

Testimony in Support of HB 528 – Baltimore County Vehicle Laws – Private Roadways in Residential Subdivisions and Communities

Submitted by: Max Wofthal,
President Queen Anne Village, Owings Mills
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Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Max Wolfthal. I am the HOA President at Queen Anne Village in Owings Mills, a community of 405 townhomes. I have been on the board here for 20 years, serving as President for the past 16. In this time, I have received many complaints from residents about the cars speeding and disobeying stop signs and other traffic control devices in our community. After asking our County Police to attempt some enforcement here, I was made aware that they have little-to-no authority to do so as our community is private property including our streets.

Several officers I have spoken to seem to have different opinions on the law regarding enforcement but none of them will do it. Some have even told me how badly people drive here but say their hands are tied.

I researched this and found that Calvert County is the exception to the rule in Maryland. In Calvert County, the law allows a police officer to enforce the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law on a private roadway located within a residential subdivision.

I appreciate that Baltimore County is willing to make my community a pilot case. I hope you will support HB 528 as amended to help create a safer driving experience for drivers in communities such as ours in Baltimore County.