

Forest Heights HB 431 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Anthony Rease

Position: FAV



THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE
FOREST HEIGHTS, MD 20745
PHONE: [301-839-1030](tel:301-839-1030) FAX: 301-839-9236

Dear Chairman Barve,

I am writing to express my support for HB 431, Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) – Penalties PG 303–23.

As the Police Chief of Forest Heights, I have seen firsthand the impact that speed cameras have on incentivizing safe driving in our community. Our town is located right on the DC line, and we have some of the worst speeding issues in the county along Route 210. The presence of speed cameras has been crucial in reducing speeding and improving safety on our roads.

By increasing penalties for speeding violations, HB 431 will further incentivize drivers to drive safely, which is critical for the safety of our residents. It will also send a clear message that reckless driving will not be tolerated in our community. This legislation will help to ensure that all drivers on Maryland Route 210 are held accountable for their actions on the road.

I urge you to support this important piece of legislation, and I thank you for your continued efforts to improve road safety in Prince George's County.

Sincerely,
Anthony Rease
Chief of Police
Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

HB431_Randall_FAV

Uploaded by: Marilyn Randall

Position: FAV

February 21, 2023

Environmental and Transportation Committee

House Members:

Please support two bills: HB 431 and HB 435

In 1987 my family moved to 17810 Indian Head Highway, Accokeek, having bought a kennel business which we renamed Anchors Kennel.

We did have drag races during late night/early morning hours but during daylight and early evening hours traffic was minimal. It was a peaceful drive in both directions. It is no longer peaceful. Over the years, traffic has increased significantly because of development in Prince George's and Charles County and improvements to the Indian Head Highway.

It saddens me when I see the poles that have been placed on the shoulders to control drivers. Yes, it blocks drivers; however, it also blocks ambulances, police cars, and firetrucks from quick responses which could result in more deaths.

The third generation is taking over Anchors Kennel and I want a safer highway for our clients as well as my grandchildren and great grandchildren to travel. Please pass both bills which should make our highway safer and not be known as the "Highway of Death."

Sincerely,

Marilyn Randall

Anchors Kennel

Local Letter of Support PG County

Uploaded by: Nick Charles

Position: FAV

NICK CHARLES
CHAIR

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
1ST VICE CHAIR

ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON
2ND VICE CHAIR

TIFFANY T. ALSTON
BEN BARNES
DARRYL BARNES
ADRIAN BOAFO
DIANA M. FENNELL
KEVIN M. HARRIS
ANNE HEALEY
MARVIN E. HOLMES, JR.
JULIAN IVEY
MARY A. LEHMAN
JAZZ LEWIS
JEFFRIE E. LONG, JR.
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK
DENI TAVERAS
KYM TAYLOR
KAREN TOLES
VERONICA TURNER
KRISSELDA VALDERRAMA
JAMILA J. WOODS

STAFF
LATOSHA COLEMAN
CORY JEWELER

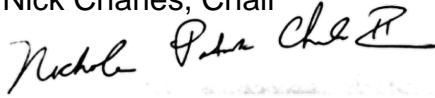
THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATION

Feb 6, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
House Office Building Room
251 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Dear Chairman Barve,

The Prince George's County House Delegation has voted Favorable on HB 431 - Prince George's County - Increasing number of speed cameras. The vote passed the Prince George's County House Delegation. The Delegation voting list is attached below. We respectfully request your support on HB 431. We thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Nick Charles, Chair



Prince George's County House Delegation
Legislative District 25

HB 431 Speed Camera Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: Rev. Dr. Robert Screen

Position: FAV

HB-431

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen

robscreen@comcast.net

Behind every data point given regarding traffic fatalities occurring on Md. 210 Indian Head Highway, there is a human being connected to family, friends, neighbors and community.

Their loss creates a vacuum, never to be filled again by their unique creation that so easily is forgotten, overlooked and batched together in this number crunching society we live in and unfortunately, in hearings such as this, the personal value of their lives gets tossed into the impersonal agenda driven rhetoric, 2 minute time limits for speaking, and a host of other components that govern the day of Annapolis Bill jockeying.

I would like to take this time to read to you in memorial memory, the names of 7 of the 10 individuals that lost their lives, last year on Maryland 210 Indian Head Highway that we all remember what this bill truly is all about.

THE SAVING AND VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE!!!

53 year old Antoine Mensah---39 year old Brandon Harris---56 year old Brenda Hackett---31 year old Kaleab Yehenew---56 year old Huerta Melendez---33 year old Tiffanie Bunch--- 33 Year old Katelin Rodriquez--- unable to ascertain the three remaining of the 10, may each and all rest in peace, and may their lives be not lost in vain, by the failure to pass this bill, that would increase the number of other lost souls!!!

Ron Weiss Support of HB 431 and HB 435.pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Chairman Barve and Committee Members,

I am Ron Weiss, a resident of Fort Washington, a member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, and a frequent user of MD 210, our "Main Street".

I am here today to urge your support of HB 431 and HB 435.

We are here today because:

10 people were killed in traffic violence on Maryland 210 last year.

Nearly 90 people have been killed on MD 210 since 2007.

Maryland 210 is the deadliest roadway per mile in Prince George's, in Maryland, and in the DC Metro region.

Of the four major roads I traveled to testify, MD 210, I-495, US 50, and Rowe, 210 was the most dangerous.

The existing 3 MD 210 speed cameras have been effective in slowing traffic according to police.

They have been effective with drivers who act their age and just need a nudge to slow down.

They have been in-effective with drivers who act younger than the age they were when they got their driver's license.

This small percentage of the nearly 80,000 drivers who travel 210 on an average day, drive at deadly speeds. One at 168 MPH. In the 8-month period April through November 2022, 684 drivers were clocked at 90 MPH and above on MD 210. 320 of them drove at 100 MPH and above. One of them drove at 168 MPH.

These reckless drivers take advantage of the low \$40 speed camera fine and the many stretches of MD 210 that they use as drag strips or racetracks.

These bills target those reckless drivers by increasing fines for higher speeds and multiple violations. And adding more cameras will eliminate the 210 stretches that lack enforcement.

I want skeptics to know that the MD 210 speed cameras don't generate income, the speeders generate income. If they did not speed, there would be no income. What income speeders generate goes to improve MD 210 safety.

Speed cameras are not "silver bullets". Police enforcement is required to enforce DUI, seatbelt use, and distracted driving. But speed cameras are on the job 24/7/365, they are unbiased, and they don't put lives at risk as in a traffic stop.

In closing, please keep those 10 people who died last year and the scores of others who died before them on Maryland 210 in your prayers. But also take action to stop the killing and pass HB 431m and HB 435.

Thank you.

Ronald F. Weiss
12511 Haxall Ct., Fort Washington, MD 20744
weissster@gmail.com

HB-431 & HB-435 February 23 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Sandra T Hall

Position: FAV

Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

My name is Sandra T. Hall. I am a resident of Prince George's County and a resident of Fort Washington, Maryland since 2006, at 12002 Fort Washington Road.

Today I urge your support of the following Bills:
HB-431 and HB-435.

Several lives have been lost along this 14 miles stretch of road known as MD 210 or Indian Head Highway. MD 210 has had and still does have several issues due to excessive speeding as a result of a lack of enough cameras (only 3) compared to the massive amount of motorists who use this roadway.

With only 3 movable cameras, is not capturing and it is critical that pole type cameras be installed both north and south bound on MD 210 to address the egregious speeding (in excess of 100 miles per hour) so that no more lives are lost. As well as reckless driving behavior with substantial increase in fines be accessed.

Since the current fines are so low, this means that the county could care less for the loss of lives. It's time out for the old way of thinking about the county being only concerned about revenue.

Attend the funerals of those who've lost a father, mother or siblings, and speak to those grieving families.

We need these Bills passed immediately.

Thank you

Sandra T. Hall

HB431_PG Co Council_FAV

Uploaded by: Thomas Dernoga

Position: FAV



Thomas E. Dernoga

Chair
District 1

"Effective. Responsive. Committed."

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on January 10, 2023 with the following Members present:

- Council Member, Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair
- Council Member, Wala Blegay, Vice Chair
- Council Member, Edward Burroughs, III
- Council Member, Wanika B. Fisher
- Council Member, Mel Franklin
- Council Member, Calvin S. Hawkins, II
- Council Member, Sydney J. Harrison
- Council Member, Jolene Ivey
- Council Member, Eric C. Olson
- Council Member, Krystal Oriadha
- Council Member, Ingrid S. Watson

The Council voted for the following positions on the respective bills:

- PG 303-23 *HB431* Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) – Penalties – **SUPPORT**
- PG 304-23 *HB435* Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) – **SUPPORT**
- PG 305-23 *HB 436* Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Development District License – **SUPPORT**
ECM
- PG 501-23 *HB437* Prince George's County Public Schools – Office of Integrity and Compliance – Establishment – **SUPPORT**
W+M
- MC/PG 109-23 *HB 1009* Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Members - **SUPPORT**

Testimony to Maryland General Assembly HB041 HB0435

Uploaded by: Tolores Holmes

Position: FAV

Testimony to Prince George's County House Delegation PG-303-23-1 and PG 304-23 – Support

Tolores Holmes

314 Taurus Drive

Fort Washington, MD 20744

HolmesTBear@aol.com 240 899-4340

RE: Support of PG-303-23-1, " Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) – Penalties"

I am Tolores Holmes a Registered Nurse and active member of the Tantallon Square Area Civic Association speaking for myself in support of PG-303-23-1. I am also a mother six children and Route 210 I believe is a Public Health Emergency. As a resident I must literally "take my life in my hands" to travel in the community. In the state of Maryland Route 210 is the most dangerous road! Many of my community members, neighbors, friends and even family members have been injured and killed on Route 210. Community civic associations and groups have complained about the dangers of Route 210 for more than 20 years and been ignored while our community suffers daily. Road safety depends on users following the rules of the road to provide a predictable environment for all users. While most people drive responsibly on MD 210, its long sections of straight, level roadway attract speeders and illegal racers. As a result, MD 210 continues to be one of the deadliest roads in Prince George's County and the area. There have been 8 fatalities on MD 210 this year and the minority of irresponsible drivers have not been deterred by \$40 fines. Over 600 vehicles have been clocked at over 90 MPH during the 7-month period AprilOctober 2022. One vehicle was recorded at an incredible 168 MPH this year. These drivers inject chaos in our road environment and make our travel much riskier. Reckless drivers value their thrills over our basic rights to safety, peace, and tranquility. PG-303-23-1 will go a long way to deter their life-threatening and irresponsible behavior. I strongly urge you to support PG-303-23-1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tolores Holmes

HB0431 - SHA - MD 210 - Penalties - LOI_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 23, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 431 – Prince George’s County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) PG 303-23

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 431 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 431 increases the fine associated with a speed camera violation on Maryland 210 based on the speed of the vehicle at the time of violation and whether it is a repeat violation. Currently, Maryland statute limits the fines associated with a speed camera violation to \$40 per violation, regardless of the vehicle’s speed or number of offenses.

The 13-mile corridor of MD 210 has a fatal crash rate that is significantly higher than the Statewide average for State-maintained highways. To improve safety for all users, MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) is identifying and constructing safety improvements across the State. Significant projects in Prince George’s County include the Kirby Hill interchange that was finished in 2022 and the future grade-separation that will be built at the interchange of MD 210 and Palmer/Livingston Road. SHA is continually assessing and improving the signals and signs along the corridor. SHA also collaborates with local stakeholders quarterly to discuss safety concerns and potential countermeasures, including an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity projects.

The Prince George’s County Police Department (PGPD) patrols MD 210 and administers the County’s speed monitoring program. Representatives from the PGPD participate in regular discussions with SHA, community members, and elected officials regarding safety along the corridor. During those discussions, the PGPD informed SHA that repeat speed offenders and those traveling more than 30 miles per hour over the posted speed limit are a major concern. These offenders are currently only receiving a \$40 fine for each violation, with no other civil penalty such as points on their driver’s license.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 431.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Baldwin
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Services
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-310-1056

Pilar Helm
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-841-1090