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Randallstown NAACP Opposition to Amendments to Bills 83-23, 83-24

Towson, MD- President Coleman released the following statement concerning the changes to the Inspector General's office.

"The Randallstown NAACP commends Baltimore County Executive Olszewski and those who support passage of the Bill 83-24 related to the Inspector General which he submitted based on findings from a blue-ribbon commission. On the other hand, Randallstown NAACP opposes all amendments to said bill as proffered by the County Council Chair. In addition to objecting to the amendments, we also question the timing in how they were presented.

Functions like those performed by the Inspector General are there simply to prevent abuses and protect and preserve our rights by providing oversight and keeping the public informed. The Inspector General is essential to avoiding conflict of interest and assuring ethical behavior among our elected officials and government employees. Randallstown NAACP agrees with the national Inspector General Association which states that the proposed amendments by the County Council Chair would negatively impact the Inspector General's efforts supporting those precepts. Language such as that in the proposed amendments not only minimizes the importance of public input in decision-making, but it can also lead to disenfranchisement and marginalization of certain segments of the Baltimore County population. And, although transparency is important for all it is especially paramount for African Americans and other minority groups. Finally, the Randallstown NAACP joins the Baltimore County League of Women Voters and the Liberty Randallstown Community Coalition and others in supporting the bill presented by the County Executive and rejecting all amendments."