

CB 51-2022

Sayers, Margery

From: Angie Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 51-2022 Testimony Public Information Act Request Reviews

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

Council Members,

I was pleased to see this bill introduced and urge you to vote for it.

Transparency is important to our government. Denials of requests for information should be rare, and when county staff wants to deny a request it is worth having a legal review to confirm that the information falls within the rather narrow grounds for denial.

Since I am confident that denials are rare, this bill should not significantly increase the workload of the Office of Law and will definitely help the public have confidence that our government is not trying to "cover things up". It therefore protects both the public and the government officials.

Thank you, Councilmember Yungmann for introducing it. I hope all your colleagues will join you in supporting it.

Angie Boyter

Sayers, Margery

From: Angie Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 6:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB51-2022 Review Denials of Public Information Requests

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

Council Members,

I am delighted to see this bill and urge you to vote for it.

County operations should be as transparent as possible, and the vast majority of information should be freely available when requested.

There are definitely valid reasons for denying a request, reasons that are generally agreed upon, but these should be in the minority. Frequent denials or denials that were clearly unjustified seriously harm the public's trust in our government. Having denials reviewed by the Office of Law will assure the public that denials were justified.

In addition, such a procedure will provide helpful data---we will be able to see what proportion of requests were denied and also what proportion of those denials were upheld by the Office of Law. This will discourage unreasonable denials and assure the public that county operations are fair and transparent.

Thank you in advance for supporting this bill and thank you in particular, David Yungmann, for sponsoring it.

Angie Boyter

Ellicott City