

Please Support HB0644

February 19, 2025

To:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Honorable Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

From:

Mindy Badin, Transportation Committee Chair
Greater Olney Civic Association
4212 Charley Forest Street
Olney, Maryland 20832
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Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce:

I strongly support the passage of HB0644 “Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts,” and respectfully request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee vote to submit a favorable response to enact this bill to curb speeding in Maryland’s residential districts.

Having lost my own son Brett as he was crossing the street to meet some friends for dinner, I have been advocating for safer streets for the past five years. I believe my experiences give me a personal perspective on roadway safety.



For some people, episodes of aggressive driving are frequent, for others, it is their usual driving behavior. Speeders and aggressive drivers not only affect the speeder - they also affect other drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This is especially true in residential neighborhoods, where pedestrians and bicyclists are common. The risks to this vulnerable population are particularly pronounced in these areas.

In my town, the residents of the Olney Oaks neighborhood have banded together and are working with their County Council representative to fight to install speed cameras on their main neighborhood street, citing consistent excessive speeding. This should not be a fight; it should not take a tragedy before automated speed monitoring systems are installed.

In my own residential neighborhood of Olney Mill, my friend was driving home one night when another car ran a stop sign at a high speed. This speeding driver hit my friend's car, and his own vehicle flipped over. I can't imagine how much over the 25 mph speed limit this driver must have been going to overturn his vehicle. It was a miracle that no one was seriously hurt. In my own experience, I am shocked when I see many vehicles traveling our quiet streets at break-neck speeds. Automated speed monitoring systems will curb these dangerous behaviors.

Many neighborhoods are tackling speeding problems on their streets, HB0644 will make it easier for those neighborhoods to install automated speed monitoring systems and improve public safety. Our residential districts deserve the same level of attention and protections as more high-traffic areas.

I thank you and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, and I urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support HB0644.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin