

Timestamp	First Name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	If not, who are you representing?	Remarks	File Upload (optional)
-----------	------------	-----------	------	-------	----------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------	------------------------

Timestamp	First Name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	If not, who are you representing?	Remarks	File Upload (optional)
2024-12-20 17:46:53	Matthew	Helgeson	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		<p>Dear council,</p> <p>I am reaching out to express life safety (and safety) concerns in Anne Arundel county in relation to what was my generation's #1 killer in the United States prior to the opioid epidemic (traffic accidents, as well as other generic accidents such as falling through a guardrail, or being impaled by a fence).</p> <p>The concern also comes amidst a shortage of Attention Deficit and Hyperactive Disorder medication shortages throughout the country that started sometime in 2022 and continues to this day.</p> <p>The concern is in relation to relaxed regulations and policies to illuminated advertising and off-site directional signage. The bright and not-so-bright TV screens are distracting motorists, increase light pollution unnecessarily without advantage nor purpose to any safety concept, and many are very difficult to ignore completely, or at all. The problem with allowing any of them anywhere at all, is now the businesses that don't use it, will get less business. So then eventually every place will need to have them to get attention and then everyone will get the same amount of business as before, or perhaps equally less business as people will want to venture out less within an unsafe ad dystopia. I recall Dr.Suess wrote a book about this dilemma, called the 'Star Bellied Sneeches,' everyone wanted a star(s) and kept paying money until... yeah. All the while, crash rates will be much higher. This is the type of murder/ manslaughter corporate greed and evil are responsible for, and it also doesn't make any sense, especially in the long run. Be proactive, not reactive. The only way to avoid this dystopia, is to ban them altogether, except with special purpose, inordinate special authorizations, strict and limiting time spans of usage and short-term permits that are allotted democratically. Oh, also as listed and approved traffic control devices (such as the ones they recently added to the bay bridge). Those special exceptions must be supplemented with strict restriction. Such as only using the sign when a special message is required for operations. Such as a special event currently ongoing at a high school (E.G. polling or zoning meetings). Electronically changeable message signs that do not require illuminated text exist. A great example would be electronic ink, such as those found on a Kindle. Banning illuminated changeable signs would not eliminate the ability for a useful and adequate changeable sign. It would however, prevent videos from being displayed. Which is one of main ideas behind this testimony.</p> <p>Not to mention, off-site direction signs are supposed to be used for directions. Not advertisements. It's in the name. There is truly no need for a TV nor any form of changeable signs at most nearly all the locations in which they are currently present. As there are very few and unordinary examples of when it would be necessary for directions. E.G. of a legitimate purpose: recreational/event centers may use them to direct motorists to bingo on Thursdays and HOA meetings on Wednesday. Purposes like that are legitimate and should be permitted. All other uses should be discontinued as it poses an imminent life safety hazard that will claim lives. Exception: messages displayed out front of fire departments and other (fire) life safety facilities (such as OSHA offices), may have advantageous information to public life safety, and should really be permitted.</p> <p>Brief note that I disagree with the recent changes to AA county public school's signs. They were nearly all replaced with some form of TV screen and almost all of them show bright vibrant or motion images, and that it extremely disgraceful. I feel this way because it is my money being used to hurt my safety. I want all my taxes back or for those signs to be removed. Greedy / egoistic businesses using them is one thing, but for Anne Arundel to use them is truly disagreeable, to say the least.</p> <p>I was hoping to have my county council member sponsor a bill that will reevaluate the loosening of regulations. With the end objective being to eliminate them as much as possible or applicable. Around this time, I've also noticed other "downgrades" from a safety-perspective such as: Yellow (er) LED lights, speed limits being decreased (this is a downgrade as it's used as a legal loophole / protection for the DOT not to provide any safety features or changes, such as improved guardrail systems or sight distance), increasement of petty enforcement, and the lack of real driver's education. This is supplemented with a lack of life-safety advantageous information within traffic education. At least on accounts of my personal experiences in 2022 of drivers' education in Maryland, that is what I have concluded. I understand that is mostly the MVA's fault as they control the curriculum for the required courseware. But impartial and reasonable courses should be provided for free in the public education system as an extracurricular, just like how it used to be back in the 80's or so. That would require an additional / separate bill to be sponsored, requiring a semester long driver's education course to be taken and passed, before an individual is able to legally take the MVA's (provisional) driver's license test (or until they graduate and turn 18). This further confirms my initial belief that many recent changes are based on avaricious willful/wrongful, optimistically speaking perhaps, grossly negligent manslaughter. the lack of education and engineering, with an uptick in enforcement, low speed limits (often used to save and make money and ultimately to avoid public desire for more safety or to avoid liability, such as a new guardrail install or accountability when someone is killed for lack thereof). dark lights and distractions are</p>	

Timestamp	First Name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	If not, who are you representing?	Remarks	File Upload (optional)
2025-01-12 15:52:22	Jim	Bongiorno	Odenton	Maryland	21113	Yes		<p>PENALTY FOR ABUSING FIELD LIGHTS RESTORED</p> <p>Thanks to my MPIA Request #202103, AA County Staff acknowledged in a 12/31/24 email that "... the [Operation of Field Lights] language was removed in error on October 2, 2024, and has been added to our website's current Parks Guidelines and Reference Manual, effective December 12, 2024." (See the attachment for the 12/31/24 email.)</p> <p>Page 30 has this restored requirement: "Field lights shall be used only when needed. Turning lights on earlier than necessary or leaving lights on after the last evening activity may result in additional charges per field ..."</p> <p>Frankly, it is hard to believe that the Operation of Field Light section was "removed in error" on October 2, 2024 because: 1) No other section was accidentally removed; 2) I repeatedly referenced this section in my correspondence with Recreation & Parks; 3) When I complained about this missing section to County Staff in October, no one replied, "Whoops, we made a mistake."</p> <p>Per my December testimony, the County has spent tens of thousands of dollars lighting empty fields at GORC Park since May 2024. As much as \$200,000 may have been wasted so far. That waste affects every citizen.</p> <p>At every meeting the Council recites an invocation seeking guidance to govern well. The County Executive issues email updates with subjects like "Lessons in Humility". Frankly, it is all meaningless if the County looks the other way after receiving incontrovertible evidence of waste.</p> <p>The County Charter gives the Council oversight authority. We expect you to be good stewards. Now that the field light regulation has been restored, what will the Council do to hold County Staff accountable? If the Council does not act, then what does that say about how well the Council is managing the rest of our hard-earned tax dollars?</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system
2025-01-13 13:01:25	Brian	Smith	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>I'd like to have some consideration about the "Bring Your Own Bag Plastic Reduction Act". I own two Chick-fil-A locations in the Crofton area. One level of service that we provide is Delivery to local homes and businesses. In most instances we're instructed to just leave food orders at front doors. It's my understanding that there are no exceptions made to the policy, so we're currently delivering food in paper bags. We struggle with protecting our food quality when we're having to do this. Regardless of rain, snow, or ice, we're just setting bags on wet pavement - sometimes just in standing water during a downpour. Is there a possibility of having a carve-out in this plastic bag ban, to allow us to use plastic bags in just our delivery service? I believe this is a reasonable request - and anyone who receives food deliveries would appreciate a thoughtful and logical consideration. I appreciate your review and look forward to hearing from you.</p>	