

Good morning,

My name is Lynn Lascola and I live at 6143 Llanfair Drive, 3 doors down from 6131 Llanfair Drive. I want to share a day in the life someone whose neighbor is hosting parties for profit at their residence.

Early afternoon last Monday I was outside and noticed a few cars pull up to 6131 around 1pm to unload drinks and ice to the backyard. The pool had been busy for the past 4 days with parties on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Since it was early on a Monday afternoon, I was hopeful that it would be a small gathering.

A little over an hour later, I was heading out to work in my garden when I saw a black sedan with Virginia plates fly down the street at a speed far exceeding the speed limit. I saw it pull into 6131, cutting off the US Postal service lady doing her deliveries. The driver opened her car door and a huge cloud of marijuana smoke came out. She then got out of the car and confronted me for taking a photo of her car. Explaining that speeding can endanger pedestrians and interfere with deliveries only caused her to become more confrontational. Fortunately her passenger helped de-escalate the situation. Not wanting this angry driver to know where I lived, I kept walking until I was around the corner and called the police non-emergency line.

When the officer arrived, she mentioned that she had been called out to this house about 5-6 times already this past month. She indicated she was powerless to do anything as this was not criminal behavior as she didn't witness the speeding or have proof of driving under the influence. She says the homeowner insists that he is within his legal rights to host these parties at his residence and that he will continue to do so.

All afternoon, more cars came down Llanfair, parking up both sides of the street, all headed to 6131.

Later that evening, returning from a redistricting meeting, I counted 37 cars parked on the street that didn't belong to my neighbors. Since all the cars I saw arriving earlier were full, I estimated that the party had well over 100 guests at that point.

Around 8pm, sitting in my living room, I watched it become a street party. Young people were loitering by cars and on our lawn, smoking weed, drinking alcohol, hanging out in their cars doing I don't know what. This continued for about 45 minutes until the police came, only after a neighbor called to complain about driveways and fire hydrants being blocked by the street party.

The arrival of the police caused many of the partygoers to get into cars and leave. After things quieted down, I went outside and found the streets littered with trash. I finally got my garden gloves on... to clean up all the trash left in the street--no one at 6131 has ever cleaned up the trash left after the parties. The last group of partygoers didn't leave Llanfair until after 11pm.

You may regard my story as a mere inconvenience to me and my neighbors. But consider this: bringing this many people on a narrow residential cul-de-sac will eventually result in an injury, or worse. It may be a speeding car hitting a child, an injury in the unmonitored pool, or an altercation between intoxicated party goers. That is why this is an emergency. Please act now to prevent someone from getting hurt.

July 30, 2025 Testimony by Mark Southerland in Support of (FOR)

Council Bill No. 58-2025 Emergency Act – Prohibition and Fines for For-Profit Parties or Entertainment on Residential Property Testimony on Raising Fine for Commercial Rentals to Howard County Council

Thank you, members of the County Council, for considering this bill to provide timely relief to our community from illegal activities that threaten our safety and well-being.

I am Mark Southerland and, with my wife Mary Klett, I have lived at 6135 Llanfair Drive since 2006. We are directly next door to the 6131 Llanfair Drive property that is engaging in illegal hourly rentals for large and unruly parties.

I understand that the owner is out of state, but there is a part-time occupier of the property named Mendi Baron whom I invited over for dessert when he first arrived in November. I also asked Mr. Baron to bring his dogs inside at night since their barking was waking me. He said the dogs were outside 24/7 and barked because we back to woods. The barking has continued for eight months and continues to wake me almost every night.

Unfortunately, this nuisance behavior grew to unsafe activities when Mr. Baron began illegally renting his house and pool to parties that exceeded 100 people. Such parties have resulted in cars racing down our residential cul-de-sac, alcohol and marijuana consumption and fighting in the street, loud noise, and our driveway being blocked by guest cars—in one case for 24 hours.

It is no longer safe for the children in our neighborhood to play basketball and street hockey as they have done for years. Access to our driveways sometimes must be provided by Howard County police for which we thank them. Our neighborhood was not built or zoned to support this kind of commercial activity, which is why 6131 is in violation of county law. At the same time, the current fine of \$250 per violation is not likely to deter an illegal commercial operation that may net \$5000 in one night. Therefore, I think Councilperson Jung has crafted the correct remedy—which will reduce if not eliminate the moneymaking incentive for these rentals to continue by raising the penalty to \$5000.

I urge you to pass this bill so that other neighborhoods will not suffer the same fate.



Mark Southerland
6135 Llanfair Drive
Columbia MD 21044

CB58-20
25 AN ACT adding a provision to Title 8, Subtitle 9 of the Howard County Code prohibiting parties or entertainment for profit; establishing the penalty for violation of the prohibition against parties or entertainment for profit at a residential property; declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet an immediate emergency affecting public health, safety or welfare; and generally related to for-profit parties or entertainment

Good morning Council Members,

My name is Sabera Husain, and I'm a resident of western Howard County. My husband and I built our beautiful pool shortly after moving into our home nine years ago, when our two children were young. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted a few family and friends who were in need of a safe, private space to enjoy time outdoors. A friend suggested being a host on Swimply after she enjoyed a swim in our pool - and since then, we've welcomed many families as a Swimply host and honestly have built meaningful relationships with so many of them.

We've hosted a father who has a son with a disability on multiple occasions, a friend who is a swimming instructor and uses our pool to offer one-on-one swim instruction for children, and numerous Muslim and Jewish families who, for religious reasons, require private swim settings. I've even hosted my own physical therapist who conducted yoga and water aerobics for friends on a weekly basis and a repeat guest who is immunocompromised and prefers a super private and clean place to enjoy with her friends. Swimply has allowed me to serve others with compassion, while sharing a space we built with care and intention.

Like you, we DO NOT want loud commercial parties in our backyard. We are NOT open to the public and take pride in the privacy and exclusivity of our space. We prohibit loud music, do not allow alcohol, and never host after sunset. We prioritize being good neighbors and have established clear rules and boundaries to ensure our pool is used respectfully and safely.

As a longtime educator, I'm deeply committed to sharing resources and opening my heart—and home—to others, especially children. Hosting through Swimply is a natural extension of that ethos. I've seen firsthand how this platform can bring joy, inclusion, and a sense of community.

An outright ban on Swimply would disproportionately impact families without access to HOA pools, those unable to afford club memberships, and those seeking modest, private options for cultural or religious reasons. I urge the Council to consider a more nuanced solution—such as permitting guest limits, or noise regulations—rather than a total prohibition.

Please vote NO on Bill CB58-2025 and consider a more nuanced solution. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sabera Husain
Resident of Howard County