



JEFFREY R. GAHLER
SHERIFF

HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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December 7, 2018

The Honorable Steuart Pittman
County Executive
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear County Executive Pittman:

Congratulations on your election as the new County Executive of Anne Arundel County. As an elected official, I can certainly understand and appreciate the challenges that come with running for public office county-wide.

As the Sheriff of Harford County, I answer directly to the citizens on matters concerning public safety as responsibility for policing, corrections, civil process, and court security, all fall under this Office. With actual public safety at the forefront and focus of our efforts, I was very pleased to have our jurisdiction accepted to the Delegation of Authority Program pursuant to 287(g) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act under the direction of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by President Obama's Administration in 2016.

A much ignored and/or overlooked fact concerning the 287(g) Program is that it was first implemented by President Clinton in the mid-90s and has continued through every Presidential Administration, Democrat and Republican alike, since. Through this partnership with the Federal Government, our Correctional Deputies are provided with the tools and authority necessary to assist in enforcing immigration laws. The Program allows us to identify those individuals who have committed crimes within Harford County and who are in this Country illegally for possible deportation, once they fulfill their obligation to the State of Maryland. This Program has nothing to do with law enforcement operations and this is another fact that is too often ignored in order to sell a false narrative.

Obviously, it is with a great sense of disappointment that I read of your decision to withdraw from the 287(g) Program. It is my hope that your decision was an informed one and not one meant to pander to those who knowingly levy false and misleading information. By eliminating this important Federal partnership, it will hamper our collaborative effort to reduce crime in our region and send the wrong message that Anne Arundel County is a sanctuary jurisdiction. It is my hope you might research the 287(g) Program further and reconsider your stance of this important public safety initiative.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey R. Gahler
Sheriff