

Michael C. O'Connor
Mayor



Marc DeOcampo
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FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101 Lowe Housing Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

2021 February 24

LETTER OF SUPPORT HB 0304/SB0088 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – PARTICIPATION
IN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Dear Delegate Clippinger,

As the Mayor of The City of Frederick, I support HB0304/SB0088.

Frederick is Maryland's second largest municipality and an increasingly diverse community. During my administration, the City has expanded our focus on diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Through conversations with the leadership of the Frederick Police Department, being located in a community where the county Sheriff's Office participates with the federal 287(g) program does not enhance trust within the communities we serve.

Our residents, especially in communities of color, are aware of the Frederick County Sheriff's interest in immigration enforcement and that creates challenges for our police. Even though the Frederick Police Department does not make inquiries regarding immigration status, these communities may still be more reluctant to report incidents in their neighborhoods and they can be hesitant to talk to anyone with badge.

Immigration is a federal issue. At the municipal level, in Frederick, the immigration status of our residents is not relevant to the services we provide. Especially when crime occurs, we want to gain as much information as quickly as we can. We rely on building partnerships in the community which can only occur when there is trust. Anything that hinders the development of that trust is a detriment to the work our officers need to do, which ultimately makes neighborhoods less safe than they should, which is a core local government function.

I would urge a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee on HB0304/SB0088 and the City of Frederick is happy to provide any additional information for that benefit.

Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. O'Connor", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Michael O'Connor
Mayor