



VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE
PO BOX 15887, CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

February 10, 2020

Delegate Alfred Clinton Carr, Jr.
House Office Building, Room 222
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Carr:

Due to prior commitments, the Councilmembers of the Village of North Chevy Chase are unable to testify in person in support of Bill 717. This letter serves to affirm the Village of North Chevy Chase's strong endorsement for Bill 717's efforts to require transparency on the part of government agencies to public information requests.

As you know, residents of the Village of North Chevy Chase began receiving letters from State Highway Administration in November 2019 notifying them that SHA would be accessing their private property to "complete field research and survey activities" as part of the I-495 & I-270 P3 Program. Upon your efforts to receive information from SHA on which properties received the letters to better understand the breadth of the survey, SHA hid behind an act meant to protect citizens' personal data and refused to disclose the information. Unfortunately, SHA's actions furthered residents' significant concerns that planning efforts to expand the beltway have been far from transparent.

While the Village is respectful of laws that are intended to protect people's personal data, the Maryland Public Information Act, as currently written, is clearly flawed if it allows government agencies to utilize it as a cover from sharing information that substantially impacts communities. Bill 717 is an effort to fix this and ensure that Maryland's government agencies are accountable to the taxpayers which they serve.

Thank you very much for your leadership on this issue and support for the residents of the Village of North Chevy Chase.

Sincerely,

Adrian Andreassi

Council Chair, Village of North Chevy Chase

(Additional Council members: Brian Hoffner, Maury Mechanick, Chas Stuart, Fern Lapidus)