



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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February 18, 2020

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 606 – Criminal Law – Hate Crimes – Basis (2nd Lieutenant
Richard Collins, III's Law)**

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

The City of College Park was shocked in 2017 by the horrific stabbing of 2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins a few blocks from our City Hall. Collins may have been singled out for murder because of his race--Collins' killer belonged to a racist group and had racist images on his phone. However, the prosecution did not get a hate crime conviction because the law requires that hate be the sole factor in the crime.

SB 606 closes this loophole so that hate can be one of the factors in a crime, but not the sole factor. We must strengthen our laws and increase penalties for hate crimes. On behalf of the City Council and our residents, I respectfully urge you to support SB 606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Wojahn".

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
21st District Delegation