

SB0292 Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence

On behalf of BRIDGE Maryland, Inc. we support SB0292 Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence because *there is a time and season for all things. There is a time for searching and a time for repairing.* Sadly, there is tension between law enforcement and communities of color because of the data and listening sessions we've conducted statewide that indicate that traffic stops are more prevalent amongst Black and Brown people which would suggest racial profiling as the motivation for said stops.

This bill seeks to repair relationships with law enforcement by reducing unnecessary contact with the police, thus giving law enforcement more time to address more serious criminal issues. Data also suggests that non-safety-related traffic stops make both officers and citizens safer because the tension that arises from racially motivated stops tends to end in injury or death to the officer or the citizen being stopped. This legislation can begin the healing process between police and citizens because it reduces the trauma and tension caused by said stops.

As a black man, I can tell you that being stopped causes tension within me even when I know I have not committed a crime that would warrant anything more from me than my driver's license as a result of going past the speed limit. Thus, please vote in favor of SB0292 Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman

Leader, BRIDGE Maryland, Inc. (A non-profit Interfaith Community Organizing in Baltimore City and five surrounding counties of Maryland)