



**SB245: Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition**

Judicial Proceedings

January 22, 2026

**Position: Favorable with Amendment**

Honorable Chair Smith and Committee Members,

Peace Action Montgomery has nearly 1,500 members. We are part of Peace Action, the largest grassroots group in the U.S. working to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and push for a foreign policy that respects human rights.

I am testifying today in support of SB245, and I want to be very clear: this bill is absolutely necessary. It is also absolutely hypocritical.

Maryland and Montgomery County are funding the Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC), which brings Israeli surveillance and weapons companies here. Four months ago, MIDC used your funding to bring in Airis Labs to North Bethesda. Airis Labs scrapes social media to profile people and are working to sell this technology to Homeland Security. This harm isn't just local, and it will spread far beyond ICE.

It is unconscionable and disingenuous to pretend that passing a bill like this is a moral action while at the same time you are profiting off the very systems that make SB245 necessary. One government official in Montgomery County even proudly noted how we invest in the death sciences and it has proven to be immensely profitable.

Fix this Pandora's box before it gets worse. I'm putting this on the record so future generations know what Maryland did—and so no one can pretend they didn't know.

Susan Kerin Chair  
Peace Action Montgomery  
[susan@peaceactionmontgomery.org](mailto:susan@peaceactionmontgomery.org)

PS- You can learn more about the MIDC and AIRIS lab (we have short videos) at [dropthemidc.org](http://dropthemidc.org)

*This is an MPIA request which shows that the MIDC brought in AIRIS labs. They also harassed a restaurant as part of “facilitating” AIRIS’ arrival.*

Dear Susan, per your MPIA request, below is all the email correspondence between MCEDC and the Maryland-Israel Development Center since May 2025. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

*Bill*

**Bill Tompkins**

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation**

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**From:** Aaron Bogage  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 6:17 PM  
**To:** Janet Kaplan <[janet.kaplan@marylandisrael.org](mailto:janet.kaplan@marylandisrael.org)>; [zscheinman@bhiusa.com](mailto:zscheinman@bhiusa.com) <[zscheinman@bhiusa.com](mailto:zscheinman@bhiusa.com)>; David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>  
**Subject:** Introduction to Maryland Israel Development Center

Hi David and Janet,

Great meeting you this morning! I wanted to introduce you to Zohar Scheinman, Assistant VP at BHI (Bank Hapoalim). Zohar works with different Israeli businesses looking to make entry into the US market, and is looking for additional connections and resources in Maryland. Of course I wanted to be sure to connect him to MIDC!

Zohar- Janet and David are with the Maryland Israel Development Center, an organization focused on bilateral trade between Israeli and Maryland based businesses.

Janet- are you able to share more information with Zohar regarding the upcoming MIDC events?

Thanks!  
Aaron

**Aaron Bogage**

**Economic Development Specialist**  
**Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation**

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**From:** Janet Kaplan <[jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG](mailto:jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** Aaron Bogage <[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com)>  
**Cc:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pike and Rose

Thanks so much for your assistance.

We will talk soon--- about better things, for sure.

**Janet Kaplan**

**Business Development, Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC)**

**Direct and WhatsApp: 410.318.6600**

[marylandisrael.org](http://marylandisrael.org)



**Maryland/Israel  
Development Center**  
מרכז פיתוח מרילנד/ישראל  
*An agency of The Associated*



**The Associated**  
Jewish Federation of Baltimore

*MIDC is part of The Associated network, and together we tackle the challenges of the day and work toward creating a better tomorrow. Together, The Associated network takes care of Jews around the world, while building a strong community for all Baltimoreans. We respond to crises close and far from home. We create meaningful Jewish experiences and put our Jewish values to work. Give to The Associated 2023 Annual Campaign today at [associated.org/give](http://associated.org/give) and change lives.*

[Join the MIDC](#)

*The Maryland/Israel Development Center is a non-profit “public-private partnership” of the Maryland Department of Commerce, Israeli Ministry of Economy and Trade and The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore that promotes bi-lateral trade and economic development.*

**From:** Aaron Bogage <[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:21 AM  
**To:** Janet Kaplan <[jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG](mailto:jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG)>  
**Cc:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Pike and Rose

**CAUTION:** This email is from an outside source.

I understand- MCEDC doesn't directly work with restaurants, so the Pike District Partnership would know the specifics of their own tenants and provide the best route forward, whether that is a discussion with the restaurant, or a meeting with a different authority. I am not sure if there is

any legal repercussions, but letting them know would be the first step to potentially getting it removed.

**Aaron Bogage**

**Economic Development Specialist**

**Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation**

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240.641.6712

[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com) I [www.thinkmoco.com](http://www.thinkmoco.com)

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**From:** Janet Kaplan <[jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG](mailto:jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:14 AM

**To:** Aaron Bogage <[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com)>

**Cc:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Pike and Rose

Aaron, I was hoping for support from MOCO. I cannot even imagine what Airis Labs or that family will feel the first day they are here. Can you?

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**From:** Aaron Bogage <[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:10:18 AM

**To:** Janet Kaplan <[jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG](mailto:jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG)>

**Cc:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Pike and Rose

**CAUTION:** This email is from an outside source.

Hi Janet,

I think the best contact would be through the [Pike District Partnership](#). The Executive Director, Theresa Cameron at [TCameron@pikedistrict.org](mailto:TCameron@pikedistrict.org) OR on her cell at 240.462.9664.

**Aaron Bogage**

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**From:** Janet Kaplan <[jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG](mailto:jkaplan@MARYLANDISRAEL.ORG)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:33 AM

**To:** Aaron Bogage <[aaron@thinkmoco.com](mailto:aaron@thinkmoco.com)>

**Cc:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>

**Subject:** FW: Pike and Rose

Can Montgomery County help us to remove this?

**Janet Kaplan**

**Business Development, Maryland/Israel Development Center (MIDC)**

**Direct and WhatsApp: 410.318.6600**



*MIDC is part of The Associated network, and together we tackle the challenges of the day and work toward creating a better tomorrow. Together, The Associated network takes care of Jews around the world, while building a strong community for all Baltimoreans. We respond to crises close and far from home. We create meaningful Jewish experiences and put our Jewish values to work. Give to The Associated 2023 Annual Campaign today at [associated.org/give](http://associated.org/give) and change lives.*

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**From:** Janet Kaplan  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:31 AM  
**To:** David Speer <[dspeer@marylandisrael.org](mailto:dspeer@marylandisrael.org)>; Nancy Boguslaw <[nboguslaw@marylandisrael.org](mailto:nboguslaw@marylandisrael.org)>  
**Subject:** Pike and Rose

Airis Labs moves in here in July- what a welcome.



display of a mural featuring a keffiyeh at Falafel Inc in \*Pike and Rose Plaza\*, Maryland. It symbolizes terrorism and creates a hostile environment for the Jewish community. We are requesting the immediate removal of the mural! <https://app.ActivistMailer.com/keffiyehMural>

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