

From: applications@charlescountymd.gov on behalf of [Charles County Government](#)
To: [Public Record](#)
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned or Operated Property
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Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned or Operated Property

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0555

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Are you:

Against Topic

Comment

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is an organization that specializes in defending civil rights with a clear track record of victories against organized racial hatred. The SPLC specifically opposes individuals in positions of power with a noted history of attempting to enforce discriminatory policies and practices when they say these types of hateful individuals "...should not be the ones implementing policies that are not rooted in data, community input, or evidence-based solutions". If you aren't able to provide data-driven arguments supporting Bill 2022-14 and if you won't listen to the SPLC, likely the foremost legal authority on the intersection between guns, racism, and those in elected positions of power, who are you listening to? If you don't think the SPLC is credible or worth listening to, let me suggest you listen to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), when they talk about the intersection between racism and mental illness: "Clearly, anyone who scapegoats a whole group of people and seeks to eliminate them to resolve his or her internal conflicts meets criteria for a delusional disorder, a major psychiatric illness". By most accounts, Maryland has one of the strongest and most enforced red flag laws in the country. A bulk of conversations at the national level centered on red flag laws draw a connection between mental illness and gun violence, while

others think that's more of a gray area. Regardless, I'd again bring you back to another study by the NIH: "Policymaking at the interface of gun violence prevention and mental illness should be based on epidemiologic data concerning risk to improve the effectiveness, feasibility, and fairness of policy initiatives". If you continue to ignore community concerns, fail to provide data, and openly flaunt the intent of Maryland's Red Flag Laws, you risk significant harm to Charles County. I simply can't abide by your intent to arm someone with a distinct pattern of open racial hatred.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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