



Randallstown

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Jan 24, 2024
Immediate Release

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Randallstown NAACP supports SB 179-Crimes and Corrections - Penalties and Procedures (Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2024)

Probation is the most frequently utilized correctional alternative in the criminal justice system in Maryland. Typically, probation has nine conditions that the probationer must abide by. In essence this is a contract that must be followed. However, many are not abiding by the terms and are allowed to roam the region committing other crimes making Baltimore County and Maryland unsafe. We can not have individuals on probation carrying guns.

More than 700 Marylanders died of gun violence in 2022, an average of two people every day. Violence in Black communities is a direct cause and consequence of the systematic, structural disadvantage of these populations. Research shows that high rates of gun violence seen today have been forged by past and present racial discrimination, including historic racial segregation and disinvestment. As gun violence plagues these communities, it leads to diminished economic opportunities and a lack of investment, creating a vicious cycle. This reality provides not only a strong impetus for action, but also a reminder that solutions to this problem must address the underlying inequalities driving gun violence in Black communities. We must do all we can to interrupt the flow and possession of guns.

SB 179 ensures probationers get additional resources and protects public safety.**The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 179.**