

February 17, 2024

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman,
Chair Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Pass HB 974

Dear Delegate Korman,

On October 9, 2022, my family had the unfortunate experience to witness an accident at the intersection of Palmer Road and Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) on a clear Sunday morning at 11:30am. A white hybrid vehicle was speeding through the intersection of a red light and struck two vehicles making turns onto Indian Head Highway (Rt.210). Everyone lived, but my car would have been the third car entering that intersection, but I paused on the accelerator because my wife screamed WAIT! STOP! If my wife did not scream out in terror, this could have been a tragic story including my family. Our family of course got out of our car immediately to help all of the victims, where we could until the police and the ambulance arrived. My initial thought was what could we, as a community have done to prevent this accident in the middle of this beautiful sunny day.

Our community members face the challenges of reckless drivers on a daily basis. The members Tantallon North Area Civic Association (TNACA), located east of Fort Washington Road and Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210), have a vested interest in Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) and have communicated to our leadership on numerous occasions asking what can be done about the speeding and the careless drivers, who traumatize our citizens that need to commute on Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210). On a daily basis, our community has observed drivers speeding along the emergency shoulders, weaving in and out of traffic, and of course, zooming past us at speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour. We call drivers like these terrorists in the sense that many of our citizens have opted not to even drive Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) if at all possible, to minimize their own risk of a death sentence or a severe accident happening to them. Our citizens' trips maybe a little longer, but maybe their travel will be a little safer knowing they do not have to operate with these terrorists.

Your support in passing and approving HB 974 will significantly increase penalty fines for speeding offenders on Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) will deter the majority of offenders, that continue to break the law with no regard for human life. In other jurisdictions such as Forest Heights, Maryland, everyone is aware that if you exceed 30 miles per hour, you face a hefty fine. The citizens of TNACA, Prince George's County, and the state of Maryland deserve to be able to travel with a level of sanity amongst with our fellow citizens without fear that terrorists on the road will not take the lives of our loved ones or disable them for life.

The citizens of Tantallon North Area Civic Association requests your approval to pass HB 974 to significantly raise the speeding fines along all intersections of Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210). Speeders currently know where the two cameras are located at so they slow down just enough to not get ticketed and then continue to drive at exorbitant speeds. There are a significant number of drivers, that know the fine is only \$40 and continue to drive well over the posted speed limit. Our citizens deserve better, they want to get home safely, they want to commute to work safely, they want to engage in commerce, safely. Please help us in getting HB 974 passed to hopefully, slow down and eliminate careless drivers.

Thank You,



Duane L. Bouie
Vice President, Tantallon North Area Civic Association (TNACA)