

Rosemary McCloskey, Silver Spring Justice Coalition  
Testimony on House Bill 1221  
Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD  
March 3, 2020

Good afternoon, My name is Rosemary McCloskey. I am here to testify on behalf of The Silver Spring Justice Coalition who opposes this bill. This Coalition was organized after the unjust killing of my neighbor Robert White. While walking home, Robert was approached by a police officer for looking suspicious as he was wearing ripped clothing and had his hand in his pocket. His killing was ultimately ruled justified. Our neighborhood was devastated and his family is heartbroken. Robert was a good man and gentle soul who was beloved by our community. He was killed for walking while Black in his neighborhood. Our community has yet to learn the details of the investigation or much information about the officer who killed him, except that he still serves on the force.

The Silver Spring Justice Coalition OPPOSES this bill unless amended.

Specifically, we propose that HB 1221 be amended to allow disclosure of:

- 1) All use of force investigations, regardless of whether it causes death or serious bodily injury;
- 2) All discrimination or bias misconduct, not only "prohibited discrimination" as the bill currently states;
- 3) Misconduct committed during criminal investigations, like those documented in the Baltimore City Gun Trace Task Force;

4) Criminal activity by officers; and Investigations into misconduct regardless of the outcome.

Our community has lost faith in our police and we are still seeking answers. We want full transparency and this bill does not provide it in its current form.

Thank you.