



TOWSON
UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Councilman David Marks
Baltimore County Council
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

Student Government
Association

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Councilman Marks,

On behalf of the Towson University undergraduate student body and the Student Government Association, we are writing this letter to voice our concerns with Bill Number 90-15 concerning the Unruly Social Gatherings Pilot Program.

The issue of disruptive behavior in Towson neighborhoods is not new. We as students in no way condone unruly or disruptive behavior, and we think it is important to raise awareness of the impact students have on residents that have been living in the Towson community for years.

There are twelve colleges and universities in Baltimore County, however, the narrow geographic area that is covered by Bill 90-15 only addresses the area surrounding Towson University. The pilot program area outlined in Bill 90-15 focuses on the community surrounding Towson University and unfairly targets Towson University students. The County already has several other local nuisance ordinances, which we feel could be better enforced to avoid having to create a new one.

Towson University recognizes that it exists within the Greater Towson Community comprising more than 25 neighborhoods and many businesses. We and the University have made great progress over recent years and are working hard to improve relations. The University has always strived to foster the development of students, and as an SGA we are committed to engage with the student body giving students a better understanding of their role in the bigger community.

The University has Community Ambassadors, a peer-led education program, which focuses on teaching students how to be good neighbors off-campus and respect the community. The ambassadors serve as a resource to the students living in the community, as well as their neighbors. They strive to better educate students about off-campus living expectations, university policies, and issues affecting community living as well as help students become more engaged with campus and community life.

Students participate in a variety of volunteer work in the neighborhood, such as cleaning up local parks. During the 2015 calendar year, over 17,800 students participated in community service activities which grossed to over 1 million total hours. The University also has a grant program in place that supplements a bigger police presence in neighborhoods that have a larger student population. Additionally, Student Affairs Staff



and Towson University Police conduct friendly visits to houses that have received complaints from neighbors.

We believe that the majority of Towson University students living off campus want to be good neighbors. It is important that all stakeholders work together to foster positive relations. We appreciate all that you have done for Towson University and the Towson community as a whole and look forward to working together to find solutions for this issue.

Kurt Anderson
President
Student Government Association

Kristin Zdon
Director of Community Outreach
Student Government Association

cc: Vicki Almond, Baltimore County Council Chairwoman
Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive
Dr. Timothy Chandler, Towson University Interim President