

**From:** [Harrod, Michelle R](#)  
**To:** [Respass, Charity](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Council Bill 80-2021  
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Public Testimony for CB80-2021

Thank you,  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Leslie Toussaint <[l2saint@gmail.com](mailto:l2saint@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:11 PM  
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Subject: Council Bill 80-2021

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Physical harassment of public-facing employees (airlines, nurses, first responders, restaurant workers) and other citizens has indeed become a problem recently. I have no doubt that DPW and other county employees have encountered members of the public who exhibit dangerous levels of anger and frustration. As a county resident, I experienced this last Fall at Cedar Lane Park when another county resident grew angry over the fact that the tennis courts were reserved for children's lessons. The individuals in question used foul and threatening language against parents and parks and rec staff in front of the children who were there for the class. It was inappropriate, scary and stressful and we called the police. The bigger issue was the perpetrators were long gone by the time law enforcement (in this case, a county park ranger) showed up on the scene.

Which brings me to the point that we already have laws against verbal and physical assault of county employees. They are the same laws that are supposed to protect residents. Council Bill 80-2021 simply reiterates what constitutes a verbal threat and prohibits them on county property. Seems we should be adding police presence at some of these locations to discourage this behavior and enforce existing laws, rather than writing new ones.

Not saying harassment isn't an issue, just saying adding more laws isn't going to fix it. The pandemic has put everyone on edge and as stress levels rise so does people's frustrations. We need to add more security personnel to discourage and de-escalate the behavior.

Thank you,  
Leslie Toussaint  
Ellicott City, MD