

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	Attachment
2024-02-05 16:07:18	Katherine	Rodgers	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		Attached is online testimony due to not being able to be at meeting.	YES
2024-02-06 18:59:20	Ed	Evans	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		I would like to testify in support of Bill 11-24 and/or to strengthen it.	
2024-02-08 10:42:36	James G	McKenzie	Deale	Md	20751	No	My father and mother in-law	<p>Council Members</p> <p>Property tax break for seniors that are on a fixed budget.</p> <p>My in-laws qualify for the property tax break for low income, the problem is they have to re-qualify every year. This is difficult task for them as my father in-law who is 86 and death, my mother in-law who is 83 has short term memory lost, neither have access to or knowledge of on how to use the internet. Last year they had to pay the full amount as they missed placed the paper work required to file for the property tax break. Disable veterans, once they qualify for the property tax break they do not have to re-qualify yearly, why not do the same for senior that are on a fixed budget. Once they qualify make it permanent. I truly think this is something that should be looked at and adjusted.</p>	
2024-02-16 13:09:01	Arlene	Ali	Laurel	Maryland	20724	Yes		I want to bring to you attention the mental and emotional abuse that government employee use when handling issues for unfortunate people that have to wait till government employee feel light doing their job while they are getting paid. So sad to see the stress it put on disable, sick ,elderly ext.	
2024-02-19 22:14:10	CLAUDIA	BARBER	LAUREL	MD	20724	No	Caucus of African American Leaders	The Caucus of African American Leaders raises concerns over whether all qualified applicants for the legislative counsel position recently advertised by the council were properly considered by all council. Based upon information and belief, they were not. A resolution approving the filling of this vacancy should not be considered and voted upon until an investigation is done to ensure equal opportunity employment.	
2024-02-20 9:05:23	Kurt	Svensen	ARNOLD	MD	21012	Yes		Please see attached one-page written statement and attached examples RE: an "arrogance of power" exhibited by the "majority" party...of which I am a member.	YES

Council Members,

My goal was to come to the meeting tonight but unfortunately both of my children have the flu and my youngest also is positive for RSV. I also was just made aware that if I wanted an online testimonial that it needed to be in by 11 AM. I missed that deadline. But would still like to make a statement that finds it way to you all.

As one of you constituents urge you and the council to PLEASE look over Pittman's changes. I am unsure why this specific case has caught Executive Pittmans' eyes but the case that the law was written for he did not reach out or contact anyone about it. When this happened to my family in 2017 we were shattered. As a newly married couple with our puppy Lilo we were so blessed. When our neighbors dog got out of its back yard and attacked my aunt/Lilo while she was LEASHED and on a walk we knew that something had to be in writing so this would never happen to another family. Due to the laws in place this animal returned back to its family while our Lilo was killed. I did not walk in my neighborhood anymore, did not feel safe in my community, or comfortable knowing that this animal was still at the residence and the owners were not being held accountable for tearing apart my family. My aunt has also only been to our house a hand full of times in six years due to this trauma.

After making numerous appearances at county council and working with amazing local and community leaders we got Lilo's Law passed with all council persons vote. Since this bill was passed, I know that the registry has been used by multiple people to know where dangerous dogs are, owners have been more vigilant about specific dogs, and dog owners that their animals are on this registry also are using more diligence to make sure that their animal is being safe. (not all but most owners)

I knew that with the world changing, positions changing, and new ideas/minds being involved there would likely be changes. I am also open for courageous conversations, working together to provide a solid law, and also to make sure the people of Anne Arundel County are being heard.

It is imperative that we keep our communities, families, and fur babies safe with rules and regulations that are obtainable. I do believe that we can still keep this law tight and rigorous while also amending pieces.

Again, I apologize for not being at the meeting tonight but my babies need their momma. I hope to hear from you and look forward to working with you on this law.

## February 20, 2024 County Council – Invitation to Audience

### Arrogance of Power – Corrected

I worked in Anne Arundel County Government for over 25 years. I served in the Budget Office under six different County Executives from John Gary through Steuart Pittman. For ten of those years I was the Assistant Budget Officer. I've witnessed many different variations of power relationships between and among the two branches of local government.

The County Council consists of both the majority and minority parties in our entrenched two-party system. As such, the legislative branch is uniquely positioned to be the citizens' champion; those in the minority as well as those in the majority.

I don't know the full backstory to the drama that unfolded at the end of the February 5th County Council meeting (see [Capital Gazette article](#) and [Baltimore Banner article](#)) but I know this:

***Over the past five years or so, I've witnessed, time and again, the "majority" party act with an unprecedented arrogance of power.*** (examples on next page)

At that February 5th meeting, I saw a bi-partisan coalition of four members "drawing a line in the sand" by formalizing the long-standing idea that each and every member should have an equal say in how things are run.

This idea is essential to our representative government. Protection from the "tyranny of the majority" and ensuring a true system of "checks and balances" is essential. We, the citizens of Anne Arundel County, need a legislative branch that governs itself in a fair and open manner such that each representative in that branch has a codified role in administrative decisions. Indeed, some of those "administrative" decisions determine what matters are exposed to the light of day as opposed to being tucked away in the shadows of a back room.

Sincerely,

Kurt Svendsen, Arnold, MD

## February 20, 2024 County Council – Invitation to Audience Arrogance of Power – Corrected

Here's just a few examples of the *“arrogance of power”* referenced on the previous page:

- The resistance to Bill No. 92-21 and the proposal of Bill No. 111-21 as an alternative to the follow-up Bill No. 112-21 is perhaps the clearest example of this sort of “arrogance of power.”
  - It was revealing to witness the unwillingness of three members of the “majority” party (Pruski, Pickard, and Rodvien) to allow even as many as three Councilmembers to determine whether or not a Resolution could be included on a Council Meeting agenda.
- The fact that at this very meeting of February 5<sup>th</sup>, a “Roberts Rules” maneuver (a motion to reconsider the vote from an earlier meeting) was required to successfully pass Bill No. 92-23 is another clear example of this sort of “arrogance of power.”
  - At the previous meeting, the sponsor asked that a vote on the Bill be held for the next meeting due to the absence of a supporting Councilmember at that meeting. The Council Chairperson and a majority of Council members (Pickard, Rodvien, and Hummer) rejected that request and proceeded to vote down the Bill.

Many other examples are referenced in the written testimony I've submitted in recent years which is available on my Google Sites site called: [AACountyCitizenShare](#)