



Committee: PS
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #Voluntary 911 Registry

AGENDA ITEM#12B
July 25, 2023
Introduction
CORRECTED

SUBJECT

Bill 33-23, Police – Voluntary Registry for Emergency 911 Calls - Established
Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke
Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Stewart, Council President Glass, Council Vice-President Friedson, and Councilmembers Albornoz and Katz.

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 33-23 would:

1. establish a voluntary registry for emergency 911 calls to enable the public to provide personal and medical information to assist emergency responders; and
2. generally amend the law regarding public safety, emergency response and policing.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

None

This report contains:

Staff Report	Pages 1-2
Bill 33-23	© 1
Memo from Councilmember Luedtke to Council	© 4

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MEMORANDUM

July 20, 2023

TO: County Council

FROM: Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 33-23, Police – Voluntary Registry for Emergency 911 Calls – Established

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council vote required

Bill 33-23, Police – Voluntary Registry for Emergency 911 Calls – Established, whose lead sponsor is Councilmember Luedtke, and co-sponsored by Councilmember Stewart, Council President Glass, Council Vice-President Friedson, and Councilmembers Alborno and Katz, is scheduled for introduction on July 25, 2023. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2023, and the worksession before the Public Safety Committee will be scheduled at a later date.

Bill 33-23 seeks to establish a voluntary registry for emergency 911 calls to enable the public to opt into providing specified personal and medical information that could assist emergency responders responding to a 911 call.

BACKGROUND.

As more fully outlined in the Lead Sponsor, Councilmember Luedtke’s memorandum to Council¹, similar programs exist in other jurisdictions and aim to assist emergency responders provide appropriate response especially for persons with mental disabilities or other health conditions. Legislation failed in the State Assembly but individual jurisdictions have implemented similar voluntary registries.

BILL SPECIFICS

Bill 33-23 would allow individuals or caregivers to voluntarily pre-register in order to alert emergency responders that someone residing at a specific address may have any of the following conditions that could potentially impact the emergency response:

- (1) Behaviors:
- (i) Nonspeaking or the user of a communication device;
 - (ii) Sensitive to loud sounds;
 - (iii) Sensitive to bright lights;
 - (iv) Sensitive to touch;
 - (v) Delayed with response times;
 - (vi) Prone to avoid eye contact;

¹ ©1. Bill 33-23 was originally tentatively scheduled for introduction on July 18th.

- (vii) Unaware of danger; or
- (viii) Prone to wander or elope.

(2) Diagnoses or traits:

- (i) Blind or low vision;
- (ii) Deaf or hard of hearing;
- (iii) Wheelchair user;
- (iv) Alzheimer's or dementia;
- (v) Autism;
- (vi) Mental health disability;
- (vii) Intellectual disability;
- (viii) Physical disability; or
- (ix) Developmental disability.

There would be no fee for registering and the onus of updating the information would lie with the registrant.

This packet contains:

Bill 33-23

Memo from Councilmember Luedtke to Council

Circle #

© 1

© 4

Bill No. 33-23
Concerning: Police – Voluntary Registry
for Emergency 911 Calls - Establish
Revised: 7/7/2023 Draft No. 1
Introduced: July 25, 2023
Expiration: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Luedtke
Co-Sponsors: Councilmember Stewart, Council President Glass, Council Vice-
President Friedson, and Councilmembers Alborno and Katz

AN ACT to:

- (1) establish a voluntary registry for emergency 911 calls; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding emergency response, policing and law enforcement.

By enacting

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 35
Section 35-12

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 35-12 is amended as follows:**

2 **35-12. [Reserved]Voluntary Emergency Call Registry.**

3 (a) Definitions. In this Section the following words have the meanings
4 indicated:

5 Department means the Montgomery County Police Department.

6 First Responder means an individual dispatched to assist a member of
7 the public through a 9-1-1 system. It includes an individual who
8 provides police, fire fighting, emergency medical services or mobile
9 crisis response.

10 (b) Established. The Department must maintain a voluntary registry for
11 emergency 9-1-1 calls that enables an individual adult, parent or
12 guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship to provide
13 information to the Department via the registry to alert first responders
14 encountering a registered individual that the individual:

15 (1) May exhibit certain behaviors, including that the individual may be:

16 (i) Nonspeaking or the user of a communication device;

17 (ii) Sensitive to loud sounds;

18 (iii) Sensitive to bright lights;

19 (iv) Sensitive to touch;

20 (v) Delayed with response times;

21 (vi) Prone to avoid eye contact;

22 (vii) Unaware of danger; or

23 (viii) Prone to wander or elope; or

24 (2) Has one or more of the following diagnoses or traits:

25 (i) Blind or low vision;

26 (ii) Deaf or hard of hearing;

27 (iii) Wheelchair user;

- 28 (iv) Alzheimer's or dementia;
- 29 (v) Autism;
- 30 (vi) Mental health disability;
- 31 (vii) Intellectual disability;
- 32 (viii) Physical disability; or
- 33 (ix) Developmental disability.

34 (c) Participation in the voluntary emergency call registry under this section
35 does not create a private cause of action by any person.

36 (d) The Department must provide information to the public about the
37 program and inform the public of how to register for the program.

38 (e) Any individual adult, parent or legal guardian of a minor, or individual
39 with guardianship of an adult who opts to provide information for the
40 registry must use the form provided by the Department, certify to the
41 accuracy of the information provided and agree to notify the
42 Department of any changes.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

July 6, 2023

FROM: Councilmember Dawn Luedtke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke".

TO: Councilmembers

SUBJECT: Introduction of Bill to Establish a Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry Program

Dear Colleagues,

On July 18, I will introduce Bill xx-23 to establish a Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry. The program establishes a flagging program through which individuals and/or their caretakers who choose to can provide information to first responders about symptoms and behaviors that may present in a person with intellectual, developmental, physical, or mental disabilities. Some of the symptoms and behaviors covered include auditory, visual, and tactile sensitivities, elopement, avoidance of eye contact, and preferred communication methods.

A resident (or their caretaker) would opt-in to the program by registering online at no cost, thereby creating a flag on the associated address. That flag would then remain in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for our first responders. The information shared with first responders would be shared on a need-to-know basis or when a call references the associated address. The individual who registers bears the responsibility to update the program with any changes.

This past legislative season, the General Assembly came close to passing [HB1176](#) to require Counties to establish such a voluntary flagging system. The language in my proposed bill closely mirrors the language in the proposed state bill, while focusing on the processes in place for other jurisdictions that have this program.

Voluntary 9-1-1 registries are valuable tools in-place in several Maryland jurisdictions. Howard County [launched its program in 2012](#) and first responders have praised the additional

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information provided to them by the registry that they can use to tailor their response appropriately.

In advance of introducing this bill, I consulted with members of MCPD's Autism and I/DD outreach team, MCFRS' Mobile Health Integrated Program, the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS), and the Emergency Communications Center (ECC). After detailed discussions including logistics, administrative duties, and resources available, I incorporated the feedback they gave, such as making sure we do not put an undue burden on the ECC by requiring participants to maintain the accuracy of the information they provide.

We want our first responders to have the information they need to be as prepared as possible when responding to a call. By establishing a formal system of voluntary information sharing that has proven successful elsewhere, this legislation helps to achieve that. It also gives greater agency to individuals and their caregivers in partnering with public safety agencies.

Please let me know if you have any questions. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation please let me or my Chief of Staff Aaron Kraut know by July 11. Thank you for your consideration.