

To The Environment and Transportation Committee

General Assembly, Annapolis, MD

I support HB 974/ PG 306-24, Prince George's County –Speed Monitoring Systems – Indian Head Highway

As a 46 year resident of the Indian Head Highway Community, I've witnessed the devolution of a once safe and civil traffic driving community, transition into a community embraced in fear, anxiety, frustration, anger and uncertainty.

The characteristics I've described depict a vision of a community griped in a hostage incarcerated dilemma, chained and bound by circumstances beyond its control, but with a daily cloud that constantly and consistently hovers over the main street of this roadway known as Indian Head Highway route 210.

This 14 mile span of highway has been labeled as the "Highway of Death" due to the extraordinary road fatalities it carries throughout the years of its existence, but also because of the dangerous driving characteristics of drivers routinely driving over 100 MPH over the 55 MPH speed limit. Routinely driving on the highway shoulders at speeds 20 plus miles over the speed limit. Routinely running through the red lighted intersections and routinely evidencing serious and fatal accidents!

Residents routinely fear driving the highway by avoiding driving at certain times, driving side streets or simply not driving at all if they can avoid it. Because of the high probability of being involved in an accident living in proximity of the highway **ALL RESIDENTS AUTO INSURANCES RATES HAVE RISEN TO EXORBITANT LEVELS!**

This is a picture of a community in a hostage taking scenario, incarcerated by embolden egregious drivers left to drive with little to no fear of accountability for their dangerous life threatening driving behavior, and the unfortunate scenario where accountable policy measures are not allowed to come to practice to help free this community death spiral.

It is time to pass HB 974 and set the captives FREE!!!

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen

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