

Legislative Testimony 3-20-2023 (online submissions)

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Optional Attachment
03/20/2023 11:06:36	Alicia Menefee	Middle River	21220	No	Community Associations Institute Chesapeake Chapter	Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	No Position	Community association leaders (HOAs and Condominiums) experience practical issues when ADUs are added to existing common interest developments that have rules created to preserve the intended purpose and design characteristics of the community. Under certain circumstances, ADUs may create unintended adverse consequences in a community including, but not limited to, parking issues, alteration of intended design, overcrowding of residents and structures, overtaxing common area facilities and amenities, and increasing traffic congestion, all without a mechanism to reallocate assessment contributions to account for changes that would create an associated burden upon the community. CAI (Community Associations Institute) supports legislation that recognizes the community association housing model's core principles of self-governance and co-ownership of common property. CAI recognizes the need for affordable housing in the U.S. and supports the rights of residential common interest communities to reasonably regulate the development of ADUs within their communities. We oppose legislation that prohibits community associations from regulating the addition of ADUs without allowing for reasonable rules and restrictions. We respectfully request acknowledgment that the intent of this legislation is not to supercede or revoke governance rights of common interest communities in restricting or regulating ADUs in their communities.	YES
03/20/2023 10:56:01	Jane Wilson McWilliams	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	This bill, which is intended to increase affordable housing in the county, must exclude not only RCA areas of the county, but LDA sections as well. Increased density within the state's Critical Areas LDA designation will adversely impact the Chesapeake's tributaries. It will also impact already stressed wells and sewer systems in those areas without access to public water and/or sewerage treatment facilities. Worse, this bill encourages construction of accessory dwelling units with no prohibition against temporary rental of those units. This is not affordable housing; this is more AirBnBs, or VRBOs. I urge the council to oppose this bill.	
03/20/2023 10:51:27	Dorothy J. Martin	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	I believe that without amendments to significantly restrict short term vacation type rentals i.e. AirBnB, VRBO and the like, the bill will not effectively improve the availability of affordable housing. And furthermore risks adverse impacts on the critical areas.	
03/20/2023 10:44:42	Lily Openshaw	Annapolis	21403	No	Bay Ridge Civic Association	Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	No Position	The Bay Ridge Civic Association requests a text amendment to the definition of "density" in Article 18, Zoning, 18-1-101. Definitions (44) "Density". Please Line 4 to add: RESOURCE CONSERVATION AREA OR LOW-DENSITY AREA OF THE CRITICAL AREA. As you know, the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area is a resource protection program that governs land use within 1,000 feet of high tide or tidal wetlands. The program aims to minimize the negative impacts of new development on water quality and to conserve fish, wildlife, and plant habitats. The LDA regulation ensures that development and redevelopment is consistent with the prevailing character of land use. The Bay Ridge neighborhood falls within the LDA classification and residents have invested in protection of the natural resources of the Annapolis Neck Peninsula through environmental stewardship projects as well as careful development of individual properties to adhere strictly to all LDA requirements of the Critical Area program. The density count is the primary designation used to label an area as LDA. Allowing an Accessory Dwelling Unit not to be counted when calculating density within an LDA will significantly increase the allowable density in LDAs thus negatively impacting the environmental protection controls that were designed and enacted by the Critical Area Program to protect the overall quality of the Chesapeake Bay.	
03/20/2023 10:12:48	Irene Howie	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	We oppose the bill without further amendment to exclude critical areas and short-term rentals of ADUs in those areas. We are concerned about the impact of adding more density to critical areas without taking into account impact on already stressed well water and sewage infrastructure. We understand the need for affordable housing in urban areas of the county (and country), but allowing short term rentals of ADUs, especially in our water adjacent communities with no mass transit, will more likely encourage home owners to rent them through agencies like AirBnB and VRBO at rates considerably higher than for long term rentals and beyond the reach of those the bill seeks to help. We urge further consideration of these unintended consequences.	
03/20/2023 7:46:26	Kurt Svendsen	ARNOLD	21012	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	Please see attached one-page written testimony.	YES
03/20/2023 0:26:51	Barbara Goyette	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Support	I support ADU's in Anne Arundel county for many reasons. It allows parents age in place with their children living on the same property. Both the adult children and the aging parents have privacy but are available if needed to help. For young adults with physical or mental disabilities who are unable to be completely independent, they have a place where family can help care for them. And for young families, just starting out, with young children. ADU would allow them to have their own space, while also having parents close by to help with grandchildren. For all of these reasons, I support this bill.	
03/19/2023 22:10:12	Michael Goyette	Crofton	21114	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Support	I urge the council to pass this bill, to give property owners more freedom, which will in turn help solve housing problems for many.	
03/19/2023 19:55:14	Greg Cantori	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Support	First, I want to start by again congratulating and thanking each of you for sponsoring, supporting, and making some great housing-friendly amendments to this bill. You didn't have to make this act of leadership and yet, you are. The best our state can do is create a nearly two-year ADU Task Force to study and recommend. On the other hand, to your great credit, you have recognized that we have a genuine housing crisis that cannot wait for more studies and delays. This is an emergency that is harming our residents every single day as they make tough decisions on paying rent or mortgage or food or utilities or moving or doubling up somewhere. The stress is real and the daily impact on their health and well-being is huge. Where we get to live has everything to do with our quality of life and many opportunities or lack thereof. Bill 6-23 is a great start to permitting and promoting ADUs in our county. Thank You!	
03/19/2023 13:11:25	Paul Christensen	Tracys Landing	20779	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	Please view this 2 minute Zoom video to hear my testimony: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84402000P4HR6yguOd_apf-kxSkRxsQPw5hVlBQ8-D11RDxLLV3p2IeuYEePZoOwhHlJA07Zho2?startTime=1679186301000	
03/16/2023 10:35:18	Rita Ferry	Annapolis	21409	Yes		Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Support		
03/15/2023 15:46:33	Helene Raven	Annapolis	21403	Yes	Resident	Bill 6-23aa: Accessory Dwelling Units (amended)	Oppose	Public Testimony: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADW) March 20, 2023 I am confused and hope you can clarify a few points about ADW and the upcoming legislation before the County Council. On March 8 the Capital Gazette had an article about the upcoming legislation for ADWs. On March 9 I received a Community and Engagement memo from the County Executive that included a survey for Region 7. Survey responses are due by April 3, 2023. The survey requested responses for these two questions: 3. Identify challenges of constructing Missing Middle housing as redevelopment and infill, including code requirements, market feasibility, and infrastructure capacity. Implement recommendations to facilitate Missing Middle in certain Neighborhood Preservation policy areas. Consider changes to provisions related to lot and dwelling unit size requirements, allowances for duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes in additional zoning categories such as R2 and R5. 5. Update County Code to allow affordable general occupancy and senior housing on the same parcel, instead of requiring subdivision. If the survey is not due until April 3, the Council is meeting on March 20 to discuss amendments, and the vote is scheduled for April 22, how will the results of the survey be recognized? Wouldn't it be better to include constituent responses? In addition, the County Council already voted on a zoning change that is addressed in Question 5. I'm confused and would like to see how the County Council is addressing constituent input to survey responses. Respectfully, Helene C. Raven 126 Lee Dr. Annapolis, MD 21403	
							12		
03/16/2023 10:36:35	Rita Ferry	Annapolis	21409	Yes		Bill 10-23a: Water Quality Improvement Projects (amended)	Support		
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03/20/2023 11:40:00	Debrah Hunter	BROOKLYN	21225	Yes	Blessed Scents LLC	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	The MD Renaissance Festival is important to my family for many reasons, particularly because, as 20(+) year, second generation crafts person the revenue realized by my business at this event comprises, by far, the greater part of my annual income. Living locally, I witness the unstinting, year-round efforts of the Smith Family and their dedicated full time staff to maintain, improve and present a beautiful, safe, smoothly running venue for guests and participants alike. Given that the Festival was already approved as a special exception, and has operated in compliance with any additional requirements for more than four decades, I believe that it should be exempt from any interruption in operation. Thank you for your consideration! Kind Regards, Deb Hunter	
03/20/2023 11:01:52	David Morsberger	Davidsonville	21035	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I strongly oppose Bill 13-23 after reading the text, Fiscal Note, and reviewing the working session online. Let's start over. The bill outlines a burdensome process that will disincentivize citizens from having events or create criminals because they do not want to go through the process. Now is the time when we need more community gatherings not Government regulated community events. I ask, what problem is this multi-step subjective evaluation process solving? I have not heard a clear and concise problem that requires such a Government mandated process.	
03/20/2023 11:00:29	Victor Smith	Waxahachie	75168	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I've been a concessionaire at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for over 40 years. The lack of appeal and concern over who makes this decision will leave me concerned and anxious the whole time we are open.	
03/20/2023 10:58:51	Bill Watson	Washington, VA	22747	No	Maryland Renaissance Festival and myself	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Bill # 13-23 with regard to the Maryland Renaissance Festival I did not expect Maryland Renaissance Festival to become my career when I built my first shop there 37 years ago. In the intervening years, it has come to not only support my family, but 8 other families of crafts persons and office crew who work for me, either full-time, or some as contractors who work most of their year for me. I have personally built, or hired local contractors to build and maintain two shops on the festival site. Besides the initial expense, that's 37 years of new roofs, repairs and maintenance, as well as supporting the local lumber and hardware outlets. It takes us all year to prepare for this event. We design clothing, buy fabric and leather from American and European manufacturers and are cutting and sewing all year round to have enough stock to sell at this 9 weekend event. Maryland Festival is by far our largest source of income, and we pay the most taxes, besides Federal, to Anne Arundel and Maryland for taxes. As this is an ongoing commitment to us year round, for labor, materials and building upkeep, I am requesting that the Maryland Renaissance Festival be exempted, excluded or grandfathered from this proposed ordinance because it was already approved as a special exception. Respectfully, Bill Watson Potomac Leather Company Inc.	
03/20/2023 10:56:15	Anwyn Walsh	spencer	47460	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I deeply oppose this bill which provides no oversight to potential decisions to cancel events for any reason. This bill can and will jeopardize the Maryland Renaissance Festival which is the life line for many elder artists in our community who have retired from all their other art shows and depend 100% on the Maryland Renaissance Festival for income. Besides fearing for the our elders income this event provides income to so so many families, artists, and small businesses. Myself being one of those people. If the Maryland faire got shut down over legislative vagueness it would be such a cultural, and economic tragedy in the lives of thousands upon thousands of people. Mdrf helps me feed my family and I've been working there for a decade doing a job I love. Please consider us in this decision. Thank you	
03/20/2023 10:53:01	Belinda L. Woodman	Newark	19702	No	Maryland Renaissance Faire	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	We have had a booth at the Renaissance Faire for 44 years. It is a family run business. It is my main source of income for the year. The faire is enjoyed by people far and wide and is one of the top Renaissance Faires in the country and I am sure that it brings in revenue to the area and is a boost to the local area. I truly hope we will be grandfathered in and able to run as usual. Thank you for your time and consideration. Belinda Woodman	

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03/20/2023 10:50:24	Eric Heath	Easton	21601	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	My wife and I have been artists/craftspersons at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for over 30 years. We have a significant investment in a permanent sales structure there and earn over 65% of our yearly income at this venue every year. The changes proposed in Bill 13-23 concern us because of the vague wording which implies that the County could possibly limit permits to only one event per calendar day, "if County resources are not available". There is also a section talking about "cancelled portion of multiple day event". What? So, they could randomly decide that they would not allow the fourth weekend event? Would the county do that? Who would decide and when? We are very concerned about the impermanence of this system. It is my understanding that the Renaissance Festival makes every effort to NOT use County resources. With the size and scope of the Renaissance Festival having been in operation for over three decades, it should be excluded, or grandfathered in! Thank you for your time.	
03/20/2023 10:49:50	Tomasz Smok	Hanover	21076	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear County Council President and County Council Members, I am writing in opposition to Bill 13-23 An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting I do not support Bill 13-23 for the following reasons. The bill: · Abridges our Constitutional right to assembly by making the permit process costly · Makes applying for a permit a complicated and convoluted process that could be subject to favoritism via waivers · Does not state or provide evidence of its need · Greatly expands what events now fall under its proposed jurisdiction that are already covered by existing recreation and parks permitting policies without discussing how those processes will be affected · Possibly affects activities that occur on private property because these events may impact the use of public roads leading to these private property events Based on the issues above, I believe that this bill is seriously flawed. The Council has until mid-May to amend the bill to make it a more citizen and liberty friendly version. Consequently, I believe the Council should table the vote until the issues I and other concerned citizens have brought before you today are resolved. With Regards, -Tomasz Smok 1055 Ironwood Ln HANOVER, MD 21076	
03/20/2023 10:44:56	Dana Schutze	Millersville	21108	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose		YES
03/20/2023 10:39:37	Anna Snodgrass	Bowie	20716	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I request an amendment to proposed bill #13-23. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the MD Renaissance Festival (MDRF) at which I have owned and run a booth for almost 40 years. The 10 people who work with me find this to be a highlight of their year and an important part of their yearly income. The attendees of MDRF who come to my booth year after year tell me that they look forward to it all year long. I am told by local business owners that they also benefit from the yearly influx of festival attendees as well as the festival workers who use the local restaurants, hotels, hardware stores and more. Everyone who works at the festival prepares throughout the year to entertain and produce one of the best festivals of its kind in the US. The hard-working staff of MDRF is employed year round to maintain the grounds, make improvements and maintain contact and contracts with the many artisans and entertainers and would be out of work if the festival were to be cancelled. The MD Renaissance Festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes "arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." Thank you for considering my words for the sake of the thousands who love the MD Renaissance Festival.	
03/20/2023 10:31:10	Alan L. Lang	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am writing in opposition to Bill 13-23 An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting I do not support Bill 13-23 for the following reasons. The bill: · Abridges our Constitutional right to assembly by making the permit process costly · Makes applying for a permit a complicated and convoluted process that could be subject to favoritism via waivers · Does not state or provide evidence of its need · Greatly expands what events now fall under its proposed jurisdiction that are already covered by existing recreation and parks permitting policies without discussing how those processes will be affected · Possibly affects activities that occur on private property because these events may impact the use of public roads leading to these private property events Based on the issues above, I believe that this bill is seriously flawed. The Council has until mid-May to amend the bill to make it a more citizen and liberty friendly version. Consequently, I believe the Council should table the vote until the issues I and other concerned citizens have brought before you today are resolved. Alan Lang 242 Armstrong Lane Pasadena, MD 21122 410-336-9745 Alanlang1@verizon.net	YES
03/20/2023 10:24:23	Nancy Worley	Silver Springs	34488	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	Hello, The Maryland Renaissance Festival is important to me because I am a full-time vendor at the event each year. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival for reasons listed near the end and it is not clear to me who has the authority nor if there is any remedy or appeal to the decision to cancel the event. The festival business operates year-round at the festival grounds preparing, maintaining, and operating a shop and office employing 10 full-time people who would be out of work if the festival could not open, as well as my own business and the shop I own at the festival mentioned above. The daily operations of the Maryland Renaissance Festival should be excluded or grandfathered in because it was already approved as a special exception. The Maryland Renaissance Festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes, "...arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." Bill #13-23 as it is written has the potential to cripple my yearly income. The income I receive over the 19 days of the festival represents an entire year's earnings. Each day of sales during our 9 week event represents 5.26% of my yearly income. Were you to compare that to 5.26% of a normal 52 week income that most families have, it equates to 13.68 days. So to lose one day of sales at the Maryland Renaissance Festival is equal to losing over 13 ½ paid days of work to those that have an entire year to earn their income. As you can see, for any family to lose over 2 ½ weeks of paid income in any year would be substantial. One day lost at the Maryland Renaissance Festival would be just as substantial to me. The message is being sent to respectfully request that the Maryland Renaissance Festival be part of the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes, "...arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." Thank you for considering my request. Nancy Worley My Lady's Gourds	
03/20/2023 10:22:02	Carolyn Ann Spedden	Baltimore	Maryland	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am a 30 year employee of the MD Renaissance Festival, a venue which employs 10 people year round, and many hundreds part-time in the fall. As currently written, the bill could seriously jeopardize the business and by extension my job. The Festival is not a one off event, but a thriving business in the county. Therefore, I request that the Renaissance Festival be provided with an exemption from this bill. Thank you.	
03/20/2023 10:16:43	Debra Hathaway	Easton	21601	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am a crafts Vendor at the Maryland Renaissance fest, and have been for the past 35 years. Those of us who are artists and crafters at MDRF are proud to be a part of this event, which provides a venue for so many talented Marylanders. Applicants go through a rigorous jury to be accepted and then make a large investment of either building or purchasing a building to serve as our shops. We are also required to keep up our buildings as we do our homes. This year our shop "Dragon Wings" was in need of a new roof which will cost us approximately \$16,000. We have gladly taken on this financial obligation, knowing our hard work will pay it off. We live in Talbot County, where we have our workshop and work year round preparing for MDRF, also investing in raw materials and paying local contractors for help. The festival venue makes it possible for us to live and work in this rural area. Even one weekend of bad sales, usually due to weather impact our income for the coming year. It's hard to make up. I'm concerned about this bill, although I can see the good parts I'm concerned that seemingly one person can suddenly make the decision to revoke a permit, or to not grant a permit, especially knowing that this year will mark the Maryland Renaissance Festivals 47TH year. I would like to believe that this would happen under the most dire of conditions. Please remember that there are 250 craft vendors like me, hundreds of performer, and food vendors who would all be impacted, should it happen that the Festivals permit be revoked, or denied. All the shops you'll visit at the faire are owned and operated by American craftsmen, we love being makers, please help us to be able to remain so by amending this bill.	
03/20/2023 10:13:34	Teri Evans	Santa Barbara	93101	Yes	Unicom Clothing	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I have been a vendor at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for many years. I have always found the management there to be concerned and conscientious in their dealings with the participants and with the public and the community. It takes a great deal of work to present this festival and the vendors travel from all over the country to attend. Cancelling even one weekend of this event would be a huge financial hardship for a great many people. The festival hires their own security and medical people and do not use local resources carelessly. They should be exempt from possible cancellation under this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my view.	
03/20/2023 10:07:30	Elizabeth Piland	Gainesville	20155	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	We are writing to request The Maryland Renaissance Festival be grandfathered or excluded from this bill as an already approved exception. My wife and I have been business owners operating in the Festival since 1993. Over that time we have witnessed the event grow and Festival Management learn to control and even restrict the flow of patrons attending the annual event to reduce strain on the area resources. We believe they will continue to work on making this event a benefit to the community. We hire ten to twelve people to work in our shop each season. Most are Maryland and Anne Arundel residents, earning funds to supplement their income for vacations, home improvements, and their children. The money earned working for us is included in their family budgets for the year. Should the Festival be canceled one or more weekends because of event conflicts, they will lose the funds they planned to earn. Personally, the Festival represents 1/3 of our family's annual income. This has allowed me to quit working in a jewelry store doing jewelry repairs and diamond remount events to pursue my own art as a goldsmith. It also allowed my wife to quit a 9-5 office job and devote her energies to raising our children while managing our business around their school schedule. Closing the Festival to accommodate other events will cost us a portion of the income that we need to fuel our family through the winter months. It would deny us access to customers we do not see at any other event in Maryland during the year. Please grandfather or exclude The Maryland Renaissance Festival from this Bill for the sake of the many families and individuals who depend on it for a portion of their livelihood. Thank you, Robert and Elizabeth Piland	
03/20/2023 9:45:44	Ronald	Sugar Loaf	10981	Yes	Moon Angel	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	Bill 13-23 This meeting, to discuss and address matters of the county, is a beautiful expression of democracy at work. The Maryland Ren Fest is also. All can compete for participation, rich or poor. The patrons enter the gate smiling, and leave smiling. This show is a special part of so many lives, for patrons and participants alike, for generations	
03/20/2023 9:12:00	Susangrace DuBose	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Good afternoon. I am writing today to discuss the wording of Bill 13-23. Although the thought process behind this bill is valid, the Maryland Renaissance Festival (in its 47th year of business) should be a named exclusion in the bill or grandfathered in as it already is approved as a special event. The faire is not a temporary event. The festival business operates year-round at the festival grounds preparing, maintain and operating a shop and office employing 10 full time people who would be out of work if the festival could not open, as well as my own business and the shop I own at the festival. My individual shop staffs 45 locals during the season putting more money into Maryland's homes and Maryland's and Anne Arundel County's economy. The show is a permanent site and should be a named exclusion in Bill 13-23. Sincerely, Susangrace DuBose PS - I've attached a picture of one of my two shops. This is when it is not completely set up for the public. The show is not a temporary event. MDRF is an established special event and should be excluded in the language of Bill 13-23	YES
03/20/2023 9:01:51	Petronella Thomann	Crystal Bch	34681	No	Maryland Renaissance Festival	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	Good Morning I am Petronella Thomann of Argenti Jewelry. I have for the past 40 years run two shops at the festival. This has been an important part of my and my family's livelihood. We have invested not only our time, money and creative pursuits but implemented all county requirements and codes in our two shops. There is a family atmosphere many of us are close and dear to each other while supporting our financial lives but emotional as well. We employ 7 people during the festival and three during the fiscal year. The fair is a self sustaining business by hiring its own police and medical personnel. We are just recouping from the Covid experience, and are hoping that the festival be grandfather in and exempt from this county bill. It has been approved with a special exception already and this would just solidify that. We know that during the festival many people look forward to this wonderful experience and we hope to continue in the future. Thank you for your time today. Sincerely Petronella Thomann	
03/20/2023 8:49:11	Gwendolyn McLaughlin	Westfield	27053	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear Council Members, I am writing to you in regard to Bill #13-23. The Maryland Renaissance Festival may be effected by this bill and that is of concern to me. I have been participating in the Festival for over 30 years. For the past 7 years I have owned one of the buildings located on the grounds of the Festival. This Festival makes up over 90% of my income and is very important to me. The site is open year round and is fully staffed. During the event the owners provide our own security and medical staff. It is a well-oiled machine. It's amazing! Please allow this wonderful event to continue. My livelihood depends on it. Thank you, Gwendolyn McLaughlin/Rowensea Glass	

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03/20/2023 8:25:42	Grace Madeline Daniels	Columbia	21044	No	7th Intelligence Squadron Booster Club	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	The renaissance festival is important to me because it is one of our main sources of funding and allows our squadron of 500+ Airmen to raise funds for morale-building events such as holiday parties, sports days, and our annual fall festival. The Renaissance Festival should be excluded from this bill because it classifies as "arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..."	
03/20/2023 7:54:29	Rachael Platt	LEONARDTOWN	20650	Yes	Self employed, speaking on my involvement with the Maryland Renaissance Festival	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Per the proposed ordinance, reasons listed near the end could be used to cancel the festival and it is not clear who has authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. Speaking as a participating artist who owns a structure on site, this ordinance strikes fear and anxiety beyond measure. Since 2010 (at 18), I have cultivated my life and my work in order to be a part of this event. Over a decade of hard work – including ALL of my life savings has gone into my structure at faire and now I rely on the event currently (and in totality) to pay my mortgage, bills, supplies, food – everything I need to survive. It is my life-line, and I mean this in earnest. If anything were to happen to the event I would be crippled in all facets of life beyond repair. Those who rely on me (my partner, my family, my rescue kitties) would be devastated as well as I am supporting them entirely with my art. I ask in my testimony that you please exclude or grandfather the festival in this ordinance because it is pivotal in my world and the world of so many of my participating peers that it operates as it has. My entire existence has been cultivated throughout the year so I am able to show up and do my best starting in August. Thank you very much for listening, for your consideration, and your hard work on this matter.	
03/20/2023 4:35:21	Robert Askin	GREENWOOD LAKE	10925	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I respectfully write in opposition to Bill 13-23 in its current form out of concern that it may unintentionally impede the Maryland Renaissance Festival in Crownsville. For nearly 40 years the festival has been an annual staple of entertainment and commerce here, with deep roots in the community, as well as a venue that attracts artisans from across the nation. The jobs created by the festival – both permanent and seasonal – are a significant benefit to the local economy. For instance, by wife and I have traveled from New York to work the festival for over 20 years - bringing our own small contribution to the local economy. Whatever advantages Bill 13-23 may offer for the control and regulation of local events, it seems some sort of set-aside must be included to take into account the Renaissance Festival's many years of well-maintained and thoughtfully managed operation. Any benefits Bill 13-23 may offer must not be at the expense of the successful and much-loved event that is the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Thank you for your consideration.	
03/20/2023 1:04:44	Steven Exley	Canyon Lake TX	78133	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I'd like to ask that this bill be not put through as it is written, as it seems that our event, the Maryland Renaissance Festival, could be adversely affected as it is written here. Or I hope the festival would be grandfathered in, as there are so many people whose livelihoods depend on it, who have invested heavily in our shops there. We drive from Texas pulling two trailers to bring our lives and our wares to Maryland for sale, and it comprises the bulk of our annual income. If the permits were denied, through someone deciding it as too long, too big, etc. or that it conflicted with another event, it would be a devastating blow to hundreds of participants in a very real way, as we experienced after losing a year to covid. The festival staff works tirelessly to maintain, secure, and provide all that's needed to run the event, at their own expense, even when the festival is not open. I've never seen a festival that does more to take care of its patrons. Please re-examine how this bill would put the festival in jeopardy if it passes as worded. It would certainly cripple my business and that of my partner, as we both rely on this event heavily, and work steadily all year to prepare for it. Thank you for your consideration.	
03/20/2023 0:40:38	Thomas Carroll	Hendersonville	28739	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Hello, I am a booth owner at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. I respectfully oppose this bill because it could result in the hundreds of self employed and small business owners that make up the Maryland Renaissance Festival to shut down. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival, for reasons listed near the end of the bill, and it is not clear who has that authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. The Smith family (festival owners) work hard with the county to operate the festival respectfully and as a part of the community. The festival should be excluded or grandfathered because it was already approved as a special exception. The renaissance festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes..." arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." It might not be realized but many booth owners, like myself, work hard all year to make product to sell at this festival. Some of us make 80%-90% of our yearly income at this festival. To lose that income would be devastating. The Maryland Renaissance Festival brings so much joy to the community while also supporting so many artists, entertainers, and many other small businesses that it needs to be protected / exempt from this bill. Thank you.	
03/20/2023 0:36:10	Patricia Lindquist	San Antonio, TX	78259	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I would like to voice my concern about this bill, as it may affect the permitting of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, where I have been a participating artisan for over 20 years. I drive from Texas every year to sell my wares there, and have built a local customer base that has provided me with the bulk of my annual income. It would be devastating to me to have the permits denied or delayed, and the wording of this bill makes it look like one person could decide to affect the event. Our festival management does everything it possibly can to be self sufficient, hiring our own parking services, grounds maintenance, sanitation company, security, medical staff, and ongoing clerical staffing, not to mention we all as vendors make every effort to make things run smoothly. The festival provides employment for hundreds of people locally, including year round office staff and provides a vital market for hundreds of artists, stage acts and food vendors that rely very heavily on this event for their income. I urge you to reconsider the wording and possible ramifications to the festival should it pass as is. Thank you.	
03/20/2023 0:20:46	Jeanne Gibbons	Mount Savage, MD	21545	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am writing to request that the language in proposed Bill 13-23 be amended to allow the Maryland Renaissance Festival to operate without fear of permit denial or cancellation. Many families, including mine, are dependent on the Maryland Renaissance Festival for their annual income. Loss of this event, in part or whole, would create financial hardship for people who rely on income as vendors, entertainers, management, security, food service, non-profits, and many other event-related jobs. Personally, as a vendor and artist who resides in Maryland, I have invested time and assets for almost 40 years in this event. Any interruption or loss would be devastating to my family and my business. For our patrons and local businesses, once travel and lodging are booked, reservations and weddings are scheduled and people make plans to participate in and attend an event of this size and status, it is devastating to face cancellation. This amendment is important given the long-standing, good operating status of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, which hires its own security, traffic, health, and safety professionals. This event has a proven record of accomplishment in Anne Arundel County for operating safely under all types of situations, including extreme weather events and other regional and national tragedies, from the DC sniper to 911, that have occurred during the festival over the many years of its operation. Finally, having a place to go where a family can escape the 24-hour cycle of news in stressful times is vitally important. I do understand the need for preparedness in emergencies and hope that Anne Arundel County will amend the language of proposed Bill 13-23 and continue to work as a partner to ensure the safety of the community, as well as the regular function of the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Thank you for your time and consideration.	YES
03/19/2023 23:21:43	Kristin Thorson	Hudson	34667	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	As it may pertain to MD Renaissance: I have exhibited at the Renaissance festival since 2006 & have worked in this industry for 30 years. I can say confidently that MDRF is the most impeccably managed festival I have experienced. The sponsors put forth every effort to work with the county, city, & residents to ensure safe & smooth operation of the festival. They also provide a stellar market in which hundreds of artists & performers can generate a sizeable percentage of their yearly income. I'm sure I am not alone in saying that I hope the festival will remain a special exception as it is "specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." This festival is a cherished tradition in the region. I certainly hope to participate with MDRF for many more years to come. The risk of cancellation is unsettling, & I ask for an amendment to this proposed bill that would ensure continued operation of this festival that means so much to the participants & patrons alike. Thank you so much for your consideration.	
03/19/2023 22:18:36	Kathleen Boyland	Ijamsville	21754	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am a Maryland small business owner/artist whose art work is sold exclusively in my merchant shop at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, (MDRF). I have been with the festival thirteen years of my thirty-five-year career. Knowing the event will open and close on set dates is critical for planning and preparation of current and new art work for each upcoming season. Production demands are high and any unforeseen disruption to the schedule would be devastating. Daily, multi-day or season entry passes are sold online only, often times selling out well in advance. Attendees typically make plans well in advance to insure they can attend. MDRF participants leverage advance ticket sales data for forecasting materials, inventory, and staffing, to insure we can meet customer demand. I believe not opening or limiting the number of days open would have significant negative impact on local and state revenue due loss of applicable food and beverage tax, merchandise sales tax, ticket sales taxes etc. MDRF management employs their own security officers, EMTs, enforces applicable liquor laws, controls tickets sales, maintains festival grounds in addition to working with all participants to insure we comply with annual inspections and applicable laws. MDRF should be among the excluded event facilities in the existing ordinance. MDRF has a well-established forty plus year history with a self-contained and well-maintained infrastructure that I believe supports County requirements. Thank you for taking time to review my discussion points as you consider Bill 13-23.	
03/19/2023 22:14:16	Johanna Dun-Jones	Kingston	12401	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I'm a business owner who participates in the Maryland Renaissance Festival writing to request an amendment on this bill. My mother started our company in 1976, and I have been running it since she retired in 2012. We bought our booth at the MDRF in 1991 and in those 32 years, we have grown and built amazing relationships with our customers that can often span several generations in a single family. We've operated for over 40 years as a female-owned small business. Currently we have 13 full and part-time production & operation staff based in New York, and our seasonal faire staff across the country includes 30 employees, 14 of which are at the MDRF. Even though we have booths at 8 festivals, the MDRF accounts for a third of our total annual revenue. In turn, this year we've decided to drop a few of our other faires in order to devote more resources to our MDRF booth and its patrons. Instead of splitting our inventory & resources between fairs in the fall, the MDRF patrons will have first dibs on our entire stock. This decision was clear because this festival is our favorite, hands down. It has the best food and the best crafters which consistently attract the most enthusiastic & supportive patrons. It is also the most safely, professionally, and intelligently managed renaissance festival in the country. All this is to say, if proposed bill # 13-23 were to pass without any additional amendment to protect the 2023 MDRF as currently scheduled, and the number of faire days was at risk of being decreased in any way, it would have a severe detrimental impact to my business, the lives of my employees, and every other business at MDRF. My employees are already booking their shifts for those weekends and rely on them for their overall income for the year. Not to mention, we have shifted our entire annual strategy to prioritize these 19 Faire days at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, so I implore you to please allow it to continue running and succeeding the way it has been for the previous 40+ years.	
03/19/2023 20:53:28	Pam Taylor	San Pedro	90731	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	March 19, 2023 To Whom it May Concern, My name is Pamela Taylor, my husband Gary and I have been craft vendors at the Maryland Renaissance Festival since 1994. I am writing to urge you to vote no on proposed bill #13-23 or to exclude the Festival from it. From a personal perspective the revenue this show generates is our main source of income and we have invested heavily in our buildings on the site as well as making enough inventory to fill these booths. Taking a larger perspective, there are hundreds of people that are supported financially (vendors, actors, security, office staff, etc.) and also tens of thousands of people that wait all year for the opportunity to come out and share in the magic of our village. In the time that I have been vending at this show I have come to see how much it means to so many people particularly in these stressful times. I have full faith that Jules Smith and his commitment to the community can work out any concerns the county may have around festival operations. Thank you for your attention, Pamela Taylor Bullseye	

Legislative Testimony 3-20-2023 (online submissions)

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Optional Attachment
03/19/2023 20:14:30	Elijah James Smith	Ithaca	14850	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Hello, I have off and on worked at the Maryland Renaissance festival for the last since 2009. I grew up doing them all over the country, so have insight into their operations. The proposed bill fails to take into account certain factors of the faire's business. More so then most, a renn faire relies on reliability. People often plan well in advance on attendance, and can come from great distances. Disappointing them with a closed gate often makes them unwilling to try again. Moreover, as someone who comes in from out of state to work, it can be financially backbreaking. 11-11-104 B 13 is the particularly worrying and vague statement. It seems unclear who or what determines "The special event requires county services beyond a level that will be available at the time of the special event." The primary concern is road usage might be scrutinized, and the faire as an "outsider" group would be the event canceled in case of a conflict. Being of lesser importance then a Navy game or the county fair. The faire is an institution of the city and state that has existed far longer then I've been alive. Even uncertainty of its ability to operate is greatly hazardous to its health. I ask the council to either specify the language in the bill to eliminate these concerns, specifically grandfather the faire so it is protected, or not pass it into law. Thank you for your consideration, and have a good day.	
03/19/2023 19:41:00	Richard Bailey	Middletown	21769	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	The renaissance festival is important to me because it represents a huge portion of my familys income in any given year. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival for reasons listed near the end and it is not clear who has authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. The festival business operates year-round at the festival grounds preparing, maintaining and operating a shop and office employing 10 full time people who would be out of work if the festival could not open, as well as my own business and the shop I own at the festival. It should be excluded or grandfathered because it was already approved as a special exception. The renaissance festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes... arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals....	
03/19/2023 19:03:33	Richard Heinen	Crystal beach	34681	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear AA County, We are independent artisans who hand make our special custom made coins and medallions at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, proudly, all with American metal. We have many reasons to want to have a special request to not include MDRF in this proposal that could impede the ongoing operation of MDRF. We are in our 31st year at MDRF. Many of our supporters are 3rd generation festival lovers who come from all over the world as well as many from MD, so we struck meaningful medallions for their parents, for them as children, and now for their grandchildren. We, and they, welcome these wonderful memories, and want to continue these special moments especially with all the world's current tribulations. And, as we too are a small family business with our 3 generations continuing ,parents, son, and grandson, we depend on the Festival annually for a good share of our income. We have a substantial investment in our Shoppe at the faire as well. We hire local talent, hire local carpenters and spend our income to support local businesses of all types for over 2 months each year. Just last season, we invested in a new roof done in the old Renaissance style for aesthetics by a talented local roofer. Which brings us to note that MDRF is an important event with cultural ties to AACounty's own history, including the fact that Jousting is The official MD state sport for over 50 years! So many American craftsmen, artisans, performers, other participants, crew and the owners of the festival itself are all part of a long term, tight knit happy family. Any disruption to this current arrangement would disrupt the lives of so many people who call AAC their home either all year or ongoing seasonally. Thank you for your consideration in not imposing regulations in bill #13-23 that would restrict MDRF in conducting this annual event. Sincerely, Rick, Barbara, Hans, & Vander Heinen The Heinen Family	
03/19/2023 18:49:05	Joseph Victor	Silver City	88061	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Hello, I have some concerns over the proposed bill #13-23. Specifically, my concern lies with the Maryland renaissance festival. I am a businessman who has made his livelihood with the festival for over 20 years. I am also an employer at the festival. The proposed ordinance seems that it could be used to cancel the festival (for reasons listed near its end). It is not clear who has authority nor is there any remedy or appeal process outlined. I believe the festival should be grandfathered in as a special exception to this proposal. It has been in existence for 35+ years and provides substantial income to hundreds of individual and business owners who's livelihoods are quite dependent upon it. I appreciate your consideration. Sincerely, Joseph Victor Goody Woods 575-536-3081	
03/19/2023 17:49:04	Kenneth Fischer	Severn	21144	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear Council Members, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express support for the Renaissance Festival and to request an amendment to proposed bill #13-23. The Renaissance Festival is important to me as it provides a unique cultural experience to our community and generates income for many artisans and local businesses. Our family has been operating a business at the festival since 1986 and is now in our third generation of participation. I appreciate the intent of the proposed bill to help notify departments of an event and to ensure the availability of adequate support resources. However, I am concerned that certain provisions in the bill may unintentionally threaten the future of the festival. Specifically, the scheduling of multiple events on the same day as the Festival could potentially be used to deny or revoke a permit for the Festival, even though it hires its own security and medical staff, and does not directly rely on county services. Denial or revocation of permits would impact the full-time employees of the Festival, vendors, performers, and employees of local businesses like mine that all rely on the Festival for their livelihoods. I request that you consider excluding or grandfathering the Renaissance Festival, as it was granted a special exception many years ago and has proven to be a financial and cultural asset to our county. As the Festival grounds are used solely for holding this event, I believe the Renaissance Festival should be included among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance, in the spirit of "arenas... or other like structure if the structure is specifically designed to be used for assembly of individuals..." In conclusion, I respectfully ask that you consider these concerns when reviewing the proposed bill and make amendments to ensure the Renaissance Festival's continued success. Thank you for your time and attention. Your efforts in safeguarding our cultural heritage and local economy are greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Kenneth Fischer Severn, MD	
03/19/2023 17:19:15	Wilson Meloy	Annapolis	21401	Yes	Art of the Wood	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	Greetings Council Members, I am a resident of the county as well as a merchant at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Being a disabled veteran, this festival is the only one I actively work as it is right across the street from me, and it accounts for almost 80% of my annual income and assists the livelihood of my seven seasonal employees. So obviously I have a very strong interest in an uninterrupted run of the show in the fall. I would think this four plus decade old business would be exempt and not considered a special event as the buildings are permanent with the grounds open throughout the year and the staff working year-round on a Mon-Fri schedule. Booth owners also do on-site maintenance throughout the year. Considering during the performance time of year the entertainment begins before the patrons even enter the gate, it makes the entire experience an interactive theatre. It is also used as a wedding venue and can be seen as a social hall as every year many national organizations plan events there. The planning, which includes room rentals and travel tickets begins months before the actual gathering, so to have a day or weekend cancelled just before it was to occur could cause financial loss to people who cannot get refunds for their travel arrangements. I am not alone in these thoughts, and I hope that the Maryland Renaissance Festival will be made an exemption in bill 13-23. Regards, Wilson Meloy	YES
03/19/2023 17:01:49	Mark Cooper	Plantersville,Texas	77363	Yes	Signs of Spirit	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Support	I first set foot in Anne Arundel County in 1997, when I moved into my mother-in-law's home in Severn's Park, on the corner of Water and Park. She was fighting a losing battle with Parkinson's. I was exhibiting my woodcarvings at Renaissance Festivals in Texas, Wisconsin, Virginia and Arizona. I told people that I met in Maryland what I did for a living. Without exception they asked "do you do our Renfaire. They didn't say "the Maryland fair, or the fair in Crownsville. They proudly said "OUR FAIR. I have exhibited at the Maryland Renaissance Festival since 2001. The show provides 80% of my annual income. Everything about this show is joyful, lacking the unbridled greed and commercialism present in most other shows. My lease on my spot at the festival is my most valuable asset. I pray that in your wisdom you allow the Smith family to continue to operate to the benefit of we who participate, and the hundred of thousands of your citizens who love the festival.	
03/19/2023 16:25:15	R. Foster Holcombe	Laytonsville	20882	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	The Maryland Renaissance Festival is entering its 39th season at its Crownsville location. Over the years, the management which was one of the original generational founders of the Renaissance Festival concept in the late 70s, has developed it into a MD/DC, Northern Virginia (mid-Atlantic) annual event. Over these many years, the management team has worked with many of you at a city, county and state level to work through many issues that have challenged the evolution and growth of many businesses. We feel fortunate to be able to participate with the festival which has benefited our business in many aspects.	
03/19/2023 16:16:19	Judith Tessem	Hanover	17331	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	My concern is that this bill could potentially affect the Maryland Renaissance Festival. My husband and I own a pottery booth at the Faire and it provides almost the entirety of our pottery income for the year. This is our only income. The Faire does not rely on public resources for its operation, providing its own police, etc. The office is open year round and has a permanent staff which would be affected if the Faire were not allowed to open for any reason. I can understand the concerns represented in this bill--that too many large events at the same time could overwhelm the available county resources of personnel. But I reiterate--the Faire is self-sufficient and does not rely on County resources. I thank you for your attention, and for your endeavors to safeguard the county. Respectfully--Judy Tessem	
03/19/2023 15:26:03	Tiger Shaner Torre	Baltimore	21218	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I've been a booth owner at the MD Renaissance Festival since 2008. I've attended/participated at MDRF since 1995. I have some concerns about the vague wording in Bill 13-23, and whether the MD Renaissance Festival could be cancelled unduly during its season. MDRF is my main source of income, and is very important to my business and livelihood. We also rely on access to the MDRF site during the off season months, to do maintenance on our buildings. MDRF brings a huge amount of revenue to its artisans & booth owners, and we in turn bring business to Crownsville, Annapolis, and surrounding areas. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival, and it is not clear who has authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. The impact of a cancellation of the event would be dire for businesses like mine, and I am hoping that Bill 13-23 could see some revision or rewording before being passed that would clarify exactly how and why events might be canceled, or to grandfather in large events like the MD Renaissance Festival that run year round. Thank you for your time.	
03/19/2023 15:20:20	John Peterson	Spencer, Indiana	47460	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	I am concerned with the wording in Bill 13-23 that pertains to cancellation of Special Events. I, specifically, am concerned with the Maryland Renaissance Festival. As a participating craftsman I depend on this event for my income for the year. I create my own artwork full-time in preparation for this one event. We are subject to weather emergencies and, recently, pandemic restrictions. Random cancellation would be disastrous for me. I would like the Festival to have a special exception to this bill as a long-standing and well run event.	
03/19/2023 15:02:57	Donna Fasano	Denver	80204	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear Anne Arundel County Council Members, My name is Donna Fasano, and I am an exhibiting artist at the Maryland Renaissance Festival (MDRF). I am writing to express my opposition to the current wording in Bill 13-23 as it does not explicitly include the Maryland Renaissance Festival as an "arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." and thus exempt from the purposes of Bill 13-23. MDRF is regulated at the county level year round and the language in previous county bills has reflected that level of specificity to clarify ordinances such as bill 83-16, enacted 01-26-2017, that specifies Title 4, Residential District: 18-4-106 Permitted, conditional, and special exception uses: "Festival, Renaissance- zones RA; SE." MDRF should be specified as a Special Exception to Bill 13-23, consistent with Title 11: "Requirements for Special Exception Uses § 18-11-127. Festival, renaissance," to which the Marland Renaissance Festival satisfies all the requirements of a facility rather than a special event. I ask that the council consider Amending Bill 13-23, 11-11-101, (9) II "Special Event does not include" specifying that the festival, renaissance is a Special Exception. MDRF operates and maintains the festival grounds, buildings, and administration with year-round land and building use. Finally, as an artist with a booth named "The Owl and The Hourglass" at the festival, I make 85% of my annual income during the run of MDRF. Each year, I reinvest 30% of that income directly into the local hiring, marketing, and repairs of my booth structure. I rely on the festival grounds being accessible during the spring and summer months to make booth updates before the festival is open to the public. The annual planning and investment I make and the reliance on income are based on knowing the staff and administration of MDRF are working year-round on-site. Thank you for considering my opposition to Bill 12-23 in its current language and appeal to update the language to include a Special Exception for the Maryland Renaissance Festival in the Council's deliberations. Sincere Regards, Donna Fasano	

Legislative Testimony 3-20-2023 (online submissions)

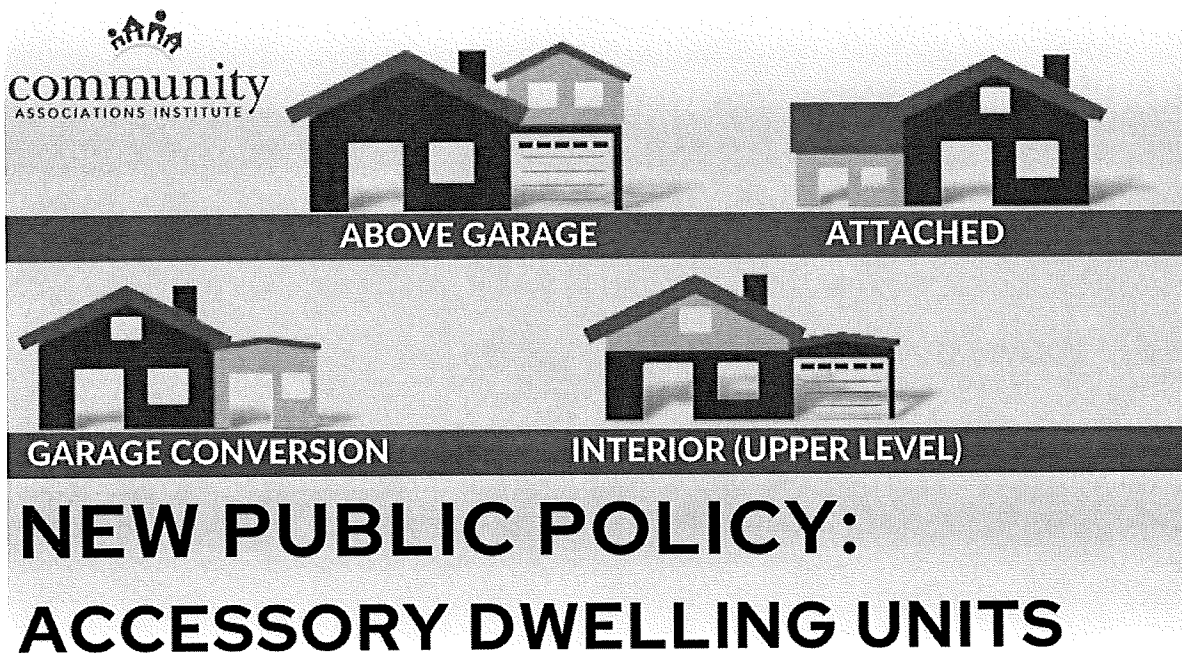
Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Optional Attachment
03/19/2023 14:51:22	William Gerald Grant	Hopewell	16650	No	The Maryland Renaissance Festival	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear County council. I am in support of the Md Renaissance Festival. Please do not hinder in any way this important event. It is a real stress reliever for all the govt employees that attend the festival. I have invested close to 100 thousand dollars in this event, all spent in MD. It is my only source of income. This Festival supports Charities nation wide. About 20% of my income supports the Gospel of JESUS. The festival hires high school kids. this is the premier event for the people of Maryland.	
03/19/2023 14:20:18	Bob Sartwell	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Support	While I generally support the bill, there seems to be some clarity needed for long running events such as the RennFest. I am the President of my Rotary Club and the festival affords us and others the opportunity to raise funds for good causes. As I understand it they use no or limited county resources to operate. I believe that there should be additional language to indicate that events such as these, especially long running events, should either be grandfathered in or it should be specified that the staffing provided by the event is a factor in consideration of approval.	
03/19/2023 14:04:09	mark tysseling	st paul	55102	No	Royalty Foods and its 120 employees	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	TO CONTINUE. To think it could be cancelled at any time would be devastating to my employees, thousands of loyal patrons and me. During Covid we shut down for the 2020 season. This hurt everyone involved at the festival and impacted the community and its base revenue. Bottom line: The bill would impact lots of people. Please amend this bill and include the Renaissance Festival with the arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals. Please Hear My Plea	
03/19/2023 13:08:35	Kate Jones	Pasadena	21122	Yes	Kadon Enterprises, Inc.	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	I own a booth at Maryland Renaissance Festival: Ye Olde Gamery, showing and selling original puzzles and games. We built it on space leased from the Festival owners. I have depended on business I do in this booth for 39 years, also providing income for 8 to 10 helpers. We have good safety measures, including smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, entrance ramp, many exits for crowds and fresh air. It's even reassuring that our booth is right next to the First Aid station. Our staff uses our private privy. We pass inspection annually. The Festival is excellently managed and run, including compliance with liquor sales and all other regulations. It is a beloved attraction in the region for over 45 years, on private land with no extra demands on the county except for increased weekend traffic. The many artisans provide pleasure to thousands, employment for hundreds, and added revenues for Anne Arundel County. The festival is a regularly recurring annual season, not just a one-time special event. It is a major attraction, and the visitors it attracts are also beneficial for other businesses in the area. Come visit us when the Festival opens in August and see my game shop for fun! Mention that you are from the County and get one free play.	YES
03/19/2023 12:54:23	David Spurlock	Titusville	32796	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I'm not opposed to the bill, just the potential for future issues to develop due to the way it's written. Please see attachment.	YES
03/19/2023 11:38:45	Patrick C Parker	six mile run	16679	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am writing in opposition to Bill 13/23 and also in support of Jules Smith the owner of MDRF. I am not just a craftsman, selling my woodwork at faire, but for 38 years, I have sweated and bled as a carpenter with the Smiths in the construction and design of the faire. Every decision Jules has ever made, concerning the faire has benefited all of us. I have been to many faires, and Maryland is considered the "Gold Standard" in quality and fairness. It is not just a place where I work, I have dedicated my life to it, and it is my livelihood. If the faire were to be shut down, it would cause considerable hardship on everyone. I fully support Jules Smith in opposition to Bill 13/23. Thank you.	
03/19/2023 10:49:47	Casey (Nicodemys) Carvell	Randallstown	21133	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I have been a participant at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for over 26 years and share a passion matched by many of the vendors, booth owners, actors and other participants. I am the owner of a small home improvement company (registered with MHIC) and a small artistic fabrication shop which as of this year is now a vendor/booth owner at the festival. As I get older and become unable to perform home improvement my participation with the festival will become more and more essential to my financial income. At this moment I have a lot of money tied up in this investment and if the festival fails to open it could be detrimental to my economy and many other small business owners at the festival as it is a large part of not the only source of our income. I feel that some of the language used in the proposed bill may be used to not issue the necessary permits for the festival to open and operate to its full capacity. The Renaissance festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes... arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals...	
03/19/2023 8:13:31	Kathy Martinez	Berkeley Springs WVa.	25411	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	Resolution 3 23 The Ren Fair is my only source of income, as well as for many other local artisans. Over half of performers, musicians, and artists are local. In recent years, all good shows for artists have left. The art marketplace now is mostly for trendy, ugly commercial art. There is no place, besides this fair, for traditional, handmade, beautiful art, sold directly by the artist. The same goes for performers and musicians, who keep traditions alive. Support us!	YES
03/19/2023 0:39:17	Linda Demian	Surprise	85374	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am an artist that has participated in the Maryland Renaissance Festival for 44 years. I travel 2400 miles each way to attend and I do this not just for economic reasons but because of the Smith family that puts the fair on. They consider every facet of decency, safety and caring that is unparalleled in this business. If any part of this bill enables the festival to be cancelled at a moments notice on a whim, the consequences would be disastrous and far reaching. Not only would thousands of workers, staff, entertainers and other participants be affected but the public would sorely miss being able to attend this legendary event. I'm asking that the festivals outstanding history in your county allows it to be grandfathered in to not be threatened with any closure due to this bill. Thank you for your time.	
03/18/2023 22:48:20	R Zenobia Martin	Middleburg, FL	32068	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I am proud to have been a part of the Maryland Renaissance Festival for almost 24 years. The Festival is very important to me for the following reasons. 1 - the majority of my annual income comes from those 19 days that the Festival is up and running. I have seen my business (Life Consultant/Coach) improve over the years, since 1999, and my first time and repeat clients are very appreciative and grateful, and frequently contact me outside the Festival during the year. 2 - The Maryland Renaissance Festival is a well established annual event with a strong following; that draws its crowds, actors, vendors and staff members not only from across the country, but also from Annapolis/Crownsville and surrounding areas. 3 - With an over 40-year existence in the Annapolis/Crownsville area, I think the Festival should be recognized as an established Business/Event and included in the list of exempt or grandfathered-in events. 4 - Finally, there would be so many - both attendees and Festival people - who will be hearted broken if the Faire should close. Someone once said to me, "In 10 years this will all be Virtual Reality." My response was, "They may try. However, the pure excitement, the sense of wonder, and the ability to smell and to enjoy biting into a Turkey leg ... that won't be the same!" Please approve the Festival as an established, yearly Business/Event. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions. Respectfully yours, Zenobia	
03/18/2023 20:54:12	Milon Townsend	Hilton	14468	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose		YES
03/18/2023 17:06:46	Kimberly Nicole Cooley	Floyd, Virginia	24091	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I work with the Maryland Renaissance Festival and earn, usually, more than half of my yearly income there. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival for reasons listed near the end of the bill and I do not have authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. The festival business operates year-round at the festival grounds preparing, maintain and operating a shop and office employing 10 full time people who would be out of work if the festival could not open. There are also many seasonal festival workers such as myself and others at the shop I work at who would suffer. I personally travel more than 5 and a half hours one-way to work at the festival while staying and spending money in Anne Arundel County for food, gas and lodging. Depending on how much notice I was given, I could have not only lost income but expense due to unnecessary travel and time wasted on the road for no good purpose. The festival should be excluded or grandfathered because it was already approved as a special exception. The Renaissance festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals. The Renaissance festival brings a lot of business and tax revenue to Anne Arundel County. Please support the fair being open every day of their normal schedule for the benefit of the festival, its workers, and Anne Arundel County itself. Thank you for your consideration, Sincerely, K. Nicole Cooley	
03/18/2023 14:57:26	KATHLEEN ANN DOPITA	Colorado Springs, CO	80921	Yes	on behalf of The Maryland Renaissance Festival	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Thank you to the Anne Arundel Council for the opportunity to share thoughts here regarding the proposed Special Events Bill #13-23. On behalf of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, I ask that it be recognized as an exemption to this Bill should the Bill be approved. The Maryland Renaissance Festival is specifically designed for the assembly of individuals and is a year round business. It employs 10 individuals constantly and more during peak season. The site is improved and maintained throughout the year. This business caps attendance with tickets sold online for parking and traffic control and regulation, employs its own law and safety enforcement/security, parking attendants, sanitation services, medical and emergency staff, trash disposal and recycling, and has generators on hand ready should power go out. The Festival wisely accommodates the public, those patrons who attend, and those who participate. The County does not have to pay for those services for the Maryland Renaissance Festival. The Festival responsibly continues its business with decades of experience, able management and efficiency. It should not be billed for such services by the county for what it already does as this Bill proposes. The Festival has been approved as a special exemption in the past as a constant and continuing year round Anne Arundel County business and I ask the Council to see that it is still recognized as such. The employees of the Festival continue to conduct business year round in Anne Arundel County and count on the business for their livelihood. I do as well. I create sculptural designs in my metal foundry and work steadily on the creations for months in advance of the Festival. The management of the Festival is a pleasure to work with and is always wise and thoughtful in its planning and production of the Festival. For decades the Maryland Renaissance Festival has been managed with tremendous skill and awareness and brings more commerce to other businesses in Anne Arundel County as well. Having seen the delight and awe of patrons who attend the Festival, from grandparents explaining the arts to their grandchildren with smiles and joy, to families and teens, young couples and aspiring artists and performers, the Festival brings a sense of wonder to those who attend and it inspires. It is my hope the Anne Arundel Council, should they approve this bill, recognize the Maryland Renaissance Festival as a standard business that is exempt because it is created specifically to assemble individuals. It is a year round business there and has been for decades. Thank you for your consideration. Best Wishes to the Council, K.Dopita K.Dopita Studio kkoopitastudio.net	
03/18/2023 12:22:36	Thomas C. Bailey, PhD	Odenton	21113	No	Page After Page, LLC	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I believe changes are necessary to the proposal.	YES
03/18/2023 11:09:27	nancy m barry	Millers	21102	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	needs some additional wordage.	YES
03/18/2023 9:52:56	Allen S Bjorkman Jr	Oswego	13126	No	Maryland Renaissance Festival	Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	As an artisan with a booth at the Festival I need to plan my stock levels and employee hiring well in advance of opening. The Festival hires its own parking and security staff to minimize county resources and they have limited ticket sales to lessen the traffic to and from the site. Please ensure that this popular event can continue.	
03/18/2023 9:47:01	Robert Matteson	Fallston	21047	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	As a longtime artist and exhibitor at the Maryland Renaissance Festival I believe Bill 13-23, while well intentioned, would have a profound and negative impact on my livelihood by potentially interrupting the established continuity of the event. Because the festival has operated at the same permanent venue on the same weekends for more than 30 years, it has become a part of the fabric of the culture throughout the mid-Atlantic region; most everyone knows of it and hundreds of thousands include it in their fall schedules. Because the festival provides income to hundreds of artists, hundreds of actors, hundreds of part-time workers and hundreds of local teens, any interruption could cause wide spread economic harm. In my reading of the bill, it would seem that the Festival should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes... arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals... Thank you for your consideration.	
03/17/2023 21:54:02	Kathleen Nelson	Odenton	21113	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	No Position	This bill will impact the Maryland Renaissance Festival, in its current state. I suggest that it be amended to protect this 50 year old institution. I work at the fair, as a vendor, and I provide income to a handful of local workers. But I am just a small part of a much larger event. Thousands of workers participate every year, and more than 100,000 people attend every year. This provides a large chunk of revenue to the county and state. The festival also provides first time jobs to hundreds of youth every year. I believe it is in the best interest of the county to support the Maryland Renaissance Festival now, and in the years to come.	

Legislative Testimony 3-20-2023 (online submissions)

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Optional Attachment
03/17/2023 20:21:11	Anna Marie Wright	Richardsville	22736	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	I writing to voice my concern over some of the ambiguity in bill #13-23 especially in how it might pertain to the Maryland Renaissance Festival. As an artisan in the region, MDRF is my biggest show of the year, one that I spend much of my work-time throughout the year preparing for. The impact that the festival's closure would have on my business, and countless other small businesses, is immeasurable. As this bill currently stands, the proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival (or any event) for a variety of ambiguous reasons and it is not clear who has governance over said events nor is any remedy or appeal process mentioned. The festival – a long-standing institution in your county - operates its business year-round and should be among the excluded event facilities already in the ordinance that includes... "arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals...". Thank you for your time and consideration.	
03/17/2023 19:04:15	Virginia Watson	Washington	22747	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Dear Council Members, My husband and I have been part of the Maryland Renaissance Festival for 35 years. It supports our family and the families of 12 different employees that work year round for us. Without this festival, we would go out of business. Our businesses are very specialized as it allows us, and those artisans who work for us, to continue doing a "heritage craft" (meaning that the artisan abilities that are utilized in our work are no longer taught in society - we keep a skill alive that otherwise would be lost). Perhaps this show can be excluded from this amendment as it was already approved as a special exception. Thank you for your time and attention. Bill & Virginia Watson . Potomac Leather Co. & Wolfstone Kilt Co.	
03/17/2023 18:32:31	Erica Hession	Stuart	24171	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Hello, my name is Erica Hession and I am a vendor at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. This special events bill has been brought to my attention, and while it's goals are admirable I believe it needs some review before it is finalized. It seems like under the current verbiage, the Maryland Renaissance Festival could be denied a permit for it's special event. The proposed ordinance could be used to cancel the festival for reasons listed near the end and it is not clear who has authority nor is there any remedy or appeal. This is worrisome because the festival is so important to me. In addition to being such a historic source of joy, comradarie, and artistic expression; it is one of my main sources of income each year. I and the people who help me would be deeply negatively impacted financially if the festival could not open. Additionally, while the festival is considered a special event, it operates year-round at the festival grounds preparing, maintain and operating a shop and office employing 10 full time people who would be out of work if the festival could not open. Should the bill be passed, the Renaissance Festival should be included in the excluded or grandfathered event facilities already in the ordinance that includes... "arenas or other structures if the structure is specifically designed to be used for the assembly of individuals..." because I and other booth owners, as well as the festival owners themselves, have invested large sums of money in our historically themed permanent shops. Thank you for considering my concerns. Sincerely, Erica	
03/17/2023 18:26:31	mark Goldfarb	Woodsock	12498	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Oppose	Friday, March 17, 2023 May it please the COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND My name is Mark Goldfarb. I own and operate Catskill Mountain Moccasins Located in Woodstock Ny. My company has been exhibiting at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for nearly 30 years. The Maryland Renaissance Festival is one of the top renaissance festivals in the country of which that are well over one hundred. Being a superior event, it contributes a great deal to my annual income, and those whom I employ, and I know that this is the case for many, if not all the artisans who come from all of the USA to participate in this event. It is no easy task to be at the top of the list in terms of the quality of the festival. There is one simple reason that this festival is at the top of this list, and that reason is that the Smith family who own and manage the festival care greatly about every single aspect of operating this festival. I have known Jules Smith personally for all the years I have been there, and I have never seen someone so dedicated to their work as Jules. Nothing escapes his attention. Especially when it comes to public safety, adherence to county and state regulations and ensuring that all parties involved follow methods and procedures to the letter of the law. As you are aware the Maryland Renaissance festival draws fantastic crowds to the 9-weekend event each year. This fact creates tax revenue that adds to the county's resources and allows Anne Arundel County to use these funds year-round from an event that only occurs for 19 days. In other words, fantastic returns for the county for little investment of county funds. The festival pays for and provides police and emergency personal at their own cost. This ensures the safety of all who attend and the orderly operation of the festival. In consideration of all these facts and that the festival has been a good neighbor, solid business and a valued member of Anne Arundel County it would seem fair that the an amendment to this bill be added to protect the festival from cancellation by the County due to conflicting events being held at the same time or for reasons other than the festival not complying with existing rules and regulations that currently the festival operates under. Tens of thousands of residents of Maryland and the surrounding states look forward to the nine weekends in the fall when the Maryland Renaissance Festival opens. I humbly ask that you consider my testimony and ensure that the Maryland Renaissance Festival be allowed to operate without the chance of cancellation for reasons that could be cited in the proposed special event bill 13-23. Thank you for consideration of my testimony. Respectfully, Mark Goldfarb	
03/16/2023 10:37:40	Rita Ferry	Annapolis	21409	Yes		Bill 13-23: Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting	Support		

CAI Adopts New Public Policy on Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units

by Dawn Bauman, CAE | Feb 11, 2022 | Community Association Guidance, Public Policies



For the past several years, there are growing concerns over the shortage of affordable housing, as well as entry-level housing in the U.S. Numerous housing experts indicate that current housing stock is failing to keep up with demand. Freddie Mac notes that there was a shortage of 3.8 million housing units as of the fourth quarter of 2020, while the National Association of Realtors estimates that the existing housing gap is up to 6.8 million units, according to a report released in June 2021.

On Feb. 9, the CAI Board of Trustees adopted the Accessory Dwelling Unit Public Policy. CAI recognizes the need to provide more affordable housing in the U.S. At the same time, CAI supports the rights of residential common interest communities to reasonably regulate the development and placement of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) within their neighborhoods.

The need for affordable housing is acute in many parts of the country. Governmental regulatory bodies seeking to provide affordable housing opportunities must

simultaneously recognize that need while ensuring that roads, schools, availability of adequate parking, and other necessary services that promote public safety—including those provided by the community association—are adequate to meet any additional burden resulting from an increase in the density of dwellings and population.

ADUs come in many different forms and serve as a cost-effective alternative to increasing housing supply. They may be a smaller, secondary, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a standalone (i.e., detached) single-family home in a community. ADUs also may be known as granny flats, accessory apartments, in-law apartments, family apartments, room rentals, garage and/or basement conversions, patio enclosures, or secondary units.

These forms of housing continue gaining popularity to keep up with housing demand in residential neighborhoods, providing affordable housing options and promoting intergenerational living opportunities. In some localities, the cost of housing has become unaffordable to existing residents and those employed in a municipality such as firefighters, law enforcement officers, teachers, municipal employees, nurses, and other essential workers. This type of housing model also facilitates efficient use of existing housing supply and infrastructure and improves homeowner cash flow. As the need for affordable housing options continues to grow, zoning policies are being revised to allow for the development of ADUs.

Community association leaders experience practical issues when ADUs are added to existing common interest developments that have rules created to preserve the intended purpose and design characteristics of the community. Under certain circumstances, ADUs may create unintended adverse consequences in a community including, but not limited to, parking issues, alteration of intended design, overcrowding of residents and structures, overtaxing common area facilities and amenities, and increasing traffic congestion, all without a mechanism to reallocate assessment contributions to account for changes that would create an associated burden upon the community.

Policy Recommendation

CAI supports legislation that recognizes the community association housing model's core principles of self-governance and co-ownership of common property. CAI encourages policymakers to engage industry stakeholders such as community association homeowners, board members, community managers, and business partners on this issue. CAI believes crafting legislation and regulation should always take place in an open and transparent manner, providing the opportunity for comment by all interested parties.

CAI recognizes the need for affordable housing in the U.S. and supports the rights of residential common interest communities to reasonably regulate the development of ADUs within their communities.

We oppose legislation that prohibits community associations from regulating the addition of ADUs without allowing for reasonable rules and restrictions.

CAI supports legislation that allows an association to develop reasonable rules and regulations requiring consistency with the common plan or scheme of the subdivision where ADUs are located within a community, including restrictions upon design, size, and location.

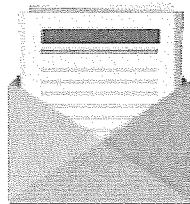
We support providing a community association's board of directors the ability to use discretion in adopting uniform, reasonable individual assessment increases to offset the additional costs created by the addition of ADUs.

RESOURCES

[CAI Legislative Tracking of Accessory Dwelling Unit Legislation](#)

[CAI Public Policies](#)

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Mar 20, 2023 County Council Meeting - Comments RE: Bill 6-23 - ADU's

My name is Kurt Svendsen, I live in Arnold. The following is an excerpt of a message I received from Councilmember Rodvien following my testimony from two weeks ago on this Bill:

“I believe that good policy is based on data available and case studies. and not on fears. As a homeowner, I am sensitive to keeping the character of an existing neighborhood. At the same time, when we have over 27,000 families waiting to get county support just in order to get an appropriate roof over their head, concerns about slightly tighter parking and density increases are privileged and insensitive to those with real housing needs.”

This message touches upon two points I would like to make:

1. I see no evidence that a balanced analysis of data available and case studies was undertaken in an open and inclusive manner leading up to the drafting of and introduction of this legislation.
2. A clear underlying purpose to this legislation is to address the need for “affordable housing” yet that term has not been defined, and nothing in this legislation targets the moderate, low, and very low income population most in need.

This proposed law is like blowing up a balloon...then releasing it...and **hoping** that it eventually lands where you want it to. I don't think that is “good policy.” Why not target these ADU's to moderate or low-income homeowners by requiring they meet an eligibility criterion or who commit to renting to such target populations? We already have such criteria in place for other purposes, so it would not be difficult to administer. At a minimum, the granting of waivers (impact fee, connection fee, set-backs, parking, etc.) should be limited to incentivize such homeowners.

At the public hearing two weeks ago, a citizen expressed their displeasure at this Bill being “fast-tracked.” Councilmember Rodvien was quick to point out that this Bill was, in fact, not being fast tracked at all. While the Councilmember was **technically** correct, so too was the citizen in a **true sense**. That “disconnect” highlights the **cultural** and **systemic** problem we are confronting. Important and complex matters are not being approached as opportunities for “co-creation.” That type of community engagement seeks input BEFORE legislation is even drafted; certainly before it's introduced.

This has been a common theme of late...from an APF Work Group that's been meeting for 2+ years yet whose very membership is a mystery to the general public, to "half-baked" legislative proposals such as this Bill, to various Rec & Parks capital projects that "blow-up" when overly-complete designs are first shared with stakeholder communities when it is effectively "too late" to seriously entertain any significant alternatives. We clearly need a "culture change" within both branches of County Government.

I am appealing to you all to be leaders in bringing about this culture change, and to lead by example. Why is my request for the membership of an APF Work Group that has been meeting for over two years being treated as a formal Public Information Act request? I've recently communicated with two members of a similar APF Task Force that was convened a few years ago in Howard County. They were both shocked to hear of this. In their case, the membership was publicly announced, the meetings were videotaped & on-line, and their report was published prior to the introduction of any proposed legislation.

Dana Schulze

██████████
Millersville, MD 21108
██████████

Dear Anne Arundel County Council,

I oppose HB 13-23.

I am a USAF combat veteran, hold a BS and MS degrees.

The proposed bill does not state which County department will process these “special Event” permit requests and does not mention that a permit process already exists for sports events that use facilities in County parks.

The definition of “special event” as not an even held inside listed facilities, leaves the interpretation of any “outside” events as being defined and under the cumbersome requirement of long term planning and vague assessment of bystanders, neighbors, or other potential non-county members rather than you, our elected representatives deciding as “we the people” voice our preferences in Anne Arundel County as part of our Constitutional Republic.

Does this bill require residents to gain an expensive permit after going through a cumbersome process to hold family events such as graduation events, large family BBQ’s, outdoor and home weddings?

Everyday Marylanders desire enjoying our beautiful state without cumbersome bureaucratic processes and requirements. Marylanders appreciate our duly elected representatives to speak for us in our precious Constitutional Republic to stand up for our freedom to gather and assemble as guaranteed by our American Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Schulze

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

March 19, 2023

Dear County Council President and County Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to Bill 13-23
An Ordinance concerning:
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

I do not support Bill 13-23 for the following reasons. The bill:

- Abridges our Constitutional right to assembly by making the permit process costly
- Makes applying for a permit a complicated and convoluted process that could be subject to favoritism via waivers
- Does not state or provide evidence of its need
- Greatly expands what events now fall under its proposed jurisdiction that are already covered by existing recreation and parks permitting policies without discussing how those processes will be affected
- Possibly affects activities that occur on private property because these events may impact the use of public roads leading to these private property events

Based on the issues above, I believe that this bill is seriously flawed. The Council has until mid-May to amend the bill to make it a more citizen and liberty friendly version. Consequently, I believe the Council should table the vote until the issues I and other concerned citizens have brought before you today are resolved.

Alan Lang
242 Armstrong Lane
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

This bill abridges our Constitutional right to assembly

- The current legislation that this bill will supersede stated that, “The requirement for the license shall not infringe on the freedom of the right to assemble.” [11-11-101(e)] The proposed bill has removed this statement. By inference, through this removal, are you stating that you intend to restrict our Constitutional right to assemble?
- By increasing the permit cost and making any police and fire services a user fee, the bill is creating the equivalent of a poll tax on our right to assemble. We will still have the right to assemble, as long as we have the funding to afford it.
- By making the permit process more costly and so complicated, it could make some groups unwilling to even attempt to hold parades and other assemblies.
- For more than 200 years, the public has had the right to assemble by marching or parading through towns for various purposes, including those whose purpose is to address perceived grievances by the government.
- Traditionally, the government has provided logistical support and protection to these groups regardless of their positions.
- Now, this bill not only increases the permit cost by 100 percent (From \$25 to \$50) without any compelling evidence showing how much the permit processing cost has increased since the \$25 fee was established. Usually, this information to support the need for the bill are in the Whereas clauses that are non-existent in this bill.
- Moreover, the bill now purports to convert what had been a traditional government expense to a user fee by requiring the special event (parade) sponsors to pay most of any estimated needed police and fire (EMT) costs in advance and be billed for the remainder.

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

- The impact study showed that in fiscal year (FY) 2022, there were 64 parades that cost the police and fire budgets \$117,433. That would be an average parade cost to the government of \$1,835.
- If this bill should pass, instead of paying \$25 for a parade permit, a sponsor on average, would now need to pay \$1,885 (\$50 permit fee and \$1,835 in user fees), which is a 7,440 percent increase.
- How much money does the County have set aside to defend it from the various law suits claiming that the new law is abridging our Constitutional right of Assembly?

This bill makes applying for a permit a complicated and convoluted process

- The current legislation that this bill will supersede stated that, “The license shall be issued except in instances in which the Chief of Police or the designee of the Chief of Police determines that the safety and convenience of the public in the use of the streets or sidewalks will be unduly disturbed.” [11-11-101(e)]. As written, we infer that the use of the term “unduly” means denials should rarely occur. However, the new bill seems to make it harder to obtain a permit.
- The proposed bill has removed the “permit shall be issued statement” that had one exception and replaced it with an entire subsection listing 19 possible reasons for denial [11-11-104B]. Also, the Chief of Police or designee has been replaced as the permit authorizer by some unknown person or group as the bill is silent as to who is the actual authorizing party.
- According to the auditor’s impact study, “The Administration plans to create a special events workgroup. This workgroup will review applications submitted for special events, determine when to alter or waive application filing deadlines, and determine when to waive an application fee or payment requirements for all or a portion of the special services charges. Modifications to permit applications will be determined by agencies and their individual requirements.”

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

- There are several places where terminology is subjective, vague or undefined, especially involving waivers.
 - 11-11-103 (B) Contents has ten items that must be in the application. These will have the effect of creating a disincentive for Organizes/Sponsors/Owners OR create a new class of criminals because they will ignore the requirement.
 - 11-11-103 (C) Waiver of filing deadlines - Completely subjective. What is to say the decision will not be political or show favoritism?
 - 11-11-104 (A) (2) Timing - County may deny permit at least 14 days before the date. Some events require a lot of setup and prep, and money. This again will disincentivize people from holding events and from following the law.
 - 11-11-104 (B) Issuance - 19 documented reasons (“unless”) reasons why an event will not be approved. A wide distance from \$25 for a parade. Again, what’s the problem being solved that requires the significant amount of Government control and bureaucracy?
 - 11-11-104 (C) Cancel - The county may deny at any time for subjective reasons (if they think the health, safety and general welfare of the public or participants need need their protection).
 - 11-11-105 (A) (1) \$50 or \$100 - The use of OR and AND are not clear especially when it comes to the “waiver of the filing deadline”
 - 11-11-105 (B) Fee exemption - Completely subjective. What is to say the decision will not be political or show favoritism?
 - 11-11-106 Special service charges - Organizers/Sponsors will not be able to budget for the reimbursement of special service charges. Another example where this will disincentivize people from holding events and from following the law
 - 11-11-106 (E) Waiver of Special service charges - Completely subjective. What is to say the decision will not be political or show favoritism?

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

- The County can determine how much staffing a special event will require based on “... best practices and generally accepted public safety standards.” What are these practices and standards and what group promulgates them. For example, the AICPA maintains the generally accepted auditing standards. However, I could not find any group that maintains generally accepted public safety standards.
- What happens if this process takes more than the 30 days from the date of receipt date the County has imposed as its processing deadline? Until approved and the fees are established, the sponsor cannot advertise or determine its cost budget.
- To compound the issue, the government has reserved the right to waive “... all or a portion of the special service charges if the County determines that the waiver is in the best interest of the County” [11-11-106(E)]. What are the criteria for determining what is “The best interest of the County”? In these highly divisive times when the County population is separated by politics, race, gender, and class, does the Council want to open the government to charges of favoritism by granting it the power to grant some groups a fee waiver?
- Compared to the previous process, the bill is far more convoluted and complicated. What was a process that took only 1 page to describe now takes 6 pages because of the expansion of special events from just parades to almost every type of organized event involving 50 or more people and an approval process that involved only the police to an unnamed bureaucratic process possibly involving several departments.
- Again, we have the right to assemble if we can afford it and are willing to jump through all the administrative hoops to get a permit for what should be a basic Constitutional right.

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This bill does not state or provide evidence of its need

- This bill seems to be a solution in search of a problem. Many bills contain a series of “Whereas” clauses to establish the need for the bill. This bill just briefly states in a “For” clause stating the purpose of the bill is to establish, “... a uniform process for special events ...”. However, it does not provide any evidence that the prior process was not “uniform” and the bill does not provide any evidence as to why the process for approving parades needs to be expanded to control almost every organized event attended by at least 50 people that occurs outside on public property.
- In the background section of the Legislative Summary, it states, “Anne Arundel County does not currently have a permitting process to ensure that special events held in the County have sufficient support and resources to ensure the health and safety of special event participants. Other large counties and Baltimore City currently have processes in place to coordinate planning and support for special events. This Bill establishes a permitting process to provide the circumstances in which a permit for a special event is required and the obligations of the sponsors and the County.” However, there is no evidence provided in the summary as to why this expanded process is needed other than other large counties have it and our county does not.
- In the past 2 years, how many events other than parades, that would now be classified as special events, such as athletic events, concerts, and public assemblies have required police and fire/EMT services and how much did they cost?
- Before passing such legislation, shouldn’t the administration be required to provide you with an estimated number of special events requiring permit review that would take place in the coming fiscal year so they have sufficient resources to process that number?
- According to the Fiscal Impact study done by the Budget Office “This legislation is anticipated to have an operational impact on the following departments: Police, Fire, and Inspections and Permits. It is possible that these departments may need additional resources to implement this program. The operational impact will depend upon the number of special

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events captured in the new process.” Yet, according to the impact study done by the County Auditor, all three departments that could incur the greatest impact reported that it did not anticipate an increased workload or cost as a result of this bill. Per the auditor’s report, the Health Department, Board of License Commissioners, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Public Works, and Office of Emergency Management anticipate minimal impact to workload due to this bill and do not anticipate needing additional resources to meet the requirements of this bill. How did these departments arrive at their conclusion?

- If no additional workload or cost is anticipated, then why does the Department of Permits and Inspections need an additional Inspector at a cost between \$44,000 and \$67,300? What was the analysis performed that led to these conclusions. More importantly, since these departments did not report any increased workloads from these “special events”, why is this legislation needed to address alleged increasing costs to the County from special events such that the costs need to be passed to the sponsors as user fees?
- I believe the administration needs to provide the Council with compelling data to support the need for creating such an enlarged, restrictive, bureaucratic process.

This bill greatly expands what events now fall under its proposed jurisdiction

- The bill includes athletics as a special event that would require a \$50 permit fee for any organized sporting event that would occur where 50 or more people would assemble depending on the phrase , “... does not have regularity or permanence throughout the year.” [11-11-101(9)(I)]. Is a football, soccer, lacrosse or baseball season an activity that is considered regular and permanent throughout the year? If so, I believe that the sports not affected should be specifically listed in the bill to remove the vagueness of the language.

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- According to the DRP, **Use of Department of Recreation and Parks and Board of Education fields for organized activities is by permit only.** This is not meant to discourage or prohibit neighborhood residents from using an available field. **Examples of an organized activity would be a team holding practices, games or tournaments.** Use of a field for activities such as kite flying, a parent playing catch with a child or neighborhood kids playing ball is not considered organized activities.
- If these sports are not an exception, this would affect almost every recreational youth and adult sport that occurs outside on public property. Currently the existing permit process has operated successfully for free for many years by the Recreation and Parks Department in partnership with local non-profit organizations. Now, it would seem these non-profit sports organizations would need to file \$50 permits and go through the extra time to show what sources the sponsor organization will supply, “... to ensure the security of the special event and the health and safety of attendees ...”.
- Many of these non-profit sports organizations also host pre-season and/or post season tournaments that would definitely meet the bill’s definition of a special event. Instead of the current permit process run for free by the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) for these tournaments; these organizations would now be subject to the new \$50 permit process that may not even be processed by DRP. Is there any evidence that the user fees already paid to the DRP by these organizations from team registration fees does not sufficiently cover any police or fire/EMT services?
- RP also has a special events permitting process for the use of County parks by non-profit organizations to do fund raising and similar events open to the public.
- How would this new process affect that existing DRP process?
- Purpose: **“Anne Arundel County Parks are increasingly being used by organizations as a venue for special events and fund-raisers for a variety of causes.** In recent years, the demand for special events has exceeded the capacity of the park system. Although the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) is not obligated to permit special

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events, most are perceived as a public benefit and the Department tries to accommodate the requests. The Department however must operate its parks for the general public's use and the intended purpose and infrastructure in the parks. Special events have the potential to disrupt the normal operations of the park and could restrict the general public from using the parks as intended. In addition, **there are costs associated with special events** which include staff time, wear and tear on the infrastructure, use of materials and supplies, and limiting the use of park to other park visitors. **These costs must be borne solely by the permitted organization.**"

- **Special Event:** is any event, meeting, party, etc., that is outside the scope of normal park operations and is open for public participation, even if public access is solely through a non-Recreation & Parks organization.
- **Requests for use of park areas for special events** within the scope of these guidelines **must be made in writing at least sixty (60) days in advance**
- **Sponsor is responsible for having adequate staff for crowd control, parking, and public safety.**
- Sponsor must provide for all staff and resources needed to run safely.
- The [Park] Superintendent will note in writing any special details to be considered and resolved **before** the special event. These may include but are not limited to use of rental facilities, parking, restroom access, road/trail crossings, trail markers, participant conduct, location of special event and equipment, safety concerns, use and need for Anne Arundel County Police or emergency/ time and duration of special event.
- If the special event is approved, the Superintendent, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and Anne Arundel County reserve the right to alter, shorten, or cancel the special event at any time in order to protect the interests of the park, park patrons, and/or Anne Arundel County.
(from A.A. Co. Code Article 19, 1-102)

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- Park fees apply, including fees for entrance (\$6 per car) and facility rental. The fee structure is multi-tiered (Costs shown for max number for each tier) and not including any fees for police or EMT service
 - For 1 to 100, \$390 plus \$2 per person (\$200), plus cost to rent at least one facility at the park such as a pavilion (\$180) = \$770
 - For 101 to 200, \$610, plus \$2 per person (\$400), plus pavilion (\$180) = \$1190 (but a pavilion only holds 100 max)
 - For 201 to 300, \$940, plus \$2 per person (\$600), plus pavilion (\$180) = \$1720

There is no tier above 300, and a party size greater than 500 requires special attention

The bill possibly affects activities that occur on private property

- The bill does not pertain to a list of events that are held indoors, "... if the structure is specifically designed to be used as a place for assembly of individuals ...". Would buildings such as barns, that are now suddenly in vogue for wedding services and receptions, meet this definition? What is the definition of a wedding venue, and how would the County treat a wedding held inside one's own home?
- I recently paid \$340 to Downs Park to rent a pavilion that can hold up to 100 people for my class reunion in October. That fee included parking for those attending.
- Would renting an outdoor pavilion in a County park meet the bill's exception definition of an event held inside a Government Facility if the structure is specifically designed to be used as a place for assembly of individuals (Section 11-11-101, subsection (9)(II) 1 on page 2)?
- The proposed bill does not state which County department will process these "special event" permit requests and does not mention that a permit process already exists for sports events such as tournaments and events that use facilities such as pavilions in the County parks.

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- The bill seems to primarily address special events held on County property, but because of the definition of special events, a “public assembly” held outside on private property could be subject to the permit requirement. How would one know if the County views the planned public assembly to be a special event unless one submits a \$50 non-refundable permit request?
- Based on the definition of a special event, could political fund raisers, club meetings, family gatherings or other public assembly held outside on private property be subject to County pre-approval based on the following clause, “The safe and normal movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic along roadways may be affected or require temporary alterations to established traffic regulations or controls”?
- If someone holds an outside public assembly like a graduation party that would increase traffic and parking on a county street such that the neighbors complain to the police, could the owner be held responsible for holding a non-permitted special event?
- Yet, if this public assembly was for a wedding, could it be exempt from the permit process?
- One’s dwelling does not seem to meet the exception clause “...if the structure is specifically designed to be used as a place for assembly of individuals ...”. Also, a private home usually does not have an established legal occupancy number.
- If the wedding/reception (public assembly) is held outside in the yard, it would not meet the “inside” exception clause.
- If any event is held without obtaining a County permit, and the County decides it did meet the definition of a special event, and should have had a permit, what are the repercussions to the event sponsor and/or property owner?
- Would the police, if called because of neighbor complaints about traffic, be the ones to determine if any special event permitting regulations had been violated?

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Thanks for considering my testimony.

Alan Lang

[REDACTED]

Pasadena, MD 21122

[REDACTED]

[.net](#)



Rapunzel's
HAIR
BRAIDING

BRAIDS

Hair
Braids



To The Anne Arundel County Commissioners,

I am writing to request that the language in proposed Bill 13-23 be amended to allow the Maryland Renaissance Festival to operate without fear of permit denial or cancellation.

Many families, including mine, are dependent on the Maryland Renaissance Festival for their annual income. Loss of this event, in part or whole, would create financial hardship for people who rely on income as vendors, entertainers, management, security, food service, non-profits, and many other event-related jobs.

Personally, as a vendor and artist who resides in Maryland, I have invested time and assets for almost 40 years in this event. Any interruption or loss would be devastating to my family and my business.

For our patrons and local businesses, once travel and lodging are booked, reservations and weddings are scheduled and people make plans to participate in and attend an event of this size and status, it is devastating to face cancellation.

This amendment is important given the long-standing, good operating status of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, which hires its own security, traffic, health, and safety professionals.

This event has a proven record of accomplishment in Anne Arundel County for operating safely under all types of situations, including extreme weather events and other regional and national tragedies, from the DC sniper to 911, that have occurred during the festival over the many years of its operation.

Finally, having a place to go where a family can escape the 24-hour cycle of news in stressful times is vitally important.

I do understand the need for preparedness in emergencies and hope that Anne Arundel County will amend the language of proposed Bill 13-23 and continue to work as a partner to ensure the safety of the community, as well as the regular function of the Maryland Renaissance Festival.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jeanne Gibbons

Greetings Council Members,

My name is Wilson Meloy and I am a resident of the county on Chesterfield Rd. as well as a merchant at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. The sole reason I moved to Maryland in 2020 was to be close to this business. On Friday I was informed of bill 13-23 by my neighbor and asked if it would impact the festival in any way. In looking the bill over I see it addresses important matters, but I feel there are some areas nebulous enough that it could cause the festival to be intermittently denied operations and that has a direct impact on me and other Anne Arundel residents who work there.

Being a disabled veteran, this festival is the only one I actively work as it is right across the street from me and it accounts for almost 80% of my income. It also assists the livelihood of my seven seasonal employees. So obviously I have a very strong interest in an uninterrupted run of the show in the fall.

I would like to think this four plus decade old annual business would not be considered a special event and be exempt from the bill as the buildings are permanent with the grounds open and maintained throughout the year and the staff working year-round on a regular Mon-Fri schedule. Booth owners also have access and perform on-site maintenance and upkeep throughout the year.

If you also consider during the performance time of year the entertainment begins before the patrons even enter the gate and is ongoing in all locations, even with the merchants, it makes the entire experience essentially an interactive theatre. It is also used by many as a wedding venue and can be seen as a social hall as each year many national organizations plan events to be held in "The Village of Revel Grove". The planning, which includes room rentals and travel tickets begins months before the actual gathering, so to have a day or weekend cancelled just before their meeting was scheduled to occur could cause financial loss to people who cannot get refunds for their travel arrangements.

I am not alone in these thoughts, and I hope that the Maryland Renaissance Festival will be made an exemption in bill 13-23.

Regards,

Wilson Meloy



www.gamepuzzles.com

...the credit

3/19/2023

David Spurlock

The Brass Dragon

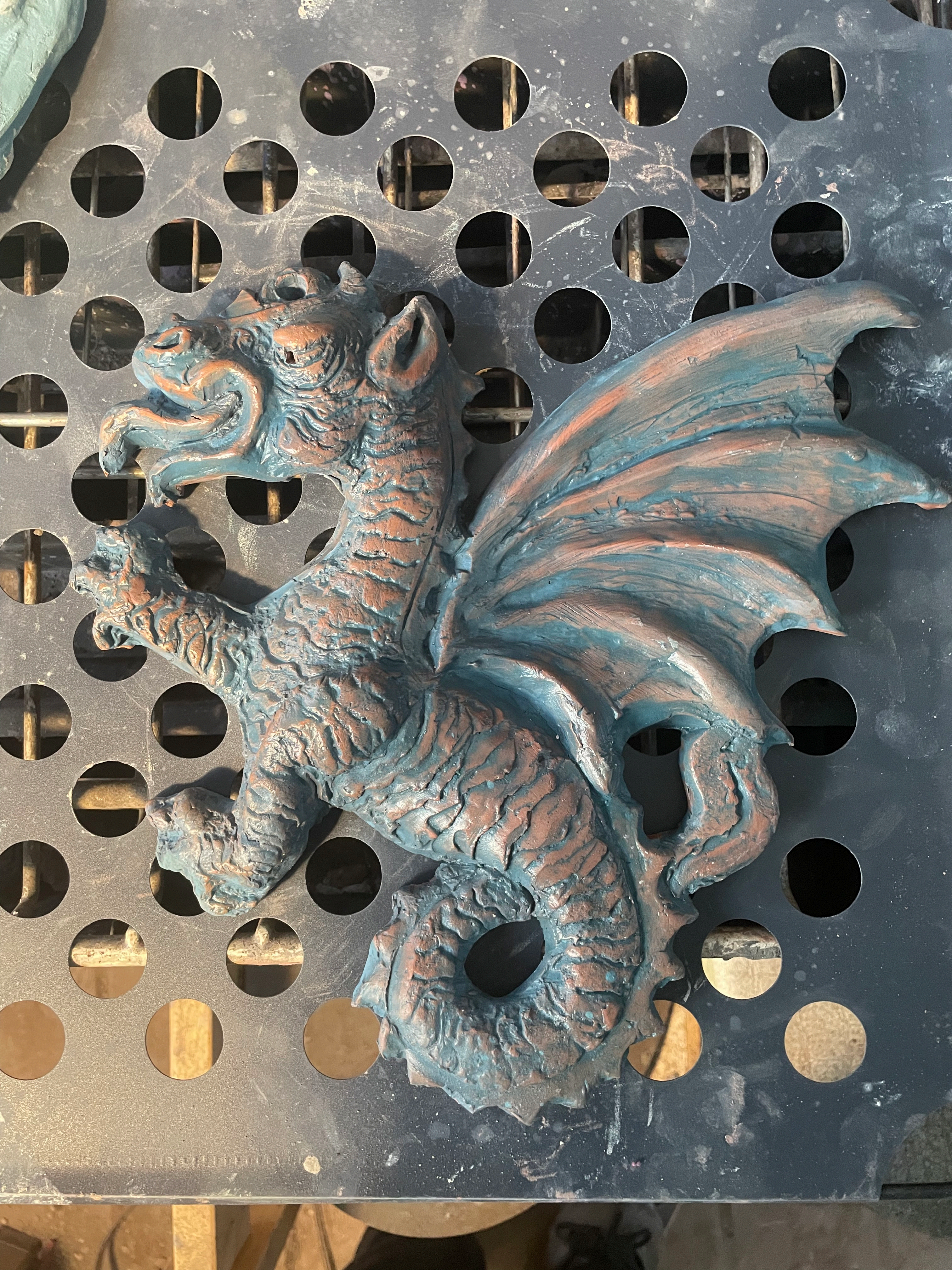
I am a craftsman at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. It has been my privilege and honor to be a part of this highly popular event for 30 years now. It serves as a major portion of my yearly income and would be a devastating loss should the show not be allowed to continue. Whereas I suspect that this proposed bill is not specifically designed to target this show, the wording of it allows for this to happen in the future. I would feel much more comfortable if there were an addition to the wording that allowed for a grandfather clause protecting events such as ours.

The Smith family has always been very conscious of the surrounding community, and they go the extra mile to make the impact of the show as livable as possible to the affected neighbors. When the show opened in Crownsville some 38 years ago, the surrounding community was much smaller. Now with the neighborhood growing, the potential exists for the community to bring pressure on the county to eliminate our show. The wording of the bill as it stands allows for this. Please take my concerns to heart when penning the final draft.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you of how much revenue this show brings to this community. Its loss would not only affect the livelihood of the Smiths, the crafts people, the permanent office staff, the food vendors, performers and musicians but all the surrounding businesses that provide food, drink and services to keep the show running.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Spurlock



Greetings!

My name is Milon Townsend, and I have been making blown glass art for 50 years. I have had the privilege of being a participant in the Maryland Renaissance Festival for the past 12 years. We would not have been able to succeed as working artists without the Festival as the economic backbone of our small business.

The Festival, as I'm sure you know, is much more than an entertainment venue where loyal patrons return year after year to the many performing and culinary delights that await. Although it is most certainly that. For over 40 years, it has been the solid, predictable, dependable, well-run place that people from all over Maryland (and well beyond) look forward to seeing the new works that have been created by the artists and craftsmen who exhibit therein. Commissions are planned, new works are appreciated, and the depths of the ongoing friendships thus created are deepened and renewed.

The Maryland Renaissance Festival is known throughout the industry as by far the best run of its kind, and the owners are considerate, thoughtful, reasonable and generous. Which is an anomaly we all appreciate greatly.

This Festival employs a professional and courteous team of police and emergency medical personnel at its own expense. It is my understanding that the purpose-built structures and arenas that make up the Festival were collectively granted an exception to the ordinance under revision. That seems to make sense, especially considering the historical weight, significance and scope of the establishment.

The Festival owners and the several hundred independent business owners that constitute our village have invested very significant resources to make the Festival something to be proud of. Your consideration and understanding in this matter will be much appreciated.

Most sincerely yours,

Milon Townsend

The Glass Dragon

March 18, 2023

Page After Page, LLC
Operating at the Maryland Renaissance Festival (MDRF)

County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Testimony to Bill No. 13-23

Mr. Smith,

My wife and I own the bookstore (Page After Page) at MDRF. In reviewing the proposed bill, we have several considerations.

Please note that the MDRF is a multi-day festival; however, it also is a typical operating business. Their employees ensure the merchants have access to the grounds year-round, maintain the setting, and make improvements in support of merchant business operations. A business operating for 40+ years with full-time employees and regular scheduled operations open to the general public does not seem to fit the 'event' or 'special event' classification.

Specific to the proposed bill:

1. There is a lack of clarity on the authority who can make a decision to revoke a permit. Will this become a function of one of the departments within the County government or reside with the County Executive?
2. There is a lack of clarity on an appeals process or a timeline that affords sufficient time to address the perceived violation(s). If a violation is noted, how can it be corrected and who would be contacted to present evidence of correction?
3. There is a lack of clarity what 'violation(s)' constitute a remedy of permit revocation. Are there categories or levels of severity (minor, considerable, extreme)?
4. Merchants operating in multi-day special events need a timeline of notification to mitigate loss of product and income. We order our books in July/August for the entire period we are open, any day we lose is a direct impact on our profitability. Additionally, our employees would need to mitigate the loss of income for any closures.
5. Perhaps certain businesses could be given an exception as a result of demonstrated conscientious considerations of specific aspects within this bill.

The loss of income for our small business, due to a revocation of a permit, would be financially catastrophic. This is the only storefront we maintain; the 19 days we are open to the general public are critical to our success. We depend on the MDRF business owners and employees to provide us with the necessary conditions to be successful, their efforts throughout the year are crucial to our business.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Thomas C. Bailey, PhD and Vicki R. Bailey

This letter is in reference to propose Bill 12-23 which is under consideration at the 20 March, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Jules Smith, General Manager of Maryland Renaissance Festival advised all booth owners of this proposed changes in the county code regarding special events. He asked that we read the proposed bill and send comments to you should we wish to do so.

The following comments are mine alone and have not been seen by Mr. Smith or any other members of the festival staff.

I am Nancy Barry, owner of Epiphany Designs, Maryland Renaissance Festival. I am a 40+ year participant of the festival and an original booth owner at the Crownsville Rd site. The festival has provided me and my family with a safe venue to sell my stained and fused glass artwork. Previously, my income paid college tuition for 3 children At present, the income I derive helps pay medical bills, enables me to contribute to MD 529 plans for our granddaughters, and ads to our retirement funds. Our oldest son owns property on West Street and has been active at the local level of civic representation for several years. Our grand-daughters attend Key School

At present, I am opposed to the bill at it stands at “face value. I feel it needs additional language. The bill seems to address concerns about manpower use at the Special events that are a part of county happenings. My familiarity is with the Annapolis area. Most of what is specified in the bill make sense. Large events can certainly cause a drain on all county services and there should be control and compensation for any use of said services and manpower needed. Certainly, having multiple events in a somewhat constrained location that is the Annapolis area could add to the need for additional law enforcement,

good traffic control, adequate parking, emergency services, trash collection, sanitation, etc. It seems that there is a good process in place that has worked well for many year to review and grant necessary permits for Special Events.

What I do not see in this proposed bill is clarity on the process for remediation of violations, clarity on appeals process for revocation of a permit, a time frame for notification of violation or revocation or appeals deadline.. Who makes these decisions? Can one person's complaint bring a halt to the permit process with out due-process for the applicant? I feel strongly that all of the above need to be specified in this bill and are sorely lacking at present. There is also no mention of grandfathering those events that have been a part of the "landscape" for many years without problems and from whom the county has garnered millions in revenues and whose events provide both full time and part time employment for hundreds

Maryland Renaissance Festival has had permits to operate on a yearly basis since we came to AACounty to open in 1985. I am sure that management has always addressed all concerns as soon as they were made aware of them. Booth owners are given a list of rules and regulations that we must follow in order to operate a booth at the Festival. We undergo yearly Fire Marshall inspections that must be signed off in order to open . I know firsthand that we have a separate paid security crew, many of whom are badged law enforcement. There are limits on ticket sales for each day of operation. There are strictly enforced liquor code rules. We have adequate seating, a large variety of food and non-alcoholic beverages, free iced water at the First Aid booth, a parking area for thousands of vehicles with paid parking attendants, and numerous porta-a-pots both adjacent to the parking lot and with-in the Festival ground An additional exit gate was added several years back specifically to insure that Emergency vehicles had

good access both in and out of the site. While participants and patrons use roads to get to and from the Festival site, I do not know that we use other services as outlined in the bill.

Maryland Renaissance Festival management is at the forefront in initiating on-line ticket sales, limiting capacity and making sure that all else is more than adequate to service out patrons in a manner that provides a safe and enjoyable visit to the Annapolis area.

Thank you,

nancy barry

Epiphany Designs at Maryland Renaissance Festival