



# Morningside Police Department

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**Daniel J. Franklin**  
**Chief of Police**

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**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr. – Chair

**FROM:** Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255  
Morningside Police Department

**RE:** Written Testimony Opposing SB 0977  
State and Local Agencies - Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law - Restrictions on Access to  
Information (Maryland Data Privacy Act)

**DATE:** February 17, 2025

Greetings Chairman Smith and the members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Daniel Franklin, and I am the Chief of Police for the Morningside Police Department in Prince George's County, Maryland. After careful review of SB 0977 sponsored by Senator Lam, I am submitting this written testimony **OPPOSING** the passage of the bill as written.

The focus of this bill is narrow, but the potential unintended consequences can be tremendously negative for State and Local law enforcement agencies. There are numerous Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies and units of government that have cooperative agreements in place and have for years. The heart of most of the cooperative agreements in the law enforcement world is information sharing although there are other agreements regarding housing Federal detainees/prisoners with immigration warrants. These agreements would be dissolved, and detention facilities would be able to refuse to take custody of federal immigration violators. While this bill focuses strictly on personal information and/or photographs of undocumented immigrants relative to the enforcement of immigration violations and the actual enforcement of those violations, the potential exists that any other investigations that this information may be used in could now be halted. This would include identification of crime victims or witnesses that may or may not happen to have federal arrest warrants for immigration violations. This is particularly troublesome since the human trafficking has reached epidemic proportions and often the victims are not always readily identifiable.

Without question, there is a great deal of scrutiny on the methods that the Federal government is currently using to address immigration enforcement. This bill is obviously in response to those methods and seeks to establish protection for undocumented immigrants. No matter what a person's view is on immigration enforcement, establishing a law that seems to provide instant clarification and guidance but leaves future collaboration in question can be a very dangerous proposition. As I mentioned earlier, collaboration with Federal entities is not limited to law enforcement, and it would not be a favorable idea if the overall cooperative efforts were hindered or halted due to one issue.

My request of this committee is to **pause this legislation and convene a workgroup** that is composed of parties that would be directly affected by this legislation. I would suggest that the workgroup includes Sheriffs that also manage detention facilities, County executives/administrators/managers of the counties that currently have cooperative agreements with federal agencies regarding housing of immigration violators, MCA/MSA representatives, federal representatives from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and legal counsel from any of the previously mentioned parties. This avenue would not dismiss the legislation or what the legislation is meant to address, and it would give all sides involved the opportunity to come to the table and discuss the best plan moving forward.

For all the reasons that I have listed above, I respectfully request your consideration of my position of **OPPOSING** the passage of SB 0381 and further respectfully request that the workgroup mentioned above be convened to address this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255  
Morningside Police Department