



# Growth Action Network

of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

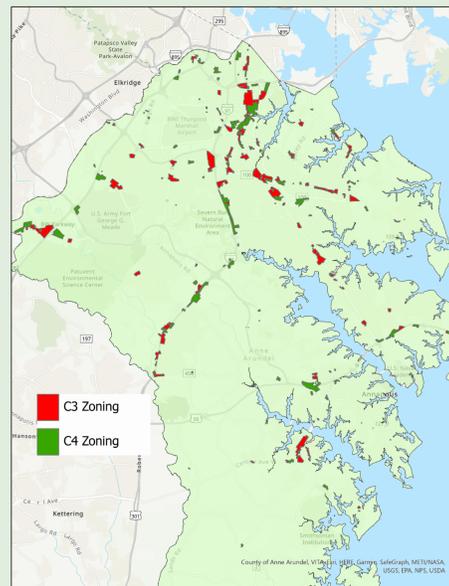
P.O. Box 748 • Arnold, MD 21012

## Council Bill 103-21 would open more locations to gun shops

The Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPFA) issued a final report in June 2020 showing that there were 1,688 gun-related violent crimes committed in the 2014 – 2018 time period and 260 firearm related deaths in Anne Arundel County. That pace has continued unabated into the present. Now comes county Council bill #103-21 that opens more than 100 new locations to sales of firearms and ammunition by classifying gunsmithing and ammunition sales as a permitted use on land parcels zoned C3.

**Gun and ammunition sales are currently limited to areas with C4 zoning, which is the least restrictive Commercial zoning.** It is the only commercial zoning category that permits siting of adult bookstores, animal hospitals, amusement parks, storage facilities, construction yards, and similar businesses. Although they are allowed in C4, retail shops, grocery stores, bakeries, banks, and other business of that type tend to cluster in C3. The map to the right shows the distribution of parcels zoned C3 or C4 throughout the County.

**Opening C3-zoned areas will increase the proliferation of gun shops into mainstream retail shopping areas.** It will contribute to the perception of guns as normal implements that every household might need. Many other civilized countries would consider this lunacy, and, of course, it directly conflicts with the goals of the County's Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.



Indoor gun ranges are a permitted use in C3. The sponsors of the bill, Councilmembers Fiedler and Volke, describe the bill as an effort to make zoning for gun shops consistent with the zoning for indoor gun ranges. However, this would suggest the possibility of "full service" gun shops with shooting ranges where gun sales could be increased by allowing potential customers to try guns before purchase.

The zoning map shows that most C3 zones are near C4 zones, so there is little motivation for permitting gun shops in C3. How many gun shops does a community need? Does a

shooting range really need to have an ammunition vendor immediately nearby? Is there any public benefit associated with a shooting range also selling guns?

GAN urges its members and guests to review [Bill 103-21](#) and contact their [County Council member](#) to express their concerns. Although amendments may introduce delays, the bill is scheduled to be heard and voted at the Jan 3, 2022 Council meeting.

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## Two new members elected to GAN Board

### GAN extends a warm welcome to two new members of the Board of Directors

**Gary Mauler** is a retired engineer who currently lives in Jessup. He was a member of the Plan2040 Citizen Advisory Committee, served for 10 years as President of the Jessup Improvement Association, served two terms as a Dewey Beach Town Commissioner, and was on the Board of Directors for the National Electronics Museum. Gary is also founder of Robot Fest, an annual event promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

**Matt Minahan** holds a Doctorate in Organizational Development and is President of Matt Minahan Associates and Managing Partner of Sapience Organizational Consulting. Both organizations are international organizational consulting firms. Matt has worked with a variety of corporate, government and international groups on strategic planning, executive development, and streamlining of business process. He has organized and led several international conferences, and has held several adjunct professor appointments in the course of his career.

Both of these new Directors bring new expertise to the Board and further strengthen the Growth Action Network. **WELCOME!**

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