



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4392

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Dr. Calvin Ball  
District 2  
Jennifer Terrasa  
District 3

March 13, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

We read with mixed emotions the joint statement you issued following your veto of Council Bill 9-2017, and the subsequent failure of the Council to garner enough votes to override that veto. We continue to be perplexed by your insistence on vetoing Council Bill 9-2017 even after it had been amended to address each of the potential public safety concerns articulated by the Chief of Police. We do not believe the actions you announced last week go nearly as far as they should to address the very real fear that has permeated our immigrant communities, and yet, we were both grateful and encouraged to hear you finally acknowledge that there is a problem that must be addressed. While we still believe a legislative solution will ultimately offer stronger protection and provide for greater transparency, we do appreciate that the efforts you have announced are a step in the right direction.

Since introducing CB 9-2017, we have heard from hundreds of concerned residents who want a law in place to clearly codify County policy regarding immigration status and interaction with undocumented immigrants. Many immigrants, both documented and undocumented, have passionately expressed how greatly the need for CB9-2017, or some other form of legislative protection, has intensified over the past few months.

We encourage you to reach out to more members of our immigrant community and others who serve the undocumented population of Howard County. We deeply appreciate the ongoing work of FIRN and HopeWorks, and we also appreciate the delicate situation in which these organizations found themselves when you so vehemently declared your opposition to CB9-2017 before the public debate of the legislation even took place. We respectfully encourage you to take the time to listen to the perspectives of immigrants and those who work directly with undocumented immigrants and are not dependent on the County budget for their funding.

If you choose to do so, we believe you will hear, as we have heard repeatedly, that this community is living in fear and that codification carries both significant substantive and symbolic benefits over administrative policy. Both types of benefits are real, and both are important. In fact, we believe that the issues of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and all other forms of hate and injustice feed off each other, and we should stand united against all forms of discrimination.

We agree wholeheartedly that not every problem needs a legislative solution. In this case, however, we strongly believe that legislation must be part of a comprehensive solution. We remain committed to that goal and welcome your input toward crafting such a solution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Councilmember, District 2

Jennifer Terrasa  
Councilmember, District 3