

## **SAY NO TO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS AND REDUCING SAFETY ZONE IN HOWARD COUNTY!**

**THEY ALREADY HAVE 6 DAYS A WEEK FOR ALMOST 5 MONTHS, WE JUST WANT ONE DAY!**

On Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, the Howard County Delegation will be meeting to hear testimony on a Bill (HoCo 16-18) to allow hunting on Sundays. Included in the Bill is an attempt to **slip in** a change to our safety zone from 150 yards to just 100 yards from your house, church, camp ground, etc. for managed hunts.

**FACT:** Added concerns this year with regards to public safety:

Air guns are now legal for most game species. Air guns shoot bullets, arrows, or bolts. Certain air guns are legal for hunting white-tailed deer. These powerful weapons can shoot an arrow at least 18 inches in length with a minimum speed of 300 feet per second at release with a sharpened broad head with metal point and a minimum width of 7/8 inch. It is frightening to think they might be allowed in Howard County.

Last year the Department of Natural Resources (never forget the bulk of their funding comes from the sale of hunting licenses and equipment) set up an “Apprentice Hunting” program. The Apprentice Hunting License is available to both residents and non-residents who have never hunted before. They are only required to take a short, online hunter safety course, and the apprentice hunter is only required to hunt with a resident at least 18 years old, who possesses a valid Maryland hunting license.

**FACT:** Tamara Awerbuch with the Harvard School of Public Health has conducted extensive research on Lyme disease. After studying the life cycle of the deer tick and base on her field studies in the 1990’s, she argues that hunting deer won’t effectively combat Lyme disease because ticks also depend on another key host: white-footed mice. Ticks do not actually get Lyme disease from deer, as is commonly believed- rather, ticks contract lyme disease as a larvae when they feed on infected mice.

**FACT:** There has been no Sunday hunting in Howard County for 300 years

**FACT:** Hunters in Howard County already have 6 days a week for almost 5 months a year, ALL WE WANT IS ONE DAY, SUNDAY!

**FACT:** Over 99% of Howard County residents do not hunt. It does not matter if you are Republican or Democrat, whether you like hunting or you do not, it is about our rights to have just one day a week of peace and to know that a safety zone regulation is in place that will attempt to protect us.

**FACT:** Even if the bill for Howard County starts out allowing hunting on Sunday mornings in designated park and open spaces, DNR’s intention is to increase Sunday

hunting in all counties to at least 9 Sundays. We need to stop Sunday Hunting again, so DNR cannot force additional Sunday Hunting on the citizens of Howard County. Allowing Sunday hunting on just one day opens Pandora's box to more Sundays for both arrows and bullets!

**FACT:** Less than 1%, just .0073% of Howard County residents obtained hunting licenses last hunting season. We need our voices to be heard NOW. (313,414 Howard County residents vs 2,293 licensed hunters in Howard County)  
YTD the number of hunting licenses issued in Howard County has declined approx. 10% (2073 licensed hunters this season)

To demonstrate how few hunters we have in Howard County, our Dick's Sporting Goods in Columbia is the only Dick's store in the State of Maryland that doesn't have a hunting section. Where are these hunters going to come from? Other Counties? Other States?

**FACT:** Children are in school Monday to Friday. They only have Saturday and Sunday to play in the woods, horseback ride, hike with their dogs, etc. They have already lost Saturdays for 5 months, please do not let hunters take Sundays too.

**FACT:** Hunting has been increased in Maryland over the years from a few weeks to almost 5 months every year from September until January 31st. Now they want to invade our neighborhoods and parks on Sundays too. Yes, public parks were opened for Sunday hunting in the past couple of years in some counties even after they were told it would only be on private property.

**FACT:** DNR's own data does not prove that the addition of Sunday Hunting in other counties has made a measurable increase in the total amount of deer killed. This is because the deer killed on Sundays can just as easily be killed Monday through Saturday. This is only to benefit the less than 1% who are hunters, not to effectively manage the deer population since the additional days will not result in any significant reduction in the amount of deer.

There is no vetted or proven statistical data that proves the effectiveness of Sunday hunting since hunters no longer required to check in the physical deer. They merely have to call or use the online link to record a 'Harvest Record'.

**FACT:** SB 844 was passed last year that allows hunting 365 days a year under a Deer Management Permit. Since Delegate Flanagan's bill focuses on managed hunts in parks and open spaces why aren't they getting Deer Management Permits under SB 844..

HB 16-18 is just a backdoor way of starting Sunday Hunting in Howard County.

**FACT:** The Department of Natural Resources web site states, "Maryland bow hunters average a 35 percent success rate". That means 65 percent of the bow hunters shots FAIL, where do those arrows go - is this worth the risk to the safety and tranquility of our

communities on Sundays too?

**FACT:** Safety zones in some counties for discharging a weapon have been reduced to only 100 yards and as little as 50 yards from your home, where does it stop? Do we really need another accident in Howard County to prove this is not a good idea?

Let us not forget that not that long ago a hunter's bullet went through the front window of a Clarksville Day Care Center because the hunter violated the safety zone regulation.

Just last year a 87 year old man from Montgomery County was shot in his back yard by a hunter. His property was near public land that was frequented by hunters. WTOP news who covered this story reported that police are advising hunters to use caution and be aware of their surroundings before firing their guns.

**FACT:** In Maryland hunters are not required to demonstrate proficiency with archery equipment. Children any age can hunt unsupervised, same as an adult hunter. There is no cut off as to how small a piece of property can be that will allow hunting. In Maryland a convicted felon can both bow hunt and/or use a modern day muzzle-loader. Will this same felon be able to use the powerful 'air gun' as well?

Howard County has always been known to be a progressive community. Why would we follow in the footsteps of other counties who made the mistake of believing Sundays and shorter safety zones would be of any benefit.

Our friends in Baltimore County are standing strong with us in this fight to stop Sunday hunting and safety zone reductions in both our counties.

### **What can you do?**

Forward this to everyone you know in Howard County. Ask each member of your family and friends to get involved and make a difference. Post it on Facebook, tweet, etc.

Call and email the Howard County Delegates to say you are against HoCo 16-18 that would allow Sunday Hunting and reduce the safety zone in Howard County. Yes, we have stopped this before.

Just one vote can make the difference so do not delay. Tell them to vote "**NO**" to HoCo 16-18.

## Howard County State Delegation

### Delegates

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