



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

February 2, 2024

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland State Senate
c/o Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0120 - Juvenile Law and Custodial Interrogation

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bowie to express our support for Senate Bill 0120, a significant piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the rights of juveniles during custodial interrogations. The bill seeks to authorize a child to consult with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian instead of an attorney before a law enforcement officer may conduct a custodial interrogation of the child.

The City of Bowie is committed to promoting the well-being and fair treatment of all individuals, especially our youth. Senate Bill 0120 aligns with this commitment by recognizing the importance of allowing juveniles to consult with their parents, guardians, or custodians before undergoing custodial interrogations. This provision not only ensures the protection of the child's rights but also facilitates a more supportive and informed process for juveniles facing legal questioning.

We believe that involving parents, guardians, or custodians in the custodial interrogation process is a positive step towards promoting fairness, transparency, and the overall welfare of juveniles within the criminal justice system. This approach not only recognizes the unique vulnerabilities of juveniles but also fosters a more collaborative and supportive environment during legal proceedings.

As representatives of the City of Bowie, we urge the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to support Senate Bill 0120 and contribute to the advancement of juvenile rights within the legal system. This legislation reflects our shared values of justice, compassion, and the protection of the rights of our youth.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we appreciate your continued efforts to address issues that impact the rights and well-being of individuals in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor