



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

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Position Statement – Favorable with Amendments HB 1222 – Maryland Values Act

The City of Greenbelt strongly supports the intent of **HB 1222 – Maryland Values Act**, which aims to uphold public safety while ensuring that Maryland remains an inclusive and welcoming state for all residents. However, we believe that certain provisions of the bill require amendments to balance local law enforcement responsibilities with community trust and public safety.

Recommended Amendments

- 1. Clarify the Definition of "Covered Individual"**
 - The term "crime of violence" should be defined with clear reference to specific offenses. This will prevent overly broad interpretations and ensure that only individuals convicted of serious violent offenses are subject to detention and transfer.
- 2. Limit Local Law Enforcement's Role in Immigration Enforcement**
 - The requirement for local law enforcement to detain individuals for up to 48 hours at the request of federal immigration authorities (Section 9-309(B) and 5-104(b)(5)) imposes an undue burden on local agencies. Instead, the bill should **permit but not mandate** local law enforcement to cooperate in cases involving serious public safety threats.
- 3. Ensure Due Process Protections**
 - Language should be added to require that individuals subject to detainer requests be informed of their rights, including access to legal counsel, before being transferred to federal immigration authorities.
- 4. Maintain Local Authority Over Public Safety Policies**
 - The bill should be amended to explicitly affirm that local jurisdictions retain discretion over how they engage with federal immigration authorities, ensuring they are not compelled to divert resources from core public safety functions.
- 5. Provide Funding for Implementation**
 - If the bill imposes new requirements on local law enforcement agencies, state funding should be allocated to cover training, personnel, and administrative costs associated with compliance.

The City of Greenbelt urges the General Assembly to adopt these amendments to ensure **HB 1222** protects public safety while maintaining the trust and cooperation of all residents with local law enforcement. With these changes, we support the bill's passage and its broader mission to uphold Maryland's values of fairness and justice.

For questions or more information, please contact Josué Salmerón, City Manager, at jsalmeron@greenbeltnmd.gov.