CB51 - 2020

by Paul J. Baicich, Chair, Our Revolution Howard County

21 November 2020

My name is Paul Baicich, representing Our Revolution Howard County, whose members reside in every district in the county. I am, however, a constituent of Christiana Rigby, in the 3rd.

We are here to speak in favor of CB51

You have surely already heard all "the best arguments," but I hope to present at least one of my three that you have not heard:

1 We are safer when our neighbors know they are safe! Crimes against our immigrant neighbors - documented and undocumented - will be reported to trusted authorities when the immigrants know that the consequences of that reporting will make all of us safer and not put them, their relatives, and their fellow neighbors at risk. Keep Howard County safe!

2 We've been here before, but we don't seem to remember. This is a country of amnesiacs.

In the mid-1850s anti-Catholics prejudice, especially against the Irish, produced the Know-nothing movement to rid the country of any more "Papists." Shortly thereafter, anti-Chinese fervor culminated in the federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned Chinese immigration as well as naturalization.

The Immigration Act of 1924 reinforced ongoing anti-Asian laws but also drastically reduced immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe (at least by 90%). This was only a thinly disguised move to keep out - and you will excuse me - the "Heebs" and the "Wops," the Eastern European Jews and the Italians. I know because my late father, Giuseppe, was in the second category. He slipped into this country alone at 17 years of age and one year after passage of that law, seemingly without desired skills or trade. He remained under the radar for 15 years only becoming legit when drafted into the U.S. Army; this is when the military discovered that his knowledge of five European languages was actually a valuable asset in the fight against fascism.

I raise this family story to illustrate a question: Who knows what skills reside in people living under the radar? We need to bring out the best in them... and we don't do that by cooperating in the incarceration of suspected border-breakers.

3 The docile picture of the relatively amicable condition at the Howard County Detention Center is flawed. It reminds me of the Vichy French who announced to their countrymen that living under an accommodationist rule was better than living under the vicious rule of an occupier. It's a false choice. We don't need to encourage and develop our own Vichy lawyers and Vichy politicians telling us otherwise. Apologizing for this injustice is a trap to make us collaborators in the injustice in the first place.

Thank you very much for your consideration... Let's make Howard County safe and proud!

Paul J. Baicich
Our Revolution Howard County
7237 Swan Point Way
Columbia, MD 21045
410-992-9736



NO ON CB51.

I am writing to you today about CB 51-2020. I am asking for Liz Walsh to step down as a county council representative. Your job as a county council person is to represent us in Howard County as you were elected to do. Your job is NOT to attack the other elected officials in this country that were also elected by the populace of this country. Your job is not to be partisan, but to represent EVERY citizen of Howard County. Your job is to protect us and help us be safe. Your job is not to write or pass legislation that puts us at risk. Your job is not to make us less safe because of blatant partisan party politics which is extremely obvious by the grotesque language in this bill. This council is brand new and it really shows. I am shocked at the lack of understanding about what your job is.

ICE is working to get dangerous MS 13 gang members off the streets of Maryland. A 16 year old child was just killed because the perpetrators were let go instead of being sent/held for ICE, where they should have gone after being arrested on even more charges. We are trying to keep violent crime off of our streets. Law enforcement needs to work with federal enforcement. Those are the laws and the systems put in place to protect us. This is a country of laws and it is your job to follow them. Look at what is happening in cities that refuse to do this. Is this what you are trying to bring here to Howard County? No, thank you.

Because a number of law enforcement agencies failed to honor a detainer on these MS 13 gang members, they were ultimately released back into the public to brutally kill a 16 year old girl from Maryland. These men should have been deported and it didn't happen, due to this kind of stupidity. These detainers keep criminals out of our neighborhoods. Are you going to go to the parents of this girl with your bill in your hand and talk to them to see what they think? Her name was Gabriela Arden. Isn't this some kind of Spanish awareness month in Howard County? Where is the justice for Gabriela Arden? Certainly not in your soul.

The other verbiage in this bill is so disgusting that I was ill after I read it. No one is over policing and discriminating, they are protecting us. The President of the United States, that was elected by the people of the United States, does not openly and repeatedly devalue and vilify immigrants. His wife is an immigrant. The statements in this bill are revolting. The citizens of this country elected our president, and you, as an elected official owe him that respect. And what, pray tell, does your personal biased opinion of the president of the United States have to do with a bill that is going on record in Howard County? A county that you swore to represent fairly, without political bias. You swore to represent all of the citizens, not just the ones with your personal views and bias. The language in this bill does none of that. I am asking for you to step down from your job, because this is absolute proof that you are unable to perform your job.

The comments in the next paragraph are such tripe that I cannot even address them. They are also race baiting, which is repulsive, in and of itself. We are in the middle of a pandemic and a lot of countries have closed their borders to all non-citizens, no matter what the color, yet you still saw the need to throw that race baiting in. I am shocked and appalled that you decided to

divide people instead of uniting them. You do not deserve to represent the diverse population of this county.

And then using as your fact base, for your research, a bunch of groups from the media which is so shockingly unreliable and biased that you should be ashamed. I will, frankly, pay the \$8 a day to be safe from these criminals. Shall I list out the many places that you could get the \$8 a day from, in this overtaxed, over-priced county. You may be sure that I can find them. Maybe we should start with the money that the county executive uses to have officers drive him around all day. That would more than cover it. He seems to want to be safe. Why do you feel that we should not want the same thing?

Dignity, not detention, is for people that deserve dignity. Not for people that brutally murder 16 year old girls. California was just forced (by another unsafe mandate) to let one of the arsonists go, and within hours he was right back out there starting more fires in a state that is burning to the ground and killing MORE people. Criminals don't deserve the dignity of being let loose on the streets to murder our children in Baltimore or anywhere else in MD, or this great country.

The global pandemic has not exacerbated ICE's penchant and potential for cruelty. ICE is not a cruel agency. ICE saves our children and ourselves from cruel criminals.

Maryland Matters is NOT non partisan. There is not a news site out there that is non partisan and you insult all of our intelligences with this blatant lie. And I also see that you are taking the word of convicted inmates over the needs of the citizens of Howard County. Once again, I ask for you to step down and I am asking the county executive and the other council members to help make this happen. Human Rights only happen when you take the criminals that steal our human rights from us off of the streets.

This bill is blatant political partisanship, and extremely dangerous for the citizens of Howard County and MD. Ask Gabriela Arden. Oh, that's right you can't; she is dead. Or maybe ask your own constituents who have made it very clear in the past that they do not want this bill. Oh, that's right. You never were at any of the county hearings before you got elected, were you? You are shockingly naïve and uninformed, as is this bill. Take your bias and your disdain for half of the citizens in your district and go home. You are not cut out for this job and the citizens are tired of the political games.

Frankly, most of this goes for the entire council. So far you have managed to put bills up to protect illegal immigrants, yet you are letting Howard County citizens in old Ellicott City die in the floods; you have changed the name of one of our historic holidays, yet our roads are full of potholes; and now you want to protect criminals that murder our children yet we have no jobs in the county for the law abiding citizens. Our 60 year old stormwater management is a joke that the developers have thrown in our faces. You don't know how to negotiate with developers to even get school sites. With the latest plan we will be 5,000 seats short in the next ten years. Don't you understand your job. It is to protect Howard Countians. We have no jobs. Anne Arundel just got the Microsoft deal that helps to diversify the tax base for them. 90% of

our tax base is from personal income and property taxes. This is ludicrous, and unsustainable. We are built out. Where is our commercial tax base? In Anne Arundel county, where our biggest employer is? The gas station in Clarksville just isn't going to cut it for economic sustainability. What is wrong with this picture, and this council? What are you doing to bring jobs here and fix our infrastructure? If you do not know how to do what Howard County needs, please step down. Stop writing insulting politically biased legislation that hurts the citizens of this county. Anyone sponsoring this bill needs to seriously reconsider just who it is that they are working for. I think you need a lot more dedication to your craft.

Let's not give up \$2 Million in revenue that Howard County desperately needs. You call yourself humane, yet you want to make it harder for these detainees to see their family and their lawyers, by forcing them to a farther facility. No on CB51-2020.

You can be as angry as you want with my calling you out, but you, the new council, are not doing your jobs. INFRASTRUCTURE.

Andrew Butler

Please make sure these comments are posted on the bill page.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Laurie Liskin. I am a long-time resident of Howard County, and count myself very fortunate to live in Liz Walsh's district.

I urge you to vote yes on CB 51.

There are many reasons to end the County's contract with ICE. I will mention only two.

First, Howard County should not make money from detaining human beings. Director of Corrections, Jack Kavanagh, has publicly stated that ICE contract funds are being used to offset the cost of managing the entire jail facility, not just the detention center. The County's revenue sheets for 2018 and 2019 show revenue, expense, and profit from the ICE contract. The profit in 2018 was \$1.9 million and in 2019, \$2 million.

America has a long history of making money off Black and Brown people. We should not continue this cruel legacy in Howard County. We should not profit from detaining human beings.

Secondly, we have to ask, "Who is responsible for changing federal immigration policies?" Many people say that this is not Howard County's job. We disagree. Almost all social change begins in the community, one protest at a time, whether the issue is women's suffrage, inequity, or racial disparities. It is up to us to act now to end the ICE contract and get ICE completely out of Howard County. We cannot wait for Washington. Howard County should be at the forefront of the fight for social and racial justice, not in the rear.

I urge you to vote yes for CB 51.

Laurie Liskin

4642 Smokey Wreath Way

Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-715-1915

Lliskin49@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: idee <idee23@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 5:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote FOR CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council members,

My name is Edith Williams. I live in District Three in King's Contrivance, Columbia, and am a member the Howard County branch of Indivisible. I strongly urge you to vote FOR CB 51 to terminate the agreement with ICE to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

There are no good arguments for continuing to be a part of ICE's racist and unjust, cruel and family-destroying system of arrest and incarceration, no matter how much better Howard County's detention center is than the average ICE-run facility or how much revenue or anything else Howard County may receive from ICE.

There are many definitive reasons for refusing to be a part of the ICE detention system any longer:

1. To build the kind of community we want Howard County to be – diverse, welcoming, compassionate, just, hard-working, peaceful, law abiding, neighborly, committed to protecting human rights;
2. To stand for community, for family, for safety;
3. To stand against cruelty, injustice, the scapegoating and persecution of immigrants in and outside of Howard County;
4. To be on the right side, the moral side of history;
5. To refuse to be a cog in the Trump Administration's xenophobic, unjust, inhumane immigration practices and policies carried out by ICE; policies and practices that have more in common with dictatorships and failed states than peace and justice-loving democracies, democracies where people care about protecting everyone's human and civil rights at the same time that we diligently enforce our laws.

Many who argue against this legislation will argue that they are standing against crime and for law enforcement; that they are supporting "law and order."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

This issue isn't about law and order; it never has been. It is about the systematic persecution and scapegoating of immigrants in our country, and whether or not we in Howard County will continue to be a part of it.

ICE is a disgrace to law enforcement. Its "enforcement" and detention practices are an insult to every honest police officer and detention official dedicated to enforcing the law, to protecting and serving justice and their communities. To place Howard County's own law enforcement officials, indeed, every resident of Howard County, into the position of continuing to support this ICE system is inimical to good, effective law enforcement, injurious to our community, and just plain wrong.

These are momentous times, times when citizens and elected officials alike are called upon to make decisions that change the course of history for better or for worse, times that when we look back on them, define who we were, who and what we served, and what we stood for when it mattered most.

I have no doubt that you will choose to stand for the very best in Howard County, that you will serve the people of our County faithfully, and that you will stand for doing the right thing, both practically and morally, by voting YES to CB 51, thereby removing Howard County from the inhumane and unjust ICE arrest and detention system.

Sincerely, and with many thanks,

Edith Williams
10080 Cape Ann Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Good evening, my name is Tammy Spengler, and I live in District 2.

I am here today to urge you to vote in favor of CB51 to end Howard County's contract with Ice and to stop participating in a corrupt deportation system.

County Executive Calvin Ball 's new policy continues to keep our relationship with ICE by keeping formerly convicted criminals in our detention center. Many people do not understand that they have already completed their criminal sentence.

Luis is an example of a formerly convicted criminal in our detention center. I interviewed him at the Detention Center in 2018. At that time, Luis was a 28-year old man from El Salvador. He had committed a crime as a teenager and served his time. He had been out of prison for 8 years, working as a roofer, supporting his mother, sister, and 2-year old son. During those 8 years he had committed no crimes and went to all of his ICE check-in's. In early 2018 when he attended his ICE check-in, he was detained and sent to our detention Center due to his previous criminal history. When I spoke to him, he had been there several months. He expected that he would be killed upon return to El Salvador and he did not believe he would see his son or family again.

Luis had committed a crime and served his time. He did not deserve to be incarcerated again 8 years later for being an immigrant with a criminal history.

We also should not keep a structure in place that is oppressive and likely to lead to further abuse. President Obama created the structure to separate families, a structure that was used by Trump and magnified, causing the traumatization of thousands of children and parents. I fear that by keeping our contract with ICE, we will keep a structure in place that can be exploited in the future.

Please pass CB51 and cut all ties with ICE. Thank you

STATEMENT BY MARGARET MONTUORI, HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG
BEFORE THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
BILL CB51-2020
September 21, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Howard County Council regarding CB 51-2020. My name is Margaret Montuori. I am representing Help Save Maryland (HSM), a multi-ethnic grass roots citizens' organization with members state-wide. Our goal is to educate the citizens in Maryland's counties, cities and towns regarding the negative effects of illegal immigration. HSM research and education activities foster public awareness and facilitate effective engagement between the citizens of Maryland and the legislative process. We are an effective voice for Marylanders who are frustrated by our out of touch politicians. Today I am here to speak in opposition to County Bill 51-2020 which would needlessly eliminate cooperation between Howard County and federal law enforcement authorities at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Howard County has had a 20 plus year contractual history with ICE from which the county is paid nearly \$2 million dollars a year. The Howard County detention facility merely houses criminal detainees brought to the facility by ICE agents. Howard County does not participate in the pro-active federal illegal immigration enforcement activities such as the 287(g) program. The ICE detainees do not over burden the facility and the revenues received cover the costs of the facility that were previously paid by the Howard County taxpayer. In the current coronavirus environment in which many Marylanders are in survival mode, we are vigilante regarding any county's increase in property taxes. Why would Howard County now wish to forfeit these funds from ICE?

Termination of the facility will have a state wide impact on safety. In 2018 Maryland was second only to California in cases against MS-13 gang members. I live in Montgomery County where numerous rapes of girls under the age of 13 by illegal aliens have occurred, as well as numerous horrific and heinous murders, forced prostitution, extortion and drug dealing by MS-13 gang members. ICE is actively making arrests in our state because of this perpetual crime. Maryland has only three detention centers in our heavily populated state. ICE depends on having access to these detention centers, including the Howard County holding facility, to effectuate efficient removal of criminals.

A false narrative is being circulated in Howard County and elsewhere that cooperation with ICE makes illegal immigrants fearful of cooperating with law enforcement. Illegal immigrants, who are so often the targets of criminal gang activity, can apply for a federal "U" Visa which offers them protection in exchange for their cooperation with law enforcement. The visa can also be a path to legal resident status. CASA de Maryland and other illegal immigrant activist groups promote the U Visa and they also sensationalize the experiences of some ICE detainees. But these groups do not address the mundane fear some illegal immigrants experience from harassment and theft. Here I cannot offer a statistic or a poll but I do want to relay conversations I have had with illegal immigrants. These people have not suffered the substantial mental or

physical abuse requisite for the U Visa. They live in fear and welcome the idea that those who cause trouble in their communities, their apartment buildings, their neighborhoods are apprehended and dealt with including deportation.

County Council Vice Chair Liz Walsh recently told the Baltimore Sun that after the 2020 "summer of love" protests she thinks prohibiting the Howard County Department of Corrections from accepting federal immigration detainees will be "beneficial". I am hard pressed to see any benefit from decoupling with federal ICE cooperation.

It is now the autumn of 2020 and Americans are well aware that many of the protestors are not from the communities in which they protest. Protests at the Howard facility were most likely contrived by CASA de Maryland, an organization with long ties to the illegal alien community and other radical groups promoting lawlessness. By promoting Bill 51-2020, does Liz Walsh truly represent her constituents, or the voices that wish to allow criminal illegal immigrants to operate freely in the county?

Illegal immigrant status has nothing to do with race. In addition to the economic gain Howard County receives from ICE, safety for all persons living in Howard County should trump the ideology of a handful of protestors at the Howard County facility. Illegal alien criminals must be detained and handled by the federal agency charged with their disposition and possible deportation to keep the public safe. Your job entails keeping the public safe as well. Please vote against Bill 51-2020.

THANK YOU.

HELP SAVE MARYLAND.ORG
PO BOX 5742, ROCKVILLE, MD 20855
BB67CHEV@AOL.COM

Sayers, Margery

From: Jim Caldiero <jimcal87@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:52 AM
To: CouncilMail; Dvorak, Nicole; Little, Cristiana
Cc: channingecboard; tammy spengler; Laurie Liskin
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of CB51 from Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ellicott City
Attachments: Channing Testimony in Support of CB51.docx; Channing Testimony in Support of CB51.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Ellicott City, MD offers the attached testimony in support of Council Bill (CB) 51 that prohibits the Howard County Department of Corrections from participating with Federal authorities in detaining individuals who are awaiting disposition of immigration proceedings.

We have attached testimony as a Microsoft Word file and as a PDF file.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions, you may direct them to Jim Caldiero of our Social Justice Team at jimcal87@gmail.com or you may contact our Board of Trustees at channingecboard@channingmc.org

Again, thank you.

Jim Caldiero for the Social Justice Team, Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, 3677 Park Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043, (410) 203-0474, email channingecboard@channingmc.org

To: Howard County Council, Howard County, MD

From: Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Date: September 23, 2020

Subject: Written Testimony IN SUPPORT of Council Bill (CB) 51-2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of CB51 which prohibits the participation of the Howard County Department of Corrections with Federal authorities in detaining individuals awaiting the disposition of immigration proceedings.

At Channing Memorial Church in Ellicott City, our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to promote and affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

As such, the Howard County Intergovernmental Service Agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency makes us complicit in a cruel and unjust system. Men who have not committed or who have not been convicted of violent crimes, men who have completed their sentences for minor violations are being held in an environment separated from their families where they are, in most cases, the only financial support despite proven alternatives to detention.

Moreover, the presence of ICE in Howard County engenders fear among our immigrant neighbors leading to less cooperation with local law enforcement and thus making all our communities less safe.

Everyone deserves to be treated respectfully, fairly and humanely. Everyone, regardless of their immigration status, deserves to enjoy the legal protections our Constitution provides.

We urge the Council and County Executive Ball to enact CB51.

Thank you.

James Caldiero for the Social Justice Team of Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist
3677 Park Ave., Ellicott City, MD, 21043

Tel: (410) 203-0474

Email: channingecboard@channingmc.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Alex Kohn <alex.kohn76@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:11 PM
To: CouncilMail; Jones, Opel
Subject: Questions Concerning Howard County's cooperation with ICE

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Council Member Jones,

I am worried that you may have missed my email from a week ago regarding my concerns that Howard County works with ICE. I know you are very busy so this is understandable. I have listed just a few of the most important questions that I have below and hope that you will be able to provide some illuminating answers for me.

Are you aware that ICE has committed many human rights violations? As a former member of the Human Rights Commission of Howard County how does it make you feel to know that we work with an organization with this type of record?

Did you know that ICE moving detainees around the country has recently caused an outbreak of COVID-19? How will you ensure that this type of event does not occur in Howard County when ICE frequently moves detainees in and out of our detention center?

What justification do you have for keeping people in prison during a pandemic, when the ICE detainees in our detention center have already been rehabilitated by our criminal justice system or have no history of violent crime? Will you take responsibility for the illnesses and deaths that will inevitably occur in our detention center from Covid-19?

Do you acknowledge the fact that ICE uses racial profiling to determine which of our community members they detain? Since you started the Race and Equity Committee yesterday how do you feel, knowing that the Howard County Detention Center is a link in a chain of racism?

I linked some articles below to help provide some context and more information if you are interested.

[U.S Loses Track of Another 1,500 Migrant Children](#)

[A COVID-19 outbreak unfolded in Virginia after ICE flew immigration detainees there so agents could be shipped to the nation's capital in response to protests](#)

[Immigrant Kids Keep Dying in CBP Detention Centers, and DHS Won't Take Accountability](#)

[How Racial Profiling Goes Unchecked in Immigration Enforcement](#)

[Whistleblower Alleges Mass Hysterectomies at ICE Detention Center](#)

Thank you for the anticipated timely response,

Alex Kohn

Sayers, Margery

From: rabbistarr@columbiajewish.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony Supporting CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I, Rabbi Sonya Starr, am writing to you as the representative of Columbia Jewish Congregation, CJC and the Howard County Board of Rabbis. We are all asking you to vote yes on CB 51.

In 2018, CJC passed the following statement: “Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) believes that the governments of Howard County, the State of Maryland and the United States of America should take action according to the principles to love the ‘strangers’, to provide for their well-being, and to treat them justly....”

I would like to begin by telling you two short stories. One about a woman named Sarah and the other about a man named William. Sarah was born and raised in the old country. She was one of a very big family that was targeted for violence, unemployment, discrimination, and hate crimes on a regular basis. Her family designated her older single unattached brother to come to the United States of America. It took years before the system worked and he was finally granted legal passage to the United States. Unfortunately by the time the papers came, he was ill and unable to leave. So, Sarah dressed up as a man left the old country at the age of 17. With one small problem yet to be solved, Sarah needed to be sponsored by an American citizen. Thankfully for her there were men who were for hire. You paid them enough money and they became your uncle for the day. I say lucky for her because she had the money in hand to pay; others paid by becoming prostitutes until they had paid off their passage.

The other person’s story I would like to share with you is William. William was also born in the old country. His family’s papers to immigrate to the United States did not come until he was 6 years old. Before that when he was four he fell down a flight of stairs. He destroyed his ear drum and never heard another sound again. Because of the lack of medical and educational resources available to those in poverty he never made any sounds except to grunt. When his family got to Ellis Island they lied and said he was shy, fluent in two languages, and had a head cold.

Both Sarah and William were allowed into this country and eventually became naturalized citizens. William grew up and married Martha another child immigrant. Sarah married Morris who also immigrated as an adult. Between the four of them their descendants became TV repair men, successful business men and women, CPAs, high school English teachers, decorated service men in the Navy and infantry, sign language interpreters, New York City defense lawyer, Columbus Ohio TV sports reporter, and social workers. Their descendants marched for civil rights, the end of the Vietnam War, lobbied our legislatures for better child care education, and marriage equality. They even have a congregational rabbi who lives and works in Howard County in their family tree. You see Morris, Sarah, William and Martha are my grandparents. All four of them immigrated to this country; two of them legally, following all the rules while two of them, Sarah and William’s parents, lied, manipulated, deceived and bought their way into this country. The only thing that separates Sarah and William from the undocumented residents of Howard Country is 100 years; nothing more and nothing less.

I wish my grandmother and grandfather's story were anomalies but they really aren't. In fact, they were more the norm than the exception. You see, in the 1920's the US was closing its borders and tightening the restrictions on who could get into this country legally. In June 1930, the Attorney General's office in Washington received a letter from the assistant U.S. attorney in Miami describing the case of Chaim Josef Listopad, who tried to enter the country using false papers provided by the smuggler Samuel Weisstein and was apprehended. Typical of this illegal immigration was Naftoli Lederman of Poland, who tried to enter from Mexico using crude faked documents and was arrested, which was considered a victory for law enforcement. In Windsor, Ontario, just over the border, a journalist described blocks of dingy hotels used by smugglers and referred to as "Alien Row." Authorities in Bombay, New York in 1926 arrested Clara and Tola Zacharjasz, teenage Polish Jews. They had been illegally smuggled into this country from Canada, along with four Irish men and an Irish woman with three children. So common was this practice that immigration officials were instructed not just to work at the border, but to pursue illegal Jewish entrants throughout the interior, into boats, trains, or private automobiles suspected of transporting such individuals. Professor Robert A. Slayton, a humanities professor at Chapman University wrote, "Given the illegal nature of this migration, we will never have definitive numbers of how many Jews broke the law to enter this country after 1924; evidence suggests a figure in the tens of thousands." I wish the Jewish experience was an anomaly. A September 16, 1927, *New York Times* article describes government plans for stepped-up Coast Guard patrols because thousands of Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, Russians, and Italians were landing in Cuba and then hiring smugglers to take them to the United States. So many Europeans were in the United States illegally in 1929, the United States created the 1929 Registry Act allowed "honest law-abiding alien[s] who may be in the country under some merely technical irregularity" to register as permanent residents for a fee of \$20 if they could prove they had lived in the country since 1921 and were of "good moral character." Roughly 115,000 immigrants registered between 1930 and 1940—80% were European or Canadian. Between 1925 and 1965, 200,000 unauthorized Europeans legalized their status through the Registry Act, through "pre-examination"—a process that allowed them to leave the United States voluntarily and re-enter legally with a visa (a "touch-back" program), or through discretionary rules that allowed immigration officials to suspend deportations in "meritorious" cases.

Today's undocumented residents of Maryland have fled extreme poverty, relentless violence, horrific persecution and unavailable medical care to come to a country where they often do not know the language, the laws, how the schools or court system works in order to give their documented children and grandchildren a better life. They are tax paying, hardworking contributing members of our community. They are the patriarchs and matriarchs of tomorrow's lawyers, doctors and county council members.

To put non-violent offenders behind bars, separate them from their families, and help ICE persecute them because they are poor and largely Black or Brown, violates our desire to be a civil county treating every one fairly.

The Talmud is one of the oldest sacred Jewish books. It says in the Talmud "Whoever saves one life saves the whole world." Now you have a chance to save a world by voting yes to CB 51, ending this horrific contract with ICE.

Sonya Starr
She/Her/Hers
Rabbi, CJC
5885 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia MD 21045

(410)730-6044 ext. 1

(443)319-8113 Direct Line

To contact me in an emergency, please call me on my cell, (410)660-9432.

“The past has a vote but not a veto. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan

“A healthy vision of the future is not possible without an accurate knowledge of the past.” Daisaku Ikeda



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you are welcome here.



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Friends of Latin America Testimony in Favor of CB51-2020

I am Leslie Salgado-Tamayo. I live in District Three in Columbia, MD. I am the Chair of Friends of Latin America. **I am here to urge you to vote for CB51 to end the agreement with ICE** to house detainees in the Howard County Detention Center.

Friends of Latin America is an all-volunteer organization that has been advocating for more just US relations between the US and our neighbors to the south for 35 years. What we have witnessed is that United States policies of war and intervention have resulted in countless deaths, suffering and the displacement of primarily poor Latin Americans.

Here are some facts that explain why Latin Americans continue to leave their homes, their loved ones, and everything they are familiar with:

- They are fleeing gun violence. 70% of the guns used by criminals in Mexico, and nearly half in Central America are US made guns;
- They are fleeing gang violence. Central American gangs started in Los Angeles and other US cities after fleeing civil wars funded by the US government back in the 1980's and 90's. They were then deported to Central America.
- They are fleeing government repression;
- Many are leaving because multinational companies have taken over their land for industrial farming, mining, or tourism and threatened those who resist displacement;
- Many are forced to migrate because persistent droughts, caused by climate change, destroyed their livelihood.

One of the arguments we hear is that everyone who wants to come to the US should "get in line". But there is no line to get into. Poor immigrants cannot get visas to come to the US because they don't have the money, education or properties that the US consulates require to ensure that they will not stay in the US.

Howard County's collaboration with ICE in the detention of immigrants is not a solution to the migration problem.

Detentions not only result in financial and housing insecurity for families but they lead to fear and lack of trust in public institutions. Families are afraid to: send their children to school, attend religious gatherings, ask for protection from the Police or request access to emergency medical care.

When I visited the Jessup Detention Center last Summer as part of concerned groups that met with County Executive Calvin Ball and Mr. Kavanaugh, my heart was broken. I saw young men who looked a lot like my sons. One young man from Honduras told me that he was the bread winner in his family and that his wife and young US citizen child were now left to fend for themselves. I also spoke with a man in his 40's from El

Salvador who showed me a huge scar on his stomach that he suffered when he was attacked by a gang in his country.

We are opposed to Howard County's contract with ICE because ICE violates basic human rights of immigrants:

- **ICE detains working migrants because they are brown or black.** In the records that were provided to us by the Mr. Kavanaugh during the same visit last Summer, out of 67 detainees at that time, 47, that is: 70% of ICE arrests were either from Central America or Mexico. This figure reflects clearly federal policies that criminalize the indigenous and black Latino population.
- **ICE separates children from their parents**
- **They detain pregnant women**
- **They detain immigrants with disabilities and other medical conditions**
- **Immigrants detained by ICE don't have a right to a defense lawyer.**

Our communities would be safer without the Ho Co contract with ICE. Immigrants who have been through so much should be welcomed and allowed to live in the safety of their homes while resolving their immigration issues. Most immigrants coming thru Mexico have a loved one with whom they can stay in the United States. Most have jobs that during this pandemic are "essential" which allows them to support themselves and their families and children.

The Howard County contract with ICE makes all of us complicit with their inhumane policies. Please join with thousands of concerned individuals who believe that ICE's cruel practices of discrimination and fear are a violation of basic human rights.

You can stop this. Please vote "yes" on CB51.

September 21, 2020

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Sknox23@hotmail.com
Subject: Council - County Bill 51-2020

First Name: Sondra
Last Name: Knox
Email: Sknox23@hotmail.com
Street Address: 7616 Greendell Lane
City: Highland
Subject: County Bill 51-2020

Message:

I would like to make my voice heard by strongly recommending that this bill not even be brought to the table. This is absurd to put hard-working, honest, taxpaying citizens of Howard county Maryland at risk concerning safety issues. I will be making sure to let as many people know about this as possible especially since we are not able to come in person due to the meeting being closed and only available through Internet. I would hope that you all would reconsider your decision and why you are proposing such a bill. What is the actual purpose? Will you be taking responsibility for the safety of the citizens when there is a crime committed by an illegal immigrant that ICE would have otherwise detained and questioned? We have got to stop making law enforcement the enemy. They are in place to protect the safety of the citizens. If anything, they should be put to a vote by the citizens of Howard county and not decided upon in a closed meeting. I respectfully ask for your reconsideration and an answer to my questions. Thank you, Sondra Knox

Sayers, Margery

From: Dvorak, Nicole
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth; Little, Cristiana
Subject: FW: FIRN Position on CB51
Attachments: FIRN_Comment Regarding CB512020.pdf

Hi Margery, please add this to the online/public bill file for CB51. Thank you

From: Mike Mitchell <mmitchell@firnonline.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Harris, Michael <mrharris@howardcountymd.gov>; Gelwicks, Colette <cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov>; ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov; Knight, Karen <kknight@howardcountymd.gov>; Dvorak, Nicole <ndvorak@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: FIRN Position on CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers:

I'm writing to express FIRN's opposition to CB-51-2020. Though this may seem counterintuitive, our position is rooted in social justice and centered precisely on the people we directly serve and those the bill claims to serve. While we fully respect and appreciate Councilwoman Walsh's intent, the issue is more complex than might appear and an affirmative vote involves consequences around which we have deep concerns. In addition to providing the formal attached statement, I think it important to share a few thoughts as well.

Nearly all of your speakers at last night's hearing were supportive of the bill because it would end the County's formal engagement with ICE. While we agree with the assertions of most speakers about ICE, believing that ending the contract would remove them from our community is likely wrong. ICE will still prowl our community, and if the past four years have shown us anything, actions like this bill could even lead to a retaliatory effect on our community.

Please realize that ending this contract will mean detainees don't just get moved *geographically*, but they will get moved further from the potential *access* we could have with a local contract. Detention centers not run by local officials are often run by for-profit prison companies like GEO. This means that instead of having local officials with the ability to allow legal counsel from agencies like ours, we're delegating away our ability to provide that access to companies truly allied with ICE. With this bill, the County will hand over \$2M to one of those companies strengthening a system we all abhor.

FIRN believes using a portion of those funds to hire dedicated counsel to serve detainees held at the detention center will best serve the needs of immigrants by ensuring access to counsel, a window into the system, and deeper protection to the families of those taken by ICE, especially those who are local.

Every day, I walk past the offices of a legal staff working tirelessly on behalf of immigrant rights. And prior to my time at FIRN, I walked in the detention centers of these private companies in border states like Texas, seeing how detainees were physically and practically far removed from any counsel. In that time, I've supervised legal staff and met countless legal advocates working on behalf of those who have risked everything, only to be called "illegal" for seeking to protect themselves and their families. You now have the opportunity to walk with us on a similar journey by opposing this bill and working with us, County Executive Ball, and others to establish policies that provide real counsel to those who lack it. If this bill passes, advocates may claim a moral victory, but the irony is that it will vanquish justice by undermining the rights we all claim to espouse. Please consider this reality as you step toward your vote.

In partnership,
Mike

--

Mike Mitchell
CEO
FIRN
5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite E-200
Columbia, Maryland 21044
<https://www.firnonline.org>
mmitchell@firnonline.org
443-276-3165 direct
443-928-8867 cell



Comment Regarding CB-51-2020

FIRN wholeheartedly condemns the use and abuse of civil detention against the immigrant community of Howard County, Maryland, and across the broader United States. We recognize that the use of the Howard County Detention Center to detain noncitizens for civil immigration matters presents moral questions on the use of local funds to support federal immigration policy. And we also recognize the important work of many advocates who condemn what they see as the complicity of local officials by contracting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and who have in response called for cancelling Howard County's contract, which allows ICE to hold civil detainees in Howard County Detention Center.

As a community, we must acknowledge that this issue is complicated and there are pros and cons to either retaining the contract or cancelling it entirely. Cancelling the contract would eliminate the concerns regarding subpar treatment of immigrant detainees at the Detention Center and would also reduce the inmate population, which has been particularly important during the pandemic. Additionally, one has to wonder if having the ICE contract at the Howard County Detention Center encourages and facilitates ICE activity in the area. Based on reports, it appears the Howard County Detention Center was allowing ICE to house immigration detainees at their facility that did not meet their contract requirements. There are also allegations of collaboration between various police departments and ICE agents operating at the Detention Center. ICE is a federal agency and can operate under their guise. A decision to provide them space and care for their detainees should involve no collaborative effort to identify or detain immigrants. Doing so diminishes immigrant's trust in the community and provokes local government to take on federal law.

Despite the aforementioned arguments, there exists a looming issue if the contract is to be cancelled. Prior to COVID, an estimated 25% of detainees held under the ICE contract each year at Howard County Detention Center are residents of Howard County. If the contract with ICE is cancelled, those detainees held there—many local to our community—will not be released but instead will be transported to facilities outside the county, most likely outside of Maryland. Furthermore, future county residents who are arrested and detained by ICE would likewise be transported out of the county to be held by ICE elsewhere. The impact of these transfers should not be understated. As the Vera Institute of Justice has shown through its SAFE Cities Network and the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, access to legal representation is the principal factor in successfully advocating for both release from immigration detention and ultimately prevailing in removal proceedings. In sum, were Howard County to end its contract with ICE, the transfer of local community members to other facilities may indeed make access to counsel—as well as humanitarian access to their families—extremely difficult, if not impossible. It is therefore FIRN's belief that, while this might assuage the community of its "complicity" in the immigration detention system, it will not do anything to prevent the detention of local residents targeted by ICE.



CB-51-2020 fails to provide a comprehensive plan and solution to the resulting transfer of Howard County detainees to other ICE detention centers, more likely in less-welcoming and less-progressive communities. We must do our part to ensure that Howard County residents who are detained by ICE have access to justice, regardless of where they are detained. We encourage the Howard County Council to address the fact that ICE will continue to operate, even without a local detention center to house immigrants. If the Howard County government decides to keep the contract, it is essential that funds be allocated for representation of detained immigrants. Alternatively, if Howard County cancels the contract, there should be funds in place to support ongoing representation of certain detained immigrants who reside in Howard County and will be transferred to other facilities as a result.

Howard County can and must do better to address the lack of affordable legal representation available to detainees if we want to make a profound impact. Montgomery County has already adopted a program to assist immigrants in removal. In CB-51-2020, Howard County is described as a leader of human rights, respecting the rights and dignity of all. If Howard County is to be considered a leader on this issue, we should not just seek to move detainees to other ICE detention centers and forget the plight of those immigrants. Howard County should promote and respect human rights by providing certain Howard County immigrant residents access to the representation they desperately need, no matter where they are detained. FIRN appreciates the efforts of all involved and hopes the complexity of this situation informs policy so that we do what is best for our community. Choosing otherwise is a slight to justice and tacitly approves the continuation of an immoral, racist system.

Sayers, Margery

From: Demetrios James Matsakis <djmatsa@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Bill CB51-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

As residents of Howard County, we are writing **in opposition to CB51-2020** proposed legislation, based on the resulting risks to public safety. This was unfortunately evidenced (September 2020) by the murder of a 16-year girl in Baltimore County due to several law enforcement agencies refusing to honor ICE detainers on the illegal alien suspects believed to be MS13 gang members. Maryland has had numerous MS13 gang murders in several counties (PG, Montgomery, Baltimore). Clearly, some illegal aliens are violent threats to public safety needing to be held in ICE detention centers.

It is unfortunate that this bill makes statements that ICE detainees are "innocent immigrants". This is blatantly false. These people have violated U. S. Immigration laws, and are in our country illegally. As a result, no one knows their backgrounds since they are "undocumented" putting U.S. citizens at potential risk of harm. The majority of these detainees in the Howard County ICE facility have been convicted or charged with felonies, including: Murder, Attempted Murder, Armed Robbery, Arson, Rape-1st degree, Racketeering, Child Abuse, Sex Abuse of a Minor, Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, Handgun Possession, Conspiracy to Murder A Police Officer, Assault, False Imprisonment, Child Pornography, Sex Offense – Second Degree, Kidnapping, Manslaughter, and Carjacking.

The Bill needs to be amended to not only make references to the current President but include his predecessors who also pursued enforcement of immigration laws, especially against violent illegal aliens. The Howard County Council Members might wish to consider working with our Maryland Congressmen and Senators to reform U. S. Immigration laws.

As grandchildren of legal immigrants, we support and encourage immigration, but make the key distinction between legal and illegal immigration as you should too.

With regard to the cost, Howard County has actually realized \$2M after expenses, from housing ICE detainees. If the council feels there is a short fall in revenue as this bill claims, then as past Howard County Executive Alan Kittleman did, the fee per inmate charged can be increased as appropriate. The current covid-19 impacted county budget certainly cannot accommodate such a large loss of revenue that helps fund our law enforcement and other critical county services.

Sincerely,

Demetrios J. Matsakis
Rebecca R. Matsakis, M. D.

2560 Ashbrook Drive
Ellicott City, MD. 21042-1755

Sayers, Margery

From: Carla Tevelow <perlpubl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 10:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: pass CB51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

My name is Carla Tevelow and i live downtown Columbia in district 4. I implore you to pass CB51. Having a contract in our county with ICE is immoral. We know the difference between right and wrong. ICE is a racist agency set out to send people who are deserving of asylum back to the horrors they fled, and individual circumstances don't seem to matter. From my research, the United States has helped to create the many problems in these various countries.

In previous times, when a person crossed the US border they were sent to spend time with someone they knew in the states to await their hearing. Now these individuals are sent to detention centers, costing tax payers outrageous sums of money. As well as putting people, who are looking for relief from their country of origin, in horrific sterile cold environments.

ICE is not only abusing their power, they are also skirting the law. The following are just a few recent examples.

The Washington Post had an article on September 11 this year reporting that the administration wanted ICE agents, otherwise known as special response teams, in Washington DC to help quell the protests. This occurred in the beginning of June. They flew immigrants from detention centers in Arizona, Texas and Florida to Virginia. Although overcrowding was the excuse used to move the detainees, none of the facilities was overcrowded. Department of Homeland Security was "circumventing restrictions on the use of charter flights for employee travel, according to a current and a former U.S. official." Not only did this result in creating more than 300 covid-19 positive cases in the Virginia facility , it also led to attacks on peaceful nonviolent Black Lives Matter protesters. This is immoral.

In another incident, it was reported in USA Today (July 20,2020) that ICE is once again separating children from their parent(s). This in spite of the fact that a judge ruled that families previously separated must be reunited! This is both illegal and immoral!

Another instance of ICE lacking in morals and integrity was filmed in the documentary "Immigration Nation," on Netflix . There, I learned ICE fools immigrants into allowing the agents into their homes under false pretenses and then place them under arrest. The targets are mainly black and brown people.

Recently, it's been disclosed, it is costing the Howard County taxpayer \$8 per person per day to house immigrants in our county's facility. I don't want my taxes to pay for this dreadful racist policy. I find this practice extremely objectionable.

ICE is mainly targeting black and brown people. After reading Ibram X Kendi's book on "How to be an antiracist," I find it necessary to stand up and speak out against the systemic racism of ICE and ask you to end Howard County's contract with ICE and pass CB51. Those of us who have the power to change the rules, laws and behaviors which lead to racist practices have an obligation to do so. I can no longer allow myself to be complicit either actively or passively. I am asking the same of my community and county. My actions have to be where my heart is.

Quoting from our late great congressman, Elijah Cummings, "We are better than this!"

Thank you.
Carla Tevelow

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Farragut <pjfarragut@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Paul Farragut
Subject: Hold only undocumented immigrants charged with a serious crime at County detention facility in Jessup

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I think the County Executive's proposal to hold only undocumented immigrants who have been charged with a serious crime at the County detention facility in Jessup makes a great deal of sense and ask for your help in supporting his position. I do not support holding undocumented individuals who have committed minor offenses. As a country we need to support a path to citizenship for undocumented individuals who are law abiding and who meet citizenship requirements. As a practical matter during this time of extreme economic stress for many individuals and government, it would be unwise to totally cancel our contract with ICE. Rather we should amend the contract to house only those charged with serious offenses. As a result, I hope you will table County Council legislation that would totally eliminate a contract with ICE at the detention facility. Thank you for your consideration.

Paul and Joan Farragut
3602 Ligon Road
Ellicott City 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Gavin Kohn <gavin.kohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:32 PM
To: opel@opeljones.com; CouncilMail; Jones, Opel; Ball, Calvin
Subject: CB51 Oral Testimony transcript
Attachments: gavin Kohn Oral Testimony.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Attached is a transcript of my verbal testimony on 9/21/2020. It's disgusting that we have an ICE contract. If you don't already think that, I'm not sure what else I can say, but if you vote against CB51 I hope you lose your next election.

Thanks

Gavin Kohn
Columbia, MD

Hello,

My name is Gavin Kohn. I am a constituent of Dr. Opel Jones and I live in Thunder Hill. I am testifying in support of CB51-2020, and I urge the council to vote 'Yes' on this legislation as it stands.

Four years ago, I supported sanctuary legislation for Howard County and I testified in the hearing for CB-9-2017. Former councilmembers Calvin Ball and Jen Terrasa drafted that legislation, and I believed them to be progressives who were guided by their moral compass.

Soon after CB9-2017, there was an election. Sanctuary legislation was a big issue at the time, and Dr. Ball and Councilmember Terrasa were elected to higher offices. Former councilmember Weinstein, the sole democratic vote against sanctuary legislation, was *replaced* by Councilmember Walsh, who wrote CB51-2020.

So it's clear that these issues were paramount in that election. My current representative Dr. Jones said this quote at a debate at Oakland Mills High School in 2018. He said, "**The County Council should pass a measure prohibiting Howard County from entering into (a) 287(g) agreement, or other agreements for that matter, with ICE... Howard County should not be burdened with federal mandates" (2018) .**

Dr. Ball also had a statement during that time. In a press release in 2017, he said "**Policies not to enforce federal immigration law do very little to promote confidence among undocumented immigrants unless those policies are widely known and unless people can trust that those policies will not be reversed without a public process. "**

That is what I voted for. I supported Dr. Jones and Dr. Ball in 2018 because they supported immigrants and pushed for sanctuary legislation. Now, these appear to be empty words and statements made for the sole purpose of being elected.

Please support CB51 and end our contract with ICE. It is reprehensible that Howard County still works with them, and it goes directly against the promises of politicians who ran on this issue to get elected. Thank you.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Updated-w--Correction--Councilman-Calvin-Ball-and-Councilwoman-Jen-Terrasa-Respond-to-Statement-by-Executive-Kittleman-Regarding.html?soid=1124028352073&aid=YY0QfnTr07g>

Hello, I am Grace Magori a resident of district 2 of Howard County. I am here today to urge you to support CB-51 and end the ICE contract in Howard County.

I am tired of black and brown people being commodified and abused by this system, but most of all, I am tired of any so-called leader advocating for any sort of profit from *imprisonment*.

The immigrants in the detention center are people who deserve rights and the same freedoms that we all get to enjoy in this country. For too long, this country has stripped rights away from the most vulnerable members of our society. However, with this bill we can take a small step in the right direction.

As a child of two immigrants, I know how harrowing the journey to a new country can be, especially for a minority. What our people need is support and an accessible path to citizenship, not a jail cell.

I am asking you to be true leaders toward this goal. I am asking you to be better than the leaders we have had in the past. For 400 years this country has legitimized and justified violence towards poor people of color. If you look at the people in our detention system, you will find that almost all of our detainees are Black and Brown. We must act when we see injustice. Refusing to participate in a racially biased deportation system is antiracist.

We must not get stuck in arguments as to whether or not we are a nicer detention facility, but ask the question, "Should we be detaining people at all? There are cheaper and less harmful monitoring programs of undocumented immigrants available that keep families together.

Please support this bill to help save the families and people in this County. Do not turn your back on people who need help. Again, I'm not asking for you to just support a bill, I'm asking you to support human rights.

Hello, I am Alex Kohn, a resident of district 2. This year I graduated from Oakland Mills High School. I am here to urge all of you to support CB-51 and end our ICE contract as soon as possible. Dr. Jones, in the past you have stood for immigrants and today you proposed a bill to make Howard County a safer place for everyone. You have a chance to make a change and your intentional inaction on this issue makes me disappointed to have you as my representative.

In 2018, I moderated a debate at Oakland Mills High School. Councilmembers Rigby and Jones, both of you attended that debate. You stood on stage a few feet away from me and declared that you would work to support immigrants. Councilmember Jones, you said "The County Council should pass a measure prohibiting Howard County from entering into a 287 g agreement, or other agreements for that matter with ICE." And you went on to say "Howard County should not be burdened with federal mandates." Yet we sit here today, our county burdened by our subsidies of the ICE detention center and our agreement with ICE. And, all you will do is walk back on what you said to uphold a racist contract with a racist organization. It is clear to anyone who knows about ICE that they spread fear and endanger our community. I sent you an email that included links to several articles about the atrocities of ICE, which you ignored. However, I am certain other speakers tonight will give you plenty of examples of the human rights violations of ICE.

Council Member Rigby I am so glad that you are supporting this bill and staying true to your words. You understand that Calvin Ball's executive order will never provide the change or permanence that this bill will, and that his weakening of the contract is nowhere near enough. If we propose to be antiracist, we must do more than just study our inequities, we must act when we see injustice.

Council Member Jones, when you spoke just two years ago, you had morals and values that you wanted to protect. You cared about immigrants in our community and you cared about helping people in need. What has changed now? What kind of County Council Member actively works to endanger members of their own community? You may have lied to get elected in 2018, but I assure you it will not work twice.

Sayers, Margery

From: Maryann Maher <maryannpmaher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony Supporting CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

My name is Maryann Maher and I am a resident of Ellicott City. I support County Bill (CB) 51 which would end the Howard County contract with ICE. Community safety is paramount for all our residents, but safety can be achieved while moving away from policies of detention that breed abuse and corruption. I ask that you support CB 51 as a matter of good public policy.

Sincerely,

Maryann Maher
9996 Timberknoll Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
maryannpmaher@gmail.com

JEN TERRASA
Legislative District 13
Howard County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3246 · 301-858-3246
800-492-7122 Ext. 3246
Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 21, 2020

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of CB 51-2020, which would end Howard County's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As a former councilwoman, I voted year after year for budgets that included this contract, but I strongly believe going forward we must stop doing business with an agency that continues its cruel and inhuman treatment of our foreign-born friends and neighbors and their children, both in our community and across the country. The current immigration policies are heartless and unjust, routinely targeting black and brown immigrants, tearing families apart and deporting people who have lived and worked peacefully in the United States for decades. By continuing this contract with ICE, we are complicit in their systemic racism and oppression.

Moreover, continuing the contract with ICE does nothing to make Howard County safer but instead makes us less safe. ICE's continued presence in Howard County makes immigrants less likely to cooperate with county police and less likely to report crimes, making everyone less secure.

Howard County should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve social and racial justice. Ending the contract with ICE is the right and humane thing to do.

Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County
Maryland General Assembly

Sayers, Margery

From: CouncilWebEx
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 5:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FW: Webex Invitation - Public Hearing - September 21 - 6pm
Attachments: CB51-Opposition.docx

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*Charity D. Respass*  
*Howard County Council*

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**From:** Chris Yamashita <cy.columbiatc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilWebEx <councilwebex@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Webex Invitation - Public Hearing - September 21 - 6pm

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I regret I will be unable to participate in the WebEx council legislation event. I have attached my preparatory notes for my opposition.

Best Regards,  
Chris Yamashita

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 9:57 AM CouncilWebEx <[councilwebex@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilwebex@howardcountymd.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for participating in the Howard County Council's Public Hearing , hosted virtually on Monday, September 21 at 6pm.

Below are the details you need in order to access and participate in the event:

- Click on the link below to join the WebEx Event.
- Please use the call-in information on the WebEx screen to call in by phone or computer. If calling in by phone, please enter your attendee number when prompted. The number will be shown on your computer screen. The attendee number is how you will be identified in the event.
- The WebEx Event will be recorded.

WebEx now requires a password. The password for this event is "password".

<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd/onstage/g.php?MTID=e16c18ccc3c824e676d316f716e040f79>

Sincerely,

Margery

*Margery Sayers*

*Executive Assistant*

*Howard County Council*

*410-313-0832*

CB-51-2020

Council members, I urge you to vote “no” **not because** you support ICE. And I urge you to **not vote “yes”** just because you oppose ICE. You should all vote “no” because there are numerous precedents of this type of legislation passed by other counties resulting in a negative impact on immigrants and constituents.

The following are some arguments that were made to vote “yes”, and I will explain

#1 The detainees aren't even from Howard County.

Even though the detainee may not be from Howard County, the detention center serves as an additional option to detainee housing. Imagine an extreme where there were only 2 detention centers, 1 in Howard County, and 1 on the west coast. If we don't permit detainees in Howard County jails, then all the detainee's family members will unlikely be able to travel cross country to visit them. Now imagine 30 detention centers across the nation, and Howard County ended its detainee housing contract. If the closest jail is in NY and the detainee is from Virginia, do you see how much harder we just made it for them. Yes, there are 2 other counties in MD with detention centers, but if House Bill 677 passes, you can assume that number will become 0. HoCo claims only criminal detainees are currently allowed to be housed at Jessup. Yet, the bill mentions 4 detainees, out of the thousands that have been housed at Jessup, that were non-criminals and housed in HoCo's jail. The immigrants detained at the prince george and howard county road-side incidents that were then housed in Jessup, at least were able to have their families visit them locally. Would you rather they didn't house

them in Howard County? And their families would have to drive from Prince George, or Howard county to who knows where.

#2 The housing of detainees is financially a net negative.

The \$8 per detainee cost overrun is not supported by evidence, no itemized cost source was provided. Since the facility is already built and the manpower already hired, major costs could only really come in the form of food and utilities. If the net negative is true, then adjust the billing per detainee at the next contract negotiation.

#3 Stain on the image of Howard County.

What of the image of Howard County who doesn't provide a safe, well-maintained facility for immigrants who are detained by ICE. You can choose to not cooperate with ICE, but how are you welcoming of immigrants if as soon as they are detained you turn your back on them? You could at least house them, take care of them, provide them medical, feed them, etc. You can choose to "be complicit" by housing them, or the other option is they could be housed at a for-profit jail run by a private company, such as G4S, that doesn't provide the same level of adequate care.

#4 Continuing the contract with ICE makes Howard County less safe.

It's confusing to say that not cooperating with federal law enforcement is a good thing, that it keeps the community safe. And then to say that illegal immigrants not cooperating with local law enforcement is bad and will lead to less safety. Shouldn't you be pro deportation then? So that the people in our community are comprised of people willing to testify on behalf of the innocent.



Have you imagined how you'd feel if you or a loved one was a victim of a heinous crime, and the only witness that could help bring justice stays silent because they fear detention and deportation?

Having addressed these 4 common themes from the written testimony, I will now give evidence of the result of passing bills similar to CB51.

In 2017, the city of Santa Ana decided not to renew it's \$340,000 a month contract with ICE, they planned to layoff correction officers to deal with the budget deficit. Furthermore, the detainees were relocated to Adelanto jail run by G4S, a 2 hour drive from Santa Ana, adding to financial and time off hardships for visitors. Transgender detainees were transferred to Las Vegas since Adelanto did not have a space classified to house them.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Eduardo Ribeiro <guayoribeiro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 5:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Walsh, Elizabeth; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Jones, Opel  
**Subject:** I urge you to support CB 51

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear councilmembers:

I am a Howard County resident, a voter, and a District 3 constituent.

I am also a hardworking Afro-Latino immigrant father who moved to the county in order to provide a better life for his children, in an environment in which diversity and racial equity would be respected and cherished. As such, I am writing to urge you to support CB51, to end the county's contract to house ICE's immigrant detainees in our Jessup detention center.

ICE's mistreatment of immigrants is well-documented, and includes several forms of physical and emotional abuse aimed at demoralizing and demeaning its detainees, stripping them of their most fundamental rights as fellow human beings. A contract with such an agency — which enforces a racist immigration system designed by white nationalists at the White House — is morally unjustifiable, even if some of our elected leaders find it politically convenient.

Abolishing the ICE contract will send a strong message in support of our immigrant community, who plays an essential part in making Howard County the thriving community it is. It will also indicate Howard County's true commitment to the rights of all of its residents, independent of their immigration status, and its opposition to intolerance and bigotry.

I am looking forward to the passing of CB 51, with your unequivocal support.

Sincerely yours,

Eduardo R. Ribeiro, Ph.D.  
Laurel, MD 20723