

Letter to AG and MGA SB953.pdf

Uploaded by: Augustine , Malcom

Position: FWA

Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

William C. Ferguson IV, President, Maryland Senate
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101, State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Maryland response to the January 6, 2021 events at the United States Capitol

Dear Senator Ferguson, Speaker Jones, and Attorney General Frosh:

The January 6, 2021 attack on the United States Capitol was an egregious offense against our democracy and amounted to nothing short of domestic terrorism. It is the opinion of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville that the events at the United States Capitol should serve as a lesson from which the State and its municipalities can learn.

Most can agree that individuals who participated in the attack in any manner should be prosecuted to the fullest extent permitted by law. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville requests that the General Assembly take steps during the current legislative session which would prioritize and better enable the prosecution of such individuals under Maryland State law, where appropriate, and to further protect Maryland residents from similar acts of insurrection which may occur in the future.

Although there are State laws under which individuals who commit similar offenses toward the Maryland General Assembly may be prosecuted, see e.g., § 2-1702 of the State Government Article, Md. Code Ann. (prohibiting an individual from disrupting or interfering with a session, meeting, or proceeding of the General Assembly; prohibiting an individual from willfully bringing an assault weapon, firearm, or destructive device into a chamber or office of the General Assembly; providing criminal penalties for the same); §§ 6-409 (criminalizing the refusal or failure to leave a public building or grounds), 10-201 (criminalizing a disturbance of the public peace and disorderly conduct in public places), 4-208 (prohibiting a person from possessing a firearm at a demonstration in a public place) of the Criminal Law Article, Md. Code Ann., the General Assembly should enact legislation which criminalizes additional acts of domestic terrorism. Criminal acts which are predicated upon an intent to terrorize or to disrupt the orderly conduct of government should also carry enhanced sentences. Such legislation should also permit the local prosecution of those who participate in acts of insurrection on federal property but utilize State resources in the process, such as driving on State roads or staying at hotels within the State. The State should have mechanisms by which it can

apprehend and charge such individuals. Any such legislation should be drafted so as to foster trust within African American, Latino, Indigenous, and LGBTQ populations, rather than increasing surveillance and over policing of said populations.

The events of January 6, 2021 also resulted in the over taxing of police departments, especially those in Prince George's County, whereby local departments had to rapidly develop plans to protect their jurisdictions from any potential spill over from the events which took place in Washington, D.C. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville believe that coordinated plans, akin to those which are implemented under states of emergency, need to be created to allow the sharing of resources and information between State and municipal agencies. As such, it is requested that some sort of task force be commissioned to develop coordination plans between State and local agencies in responding to the threat of domestic terror within the State.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville are also concerned about reports from across the country which indicate that members of local police departments, who hold radical and racially prejudicial beliefs, participated in the assault on the Capitol. As such, the City requests that the General Assembly consider creating a committee for the purpose of studying whether systemic political and racial bias exist within police departments in the State. Any such committee would then present findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly about how best to proceed, should there be a need.

Furthermore, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville ask that the General Assembly and the Office of the Attorney General develop a program by which agencies and stakeholders share any data and information learned about threats of domestic terrorism that may arise within the State. A knowledge-sharing program such as this would uniformly increase preparedness and responses. The City also asks that the public be made aware of any domestic terror activity, so that residents know the types of behavior to report to law enforcement agencies as domestic terror activity.

What occurred at the United States Capitol was an assault on the very foundation of our democracy. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville requests that the General Assembly and Office of the Attorney General take action in line with the above-outlined steps which aim to not only prevent acts of domestic terrorism but will also best enable the State and local municipalities to respond in the event that they do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor
City of Hyattsville

cc: Hyattsville City Council

SB0953-663525-01.pdf

Uploaded by: Augustine , Malcom

Position: FWA



SB0953/663525/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

23 MAR 21
11:22:31

BY: Senator Augustine
(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 953
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 7, strike “and”; and in line 9, after “League” insert “; and”

(11) one representative of the Prince George’s County Municipal Association, designated by the President of the Association”.

SB953 Support Letter (PGCMA).pdf

Uploaded by: Percy, Davion

Position: FWA



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association Of 27 Municipalities



March 23, 2021

The Honorable William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Favorable with Amendments of SB953 – Domestic Terrorism Task Force

Dear Chair Smith,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which represents the 27 incorporated cities and towns in Prince George's County, I am writing to express support with amendments for SB953. This bill establishes the Domestic Terrorism Taskforce and provides for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force. It also requires that the Task Force study and develop a plan to establish a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and among State and federal government entities. These findings and recommendations will be reported to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1, 2022.

The members of PGCMA are supporting this bill because our residents and their safety are our top priority. However, we do ask that the composition of the task force includes a member of the Prince George's County Municipal Association appointed by the PGCMA President. This language was added to task force legislation in the past. PGCMA represents a concentration of municipalities along the D.C. border, which requires a greater degree of communication in the event of an incident. Therefore, PGCMA would like to have a seat on the task force and be directly involved with the inner works of the Task Force.

On behalf of PGCMA, I thank you for considering this legislation, and I urge a favorable with amendments vote on SB953

Regards,

Mayor Bennard Cann
President, Prince George's County Municipal Association

SB 0953.pdf

Uploaded by: Reichert-Price, Sarah

Position: FWA

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
And Members of The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 0953-Domestic Terrorism Task Force SUPPORT W/ AMMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

SB 0953, like SB 0864, focuses on, and singles out white supremacy as being the only actions which currently threaten Homeland Security, thereby turning a blind eye to the radical and heinous crimes of Antifa and BLM. It is of my opinion that white supremacy groups are not causing any where near the violent and heinous crimes against citizens and entire communities as that of BLM and Antifa, yet, at every turn, there are individuals demanding the protection for members of every race, other than Caucasians, from white supremacists. Celebrities and government officials are creating racism where no racism exists.

SB 0953, along with SB 0864 implies that misinformation and disinformation are that which is presented by conservative media sources. If thoughts and ideas don't agree with the radical narrative of the Democratic Party, it's misinformation. If MSM would pursue the truth, through true journalism, and broadcast facts, instead of a skewed narrative, there would be no misinformation. Why is it always assumed that Conservative ideology is disinformation?

Unequal punishment for equal, or even more devastating, crimes is causing bitterness and rage among the citizens of Maryland and throughout the U.S. Reverse discrimination is emerging, and citizens are being punished for simply "being white" and labeled as racist.

There should be an equal set of standards for the judgement of, and punishment for, such crimes, regardless of the performers. Race should not be a factor thereof.

As long as the violent crimes of BLM and Antifa continue to be labeled as "peaceful protests" and the perpetrators thereof receive no punishment; as long as white citizens are labeled as the only performers of hate crimes and racist actions, and, yes, as long as the fraud surrounding the 2020 Presidential election is dismissed as "conspiracy theory", there will be division, bitterness and dissention among Marylanders and American citizens, in general.

Please vote for a FAVORABLE REPORT for SB 0953 with an amendment to include the offenses of BLM and Antifa.

Sincerely,
Sarah Reichert-Price
221 Miller Street
Westernport, MD

Letter to AG and MGA_1.28.21_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Solomon, Joseph

Position: FWA

Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas
City Administrator

William C. Ferguson IV, President, Maryland Senate
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

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Furthermore, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville ask that the General Assembly and the Office of the Attorney General develop a program by which agencies and stakeholders share any data and information learned about threats of domestic terrorism that may arise within the State. A knowledge-sharing program such as this would uniformly increase preparedness and responses. The City also asks that the public be made aware of any domestic terror activity, so that residents know the types of behavior to report to law enforcement agencies as domestic terror activity.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Ward
Interim Mayor
City of Hyattsville

cc: Hyattsville City Council

SB953_Testimony_Joseph_Solomon.pdf

Uploaded by: Solomon, Joseph

Position: FWA

Joseph A. Solomon
Hyattsville City Council
4310 Gallatin Street
Hyattsville, MD 20782

The Honorable William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Favorable with Amendments of SB953 – Domestic Terrorism Task Force

I strongly urge the committee to support the establishment of the Domestic Terrorism Taskforce as amended by the Senator Malcolm Augustine to include an appointment from the Prince George's County Municipal Association.

As elected in officials in the State of Maryland we take an oath of office calling upon us protect and defend both the Constitution of the State of Maryland as well the U.S. Constitution. Our constitution calls upon us to defend our country from threats both foreign and domestic.

Domestic terrorism is real in the United States. While our country has made tremendous strides toward reconciliation with history terror against minority communities, the attempted use of fear tactics and intimidation against minority communities, and even governmental entities is once again becoming a regular occurrence, especially given the Trump presidency as an accelerant. From the assault raffles at the Michigan State Capitol and attempted kidnaping of the Michigan governor, to the even more recent white supremacist driven attacks against people of Asian descent and asian communities. Domestic terror and white supremacy must be stopped. Not simply denounced, repudiated, or chastised, it must be stopped.

According to the Washington reporting the declassified National Counterterrorism Center, FBI, and DHS March 2021 Threat Report.

Domestic violent extremism poses an “elevated threat” to the United States this year, and lone offenders or small, self-organized cells — rather than organizations — are most likely to carry out attacks...racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists and self-styled militias present the most lethal threats.”

Our country has made bold steps toward reckoning with a past shrouded in racism, and terror for many minority communities. Now is not the time to allow a group of jihadist-styled bullies to use violent intimidation tactics to assert their cynical viewpoint upon the broader American public. Especially not here in the State of Maryland.

In Maryland, given our proximity to the Nation's Capitol, home to some many government resources and government workers, diversity of people, and our respect

for that diversity, we must ask ourselves, how can we protect our communities? How can Maryland ensure greater protection from domestic terror, through both prevention, but also coordinate response in the event an incident occurs either within the State or with a neighboring jurisdiction. In asking ourselves these questions, we must also answer honestly, knowing that State preparedness must mean prepared at all levels of government, including coordination amongst the Counties, and Municipalities.

I remind this committee that on January 6, 2021, pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, the President of the Senate, the Senate and the House of Representatives, were fulfilling their Constitutional duties. Unfortunately, in the weeks and days ahead of January 6, 2021, President Donald Trump urged his supporters to go to Washington, D.C. to stop the certification of the election results, contending that the results were invalid. Similar sentiments were expressed by other elected officials across the United States who urged their colleagues to object to the electoral vote certification, thereby overturning the will largely minority voters across of the Country. During a rally planned for January 6th 2021 attendees did in fact enter and vandalize both chambers and Congressional offices and committed acts of violence and theft during their siege on the Capitol.

I, like many Maryland residents, sat at home watching the brazen criminal acts committed on the television news cycles, completely aghast and horrified. Many residents living in the municipalities along the DC border, public expressed fear and concern understanding the insurrection, the act of domestic terrorism, framed as patriotism was occurring only a few miles away; right up the road for some.

The lives of residents from the City of Hyattsville, Maryland and the surrounding community, working in or near the Capitol, were imperiled by the rally attendees turned insurrectionists who sought to do harm to person and property. Local press reported to our residents on sudden incidents of concern in both Riverdale Park and Takoma Park, heightening the level of fear and anxiety within our communities.

To this committee I ask you to remember that, five individuals died as a result of the violent attempt of the insurrectionists to disrupt Congress from opening and counting the electoral votes certified by each state. I ask you take into account the level concern within our communities and the benefits revisiting or emergency preparedness in the event of another domestic terror incident. The municipalities are stand ready to partner with the State in this effort. Communities across our great State our counting on our ability to be prepared, especially given the added concern that officers were both injured protected our Capitol, and some perhaps complicit in the actions that took place.

Thank you,

Joseph A. Solomon
Hyattsville City Council Member

Ward 5