

SB447_Sasha Gottlieb_fav.pdf

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Thank you, Chair Smith and Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 0447 ([SB0447](#)), which would enable the owner of a property to alert the Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) that a business has used that property's address incorrectly, and authorize SDAT to investigate such claims and remove inaccurate addresses from public records.

My husband and I purchased our current home in the Rock Creek Forest neighborhood of Chevy Chase in March 2013.

A former owner of our home previously registered several business entities at the address for our home, and did not correct these registrations after quitting the property.

From the time we took-up residence through the beginning of this month, we have received literally scores of pieces of mail from municipal governments, tax and legal professionals, etc. addressed to this previous owner.

Not long after we took-up residence, an off-duty police officer open-carrying a pistol knocked on our door as we sat down to dinner with our daughter—then an elementary-school student--intending to serve process on this former owner. We had to show photo ID to conclude this unfortunate imposition on our family's private time. On several other occasions, contractors have shown-up at our door at various times of day to collect unpaid bills.

We've contacted this former owner of our home many times to ask that he update public records for his businesses, and still we receive mail and knocks on our door intended for him. Please note that the former owner has not resided at our current address since 2007.

The public record reflects the lack of consideration embodied in this former owner's business practices: In July 2000, this individual accepted a plea bargain to resolve criminal charges brought by the District of Columbia in Superior Court, related to his conduct as the owner of a D.C. rental property.

At the Committee's request, I would happily share current Maryland state records available on the Internet for entities owned by this individual, which continue to list our home as these entities' official address.

My husband and I truly appreciate the prompt attention exhibited by Senator Waldstreicher and Delegate Solomon and their staff for help with this issue: We look forward to the Committee's reporting-out positively on Senate Bill 0447, and to the bill's swift enactment to ensure accountability on the part of Maryland businesses and protect third parties from the impositions we have experienced.