

Support for CB 17-2015

Gerard Bowen [Gerard.Bowen@sjerc.org]

Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 4:38 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: Letter to Howard County C~1.docx (238 KB)

Please do *not* let this bill die, care for our children's present well-being and their future health is a moral obligation. Thank you.



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
10431 TWIN RIVERS ROAD
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044

June 26, 2015

Dear Madame Chair and Council Members,

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church is an active, committed parish made up of over 3,400 families. Our church believes that we must support, consider and act on local and global issues of social justice.

St. John's supports CB17-2015 because the bill would help to share the benefit of healthy snacks and drinks for all community members on county property. On behalf of St. John Catholic Parish, I urge you to support CB17-2015, Healthy Food and Beverage Options.

Sugar sweetened beverages and snacks are advertised and promoted, and they are often less expensive. This is the case currently on Howard County Property. If someone on the property wants a snack, healthy options are generally limited and more expensive than the less healthy options.

By adopting the bill on the other hand, the county would be working toward social justice by helping to ensure that healthy snacks and drinks are available to all on Howard County property. By ensuring that healthy options cost less, Howard County would help them to be more accessible to all, even those who may be economically disadvantaged. CB17-2015 accomplishes this through requiring that items meeting nutrition standards cost \$0.25 less than less healthy options.

Finally, the bill promotes social justice in that it ensures that life-sustaining water is available, free of charge, during county events and programs.

The Howard County Council should work toward social justice, and can do so by ensuring that a sufficient variety of healthy food and drink options are available, accessible, and affordable for residents when they are on county property.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this issue.

Fr. Gerry Owen

Rev. Gerard J. Bowen
Pastor