

Online Testimony - Legislation - July 19 2021

Full Name	Home Address	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachment
John Jasen	1127 Holmespun Drive	Pasadena	21122	Yes	Bill 59-21: Public Safety – Traffic – Vehicles on Public Sidewalks (as amended)	Support	In the July 9 discussion regarding this bill, Councilmember Volke enquired about enforcement, to which county police offered a complete lack of citations. During testimony, a representative of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County responded, about how the perception among bikers is that riding on sidewalks is prohibited and subject to citation. I, myself, hold to this belief when riding – believing that I currently operate outside the law when riding on sidewalks for my own safety. During an evening walk, I was overtaken by a cyclist on the sidewalk, who was courteous and cooperative to a fault -- announcing himself before passing, slowing down as he passed, and working to accommodate everyone as he passed. As he passed us, he called out something similar to "I know I shouldn't ride on the sidewalks, but its better than getting hit in the streets" In honor of this kind cyclist, and in reflection of how often I've violated a currently unenforced ordinance, I fully support changing the ordinance to reflect reality. Thank you for your time.	
						1		
Andria Chiamonte	3106 Fern Hill Court	Edgewater	21037	Yes	Bill 66-21: Zoning – Signage – Prohibited Signs and Temporary Signs	Support	(Remarks are attached.)	YES
						1		

Anne Arundel County Council
Bill 66-21 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Zoning – Parking, Nonresidential Outdoor Lighting,
and Signage – Prohibited Signs and Temporary Signs
Position: **Support**

July 19, 2021

My name is Andria Chiamonte and I am a small business owner in Edgewater, Maryland. Back in September 2014, recognizing the importance of creating community, I made the decision to invest my savings and open a boutique and gift shop called The Painted Cottage. It is a luxury boutique situated in a historic 1947 cape cod house converted into a retail store. We have lots of character and take great pride in our aesthetics, both inside and outside our structure; however, we are not located in a strip center where people can easily see us. As a destination store, we rely heavily on traffic driving by, and the house sits back off of Route 214/Central Avenue. As many, many businesses in my area try to attract customers, flutter flags seem to be prevalent.

I purchased new flags this year to let people know that we are now back open for business after barely surviving the COVID-19 forced shutdown in 2020, only to be asked to take down the flags. A County official stopped by my store to let me know the flags are in violation of a County Code. We were unaware of such restrictions as there are multiple such flags currently flying in front of businesses in our area. Our flags are new and others in our zone are tattered and faded, reflecting the longevity of their flags flying for quite some time. I took down my flags and it has greatly influenced the number of new customers entering our store. The Painted Cottage is the only gift shop/boutique in our area, and the only one that survived the COVID shutdown in Edgewater. Daily, customers suggest we put “open” flags by the roadside to let people know that we are still in business. Small businesses are already facing so many challenges post COVID, including the lack of product arriving in a timely manner and the struggle to hire and retain qualified employees. We would just like to have the opportunity to let people know we are open and we are here to serve our community.

I would ask that you support Bill 66-21, which removes the prohibition on wind signs in the County Code. Thank you for your consideration.