

To: Senator Will Smith, Chair of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

From: Mary Ann Ford, 3702 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown, MD 2717

Date: February 2, 2012

Per: Support for SB 626 Use of Force Bill

Dear Senator Smith,

I am a longtime resident of Frederick County and this summer, I joined thousands of Frederick County residents to protest police violence in this county, state and country. We said then and we say now law enforcement must be accountable for its use of force –that it must do all it can to preserve life.

Thus I ask you and your colleagues on Judicial Proceedings to vote in favor of SB 626.

ACLU and other advocates of police reform make the case that Maryland must codify use of force standards to ensure law enforcement is accountable for its use. I am dismayed that Maryland is one of the few states that has resisted for so long such legislation.

Sadly here in Frederick County there has been 2 lethal force incidents in the last 6 years, both killings by the same Sheriff's deputy, who is still employed in the Sheriff's Department. The circumstances around these killings have never been made public and serious questions exist about whether the deputy did everything possible to keep from killing 2 men. An 18-year old man was killed in 2013 as a result of the officer participating in a no knock entry in the early morning hours. The 18 year old being sought fired on officers as they entered the home, their having detonated a flash bomb as they entered. In the other in 2019 the officer shot a man who refused an order to drop his gun as ordered. The man was on private property at night: law enforcement reported receiving information of his being suicidal and in violation of an ex parte order. Little else has been made public about these incidents.

Use of force legislation is needed and I urge your support.