Appendix B
Policy Texts

This appendix includes copies of the twenty-first-century language policies that I discuss in detail. I have included these texts because while they are ostensibly public information (and not under copyright because they are US government documents), they are not easily accessible. Many earlier key US language policies are published elsewhere, often in one of two places: Crawford's (1992) *Language loyalties: A source book on the Official English controversy* and Crawford's (2002) digital Language Legislation Archives.

I have sought to capture the original structure, capitalization, and uses of bold as closely as possible. At times, the layouts and font styles may seem peculiar – sometimes text is in all caps and sometimes not, sometimes text is aligned to the right side of the page and sometimes not, sometimes clauses end with a period and sometimes not, and so on. This level of variation is typical of government policy texts in the United States.

The one typographical intervention I make here is to indicate revisions made between rough and final drafts. Key revisions affected Frederick County's 2012 Ordinance and Queen Anne's County's 2012 Ordinance. If words were present in a rough draft but people deleted them during the revision process, I show that by ~~crossing out that passage~~. If people added content during the revision process, I show that by *italicizing those words*. I will note that there are a few instances in the original texts where text is italicized, but it was never used to emphasize particular ideas, and so I have opted to just leave those passages as plain text, so as to use italics only to designate newly added content.

Finally, readers may wonder about a third kind of revision – rearranging text to go earlier or later in the document. I looked for those kinds of organizational edits, but they did not appear in any of these particular texts.

List of Texts

Frederick County's Resolution, 2008 (passed)
Frederick County's Ordinance, 2012, with revisions marked (passed, later repealed)

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Anne Arundel County's Bill, 2012 (did not pass)
Queen Anne's County's Ordinance, 2012, with revisions marked (passed)
Carroll County's Ordinance, 2013 (passed)
Frederick County's Human Relations Commission's Resolution, 2015 (passed)
Frederick County's Repeal Bill, 2015 (passed)

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Frederick County's Resolution, 2008 (passed)

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION IS APRIL 24, 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 08-13

**RESOLUTION OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**Re: Proclaiming English as the Official,
Primary and Common Language**

WHEREAS, the English language is the primary and common form of communication in Frederick County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland promotes proficiency in the English language to encourage full economic and civic participation of all its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the community benefits from acknowledging and embracing the rich and varied cultural heritage in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND that the Board hereby proclaims that the English language is the official, primary and common language of Frederick County Government.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Resolution was approved and adopted on the 24th day of April, 2008.

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Ronald A. Hart (signed)
County Manager

By: Jan H. Gardner, President (signed)

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Frederick County's Ordinance, 2012 (passed, later repealed)

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE IS FEBRUARY 22, 2012

ORDINANCE NO. 12-03-598

RE: Frederick County Official English Ordinance

The English language is the common language of Frederick County, Maryland and of the United States;

The use of a common language removes barriers of misunderstanding and helps to unify the people of Frederick County, this State and the United States, and helps to enable the full economic and civic participation of all its citizens, regardless of national origin, creed, race or other characteristics, and thus a compelling governmental interest exists in promoting, preserving, and strengthening the use of the English language;

Proficiency in the English language, as well as in languages other than the English language, benefits Frederick County both economically and culturally and should be encouraged;

In addition to any other ways to promote proficiency in the English language, the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland (BOCC) can promote proficiency in English by using the English language in its official actions and activities;

In today's society, Frederick County may also need to protect and preserve the rights of those who speak only the English language to use or obtain governmental programs and benefits; and

The BOCC can reduce costs and promote efficiency, in its roles as employer and a government accountable to the people, by using the English language in its official actions and activities.

The BOCC held a duly advertised public hearing on this proposed Ordinance on February 21, 2012. The public had an opportunity to comment at this public hearing.

Section 1. Official English Declaration

A. The English language is the official language of Frederick County.
B. The BOCC and officials of Frederick County shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the role of English as the common language of Frederick County is preserved and enhanced.
C. The BOCC shall make no ordinance which diminishes or ignores the role of English as the common language of Frederick County.

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D. Official actions of Frederick County which bind or commit Frederick County or which give the appearance of presenting the official views or position of Frederick County shall be taken in the English language. Unofficial or non-binding translations or explanations of official actions may be provided separately in languages other than English, if they are appropriately labelled as such and reference is made to a method to obtain the official action; unless otherwise required by federal or state law, no person has a right to such an unofficial or non-binding translation or explanation, and no liability or commitment of Frederick County shall be based on such a translation or explanation.
E. No ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Frederick County shall require the use of any language other than English for any documents, regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, meetings, programs, or publications, except as provided in Section 2.
F. ~~A person who speaks only the English language shall be eligible to participate in all programs, benefits and opportunities, including employment, provided by Frederick County (providing all other eligibility requirements are satisfied), except when required to speak another language as provided in Section 2~~.
G. No law, ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Frederick County shall penalize or impair the rights, obligations or opportunities available to any person solely because a person speaks only the English language.

Section 2. Exceptions

Frederick County may use a language other than English for any of the following purposes, whether or not the use would be considered part of an official action:

A. To teach or encourage the learning of languages other than English;
B. To protect the public health, sanitation, and public safety;
C. To teach English to those who are not fluent in the language;
D. To comply with the Native American Languages Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Voting Rights Act, or any other federal or state law;
E. To protect the rights of criminal defendants and victims of crime;
F. To promote trade, commerce, and tourism;
G. To collect payments, fines, or other financial obligations due and payable to Frederick County;

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H. To create or promote mottos or designations, inscribe public monuments, and perform other acts involving the customary use of a language other than English;
I. To utilize terms of art or terms or phrases from other languages which are commonly used in communications otherwise in English;
J. Printed materials, signage, or other materials or documents of Frederick County printed in languages other than English at the time of the adoption of this ordinance and not otherwise excepted in this Section 2 shall not be discarded or reprinted solely in English at the addition [*sic*] cost or expense of the taxpayers of Frederick County until they are exhausted or become otherwise obsolete;
K. For any other worthy, justifiable or appropriate action approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 3. Official Functions

Notwithstanding any other state law and except as provided in section 2 of this Ordinance, nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prohibit any elected official, officer, agent, employee of the state or a political subdivision, while performing official functions, from communicating unofficially through any medium with another person in a language other than English (as long as official functions are performed in English).

Section 4. Private Use Protected

The declaration and use of English as the official language of Frederick County should not be construed as infringing upon the rights of any person to use a language other than English in private communications or actions, including the right of government officials (including elected officials) to communicate with others while not performing official actions of Frederick County.

Section 5. Federal and State Preemption

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted as conflicting with the laws of the United States, or of the laws of the State of Maryland.

Section 6. No Cause of Action Created

This Ordinance is not intended to create any cause of action or authorize any legal proceedings to enforce or interpret this Ordinance.

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Section 7. Repeal of Prior Resolution.

This Ordinance replaces and supersedes Resolution No. 08-13 "Proclaiming English as the Official, Primary and Common Language" and therefore Resolution No. 08-13 is hereby repealed.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect on February 22, 2012.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Ordinance was approved and adopted on the 21st day of February, 2012.

ATTEST:	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
David B. Dunn (signed) County Manager	Blaine R. Young, President (signed)

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Anne Arundel County's Bill, 2012 (did not pass)

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2012, Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 13-12

Introduced by Mr. Walker, Mr. Grasso, Mr. Fink and Mr. Ladd

By the County Council, February 6, 2012

———

Introduced and first read on February 6, 2012
Public Hearing set for March 5, 2012
Bill expires May 11, 2012

By Order: Elizabeth E. Jones, Administrative Officer

———

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning: General Provisions – Miscellaneous Provisions – Official Language

FOR the purpose of establishing English as the official language of Anne Arundel County; and generally related to County government.

BY adding § 1-9-105
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

TITLE 9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1-9-105. Official Language

ENGLISH SHALL BE THE OFFICIAL AND COMMON LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTY. ALL OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, COMMUNICATION AND AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY SHALL BE IN ENGLISH UNLESS MANDATED BY FEDERAL OR STATE LAW OR AS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS, TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, TO TEACH ENGLISH TO NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS, OR TO PROMOTE TRADE AND TOURISM IN THE COUNTY.

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SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days from the date it becomes law.

———

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

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Queen Anne's County's Ordinance, 2012 (passed)

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 12-06

AN AMENDMENT TO
A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Recognition of English as the Official Language of Queen Anne's County.

FOR THE PURPOSE of ~~designating the English language~~ *amending pending County Ordinance No. 12-06 to clarify the provisions regarding the declaration and recognition of English* as the official language of Queen Anne's County.

BY ~~ADDING~~ *AMENDING* the proposed new Section 4-14 ~~to~~ *of* the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, *Maryland*.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that ~~a new Section 4-14 be added to the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, to read as follows:~~ *pending County Ordinance No. 12-06 be amended so that the new Section 4-14 of the Code of Public Local Laws shall read as follows:*

§4-14. Official Language of Queen Anne's County.

~~ENGLISH SHALL BE THE OFFICIAL AND COMMON LANGUAGE OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY. ALL OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, COMMUNICATION AND AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY SHALL BE IN ENGLISH UNLESS MANDATED BY FEDERAL OR STATE LAW OR AS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS, TO PROTECT PUBLISH HEALTH AND SAFETY, TO TEACH ENGLISH TO NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS, OR TO PROMOT [SIC] TRADE AND TOURISM IN THE COUNTY.~~

A. Findings

The people of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, find and declare that:

(1) *the English language is the common language of Queen Anne's County, of the State of Maryland and of the United States;*
(2) *the use of a common language removes barriers of misunderstanding and helps to unify the people of Queen Anne's County, this State and the United States, and helps to enable the full economic and civil participation of all of its citizens, regardless of national*

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origin, creed, race or other characteristics, and thus a compelling governmental interest exists in promoting, preserving, and strengthening the use of the English language;

(3) *proficiency in the English language, as well as in languages other than the English language, benefits Queen Anne's County both economically and culturally and should be encouraged;*

(4) *in addition to any other ways to promote proficiency in the English language, the government of Queen Anne's County can promote proficiency in English by using the English language in its official actions and activities;*

(5) *in today's society, Queen Anne's County may also need to protect and preserve the rights of those who speak only the English language to use or obtain governmental programs and benefits; and*

(6) *the government of Queen Anne's County can reduce costs and promote efficiency, in its roles as employer and a government accountable to the people, by using the English language in its official actions and activities.*

B. Official English Declaration

(1) *The English language is the official language of Queen Anne's County.*

(2) *The County Commissioners and officials of Queen Anne's County shall take all necessary steps to insure [sic] that the role of English as the common language of Queen Anne's County is preserved and enhanced.*

(3) *The County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County shall make no Ordinance which diminishes or ignores the role of English as the common language of Queen Anne's County.*

(4) *Official actions of Queen Anne's County which bind or commit Queen Anne's County or which give the appearance of presenting the official views or position of Queen Anne's County shall be taken in the English language, and in no other language. Unofficial or non-binding translations or explanations of official actions may be provided separately in languages other than English, if they are appropriately labeled as such and reference is made to a method to obtain the official action; unless otherwise required by federal or State law, no person has a right to such an unofficial or non-binding translation or explanation, and no liability or commitment of Queen Anne's County shall be based on such a translation or explanation.*

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(5) *No ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Queen Anne's County of any of its subdivisions, shall require the use of any language other than English for any documents, regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, meetings, programs, or publications, except as provided in Section C.*

(6) *A person who speaks only the English language shall be eligible to participate in all programs, benefits and opportunities, including employment, provided by Queen Anne's County and its subdivisions, except when required to speak another language as provided in Section C.*

(7) *No law, ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Queen Anne's County or any of its subdivisions shall penalize or impair the rights, obligations or opportunities available to any person solely because a person speaks only the English language.*

C. Exceptions

Queen Anne's County and its subdivisions may use a language other than English for any of the following purposes, whether or not the use would be considered part of an official action:

(1) *To teach or encourage the learning of languages other than English;*

(2) *To protect the public health, sanitation, and public safety;*

(3) *To teach English to those who are not fluent in the language;*

(4) *To comply with the Native American Languages Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Voting Rights Act, or any other federal or State law;*

(5) *To protect the rights of criminal defendants and victims of crime;*

(6) *To promote trade, commerce, and tourism;*

(7) *To collect payments, fines, or other financial obligations due and payable to the court;*

(8) *To create or promote mottos or designations, inscribe public monuments, and perform other acts involving the customary use of a language other than English;*

(9) *To utilize terms of art or terms or phrases from other languages which are commonly used in communications otherwise in English; and*

(10) *Printed materials, signage, or other materials or documents of Queen Anne's County printed in languages other than English at the time of adoption of this Ordinance and not otherwise excepted in this section C shall not be discarded or reprinted solely in English at the addition* [sic] *cost or expense of the taxpayers of the County until they are exhausted or become otherwise obsolete.*

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D. Rules of Construction.

Notwithstanding any other state law and except as provided in Section C of this chapter, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any elected official, officer, agent, employee of the state or a political subdivision, while performing official functions, from communicating unofficially through any medium with another person in a language other than English (as long as official functions are performed in English).

E. Private Use Protected.

The declaration and use of English as the official language of Queen Anne's County should not be construed as infringing upon the rights of any person to use a language other than English in private communications or actions, including the right of government officials (including elected officials) to communicate with others while not performing official's [sic] *actions of Queen Anne's County.*

F. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance, or the applicability of any provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent practicable.

G. Federal and State Preemption.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted as conflicting with the statutes of the United States, or the laws of the State of Maryland.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Amendment shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Olds

DATE: April 10, 2012

VOTE: 4 Yea 1 Nay (Commissioner Dunmyer opposed)

DATE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT: May 8, 2012

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Carroll County's Ordinance, 2013 (passed)

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-01

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Carroll County, Maryland, has enacted and codified the "Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances of Carroll County, Maryland";

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County, Maryland, has determined that amendments to certain sections of Code are necessary to advance the public health, safety, and welfare;

WHERAS [*SIC*], the English language is the common language of Carroll County, Maryland and of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the use of a common language removes barriers of misunderstanding and helps to unify the citizens of Carroll County, the State of Maryland, and the United States of America, and helps to enable the full economic and civic participation of all its citizens, regardless of national origin, creed, race, or other characteristics, and thus a compelling governmental interest exists in promoting, preserving, and strengthening the use of the English language;

WHEREAS, proficiency in the English language, as well as other languages, benefits Carroll County both economically and culturally and should be encouraged;

WHEREAS, in addition to other ways to promote efficiency in the English language, the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County can promote proficiency in English by using the English language in its official actions and activities;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the need to protect and preserve the rights of those who speak only the English language to use or obtain governmental programs, services, and benefits;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County can reduce costs and promote efficiency in its roles as employer and as a government accountable to its citizens by using the English language in its official actions and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County, Maryland, desires to designate the English language as the official language of Carroll County, and for that purpose, it is necessary to adopt an ordinance.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County, Maryland:

ARTICLE I. AMENDMENTS.

The Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances of Carroll County, Chapter 10 (Reserved), is deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

Chapter 10, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF CARROLL COUNTY

§ 10-1. Official English Declaration.

A. The English language is the official language of Carroll County, Maryland.

B. The Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the role of English as the common language of Carroll County is preserved and enhanced.

C. The Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County shall take no official action which would diminish or ignore the role of English as the common language of Carroll County.

D. Official actions of Carroll County government which bind or commit Carroll County or which give the appearance of presenting the official views or position of Carroll County shall be taken in the English language, and in no other language. Unofficial or non-binding translations or explanations of official actions may be provided separately in languages other than English, if they are appropriately labeled as such and reference is made to a method to obtain the official action. Unless otherwise required by federal or state law, no person has a right to such an official or non-binding translation or explanation, and no liability or commitment of Carroll County shall be based on such a translation or explanation.

E. No ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Carroll County shall require the use of any language other than English for any documents, regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, meetings, programs, or publications, except as provided in § 10-2.

F. A person who speaks only the English language shall be eligible to participate in all programs, benefits, and opportunities, including employment provided by Carroll County provided all other eligibility requirements are satisfied, except when required to speak another language as provided in § 10-2.

G. No law, ordinance, decree, program, or policy of Carroll County shall penalize or impair the rights, obligations, or opportunities available to any person solely because a person speaks only the official language.

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§ 10-2. Exceptions.

Carroll County may use a language other than English for any of the following purposes, whether or not the use would be considered part of an official action:

A. To teach or encourage the learning of languages other than English;
B. To protect the public health, sanitation, and public safety;
C. To teach English to those who are not fluent in the language;
D. To comply with the Native American Languages Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Voting Rights Act, or any other federal or state law;
E. To protect the rights of criminal defendants and victims of crime;
F. To promote trade, commerce, and tourism;
G. To collect payments, fines, or other financial obligations due and payable to Carroll County;
H. To create or promote mottos or designations, inscribe public monuments, and perform other acts involving the customary use of a language other than English;
I. To utilize the terms of art of terms or phrases from other languages which are commonly used in communications otherwise in English; and
J. Printed materials, signage, or other materials or documents of Carroll County printed in languages other than English at the time of the adoption of this ordinance and not otherwise excepted in this section shall not be discarded or reprinted solely in English at the additional cost or expense of the taxpayers of Carroll County until they are exhausted or become otherwise obsolete.

§ 10-3. Official Functions.

Notwithstanding any other state law and except as provided in § 10-2 of this ordinance, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit any elected official, officer, agent, employee of the County or a political subdivision, while performing official functions, from communicating unofficially through any medium with another person in a language other than English, provided that all official functions are performed only in English.

§ 10-4. Private Use Protected.

The declaration and use of English as the official language of Carroll County should not be construed as infringing upon the rights of any person to use a language other than English in private communications or actions, including the right of government officials, including elected officials, to communicate with others while not performing official actions of Carroll County.

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§ 10-5. Federal and State Preemption.

Nothing in this ordinance shall be interpreted as conflicting with the laws of the United States of America or the laws of the State of Maryland.

§ 10-6. No Cause of Action Created.

This ordinance is not intended to create any cause of action or authorize any legal proceedings to enforce or interpret this ordinance.

ARTICLE II. SEVERABILITY.

Should any provision, section, paragraph or subparagraph of this Ordinance, including any code or text adopted hereby, be declared null and void, illegal, unconstitutional, or otherwise determined to be unenforceable by a court having jurisdiction; the same shall not effect the validity, legality, or enforceability of any other provision, section, paragraph or subparagraph hereof, including any code or text adopted hereby. Each such provision, section, paragraph or subparagraph is expressly declared to be and is deemed severable.

ARTICLE III. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective on January 30, 2013.

Adopted this 24th day of January, 2013.

Attest:
Shawn D. Reese, County Clerk
(signed)

The COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND,
a body corporate and politic
of the state of Maryland

J. Douglas Howard, President (signed)
David H. Roush, Vice President (signed)
Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr., Secretary (signed)
Robin Bartlett Frazier, Commissioner (signed)
Richard S. Rothschild, Commissioner (signed)

Approved for legal sufficiency:
Timothy C. Burke (with ink signature)
County Attorney

Notice of Public Hearing published: 10/15/12; 10/29/12; 11/27/12; 12/04/12
Public Hearing held: 12/11/12

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Public Meeting to adopt Ordinance: 01/24/13
Notice of Adoption of Ordinance published: 01/30/13
Ordinance filed with Clerk of Court: 01/30/13

I hereby certify that the actions described above took place on the dates referred to above and that this Ordinance is effective as of the 30th of January, 2013.

Timothy C. Burke, County Attorney
(signed)

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Frederick County's Human Relations Commission's Resolution, 2015 (passed)

Repeal of the Frederick County Official English Ordinance
Human Relations Commission
HRC Resolution 2014-15A

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2012, Frederick County adopted Ordinance Number 12-03-598 that declared English to be the official language in Frederick County, Maryland after one public hearing without significant public contribution or discussion,

WHEREAS, the apparent purpose of this Ordinance is the denigration of people who speak languages other than English and has come to symbolize intolerance, narrow-mindedness and discrimination,

WHEREAS, under the regulations of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission, this Commission is charged with the responsibility to "foster and encourage the elimination of discriminatory practices within Frederick County so that all persons in Frederick County are provided with an equal opportunity to be free from discrimination." [Section 1(A)], and

WHEREAS, The Commission is also required to monitor and recommend civil rights policy to the County. [Section 4(A)],

WHEREAS, Frederick County has a long history of multiple languages over the last three centuries, including our rich German heritage to which we owe our founding,

WHEREAS, governments, businesses, and individuals in Frederick County communicate freely and openly, most often in English but in many other languages as well,

WHEREAS, Frederick County has many employers who participate in minority recruitment and hiring and recognize that embracing diversity is critical to recruiting and retaining the best and brightest to their respective fields,

WHEREAS, we believe that one of the most vital and valuable aspects of daily life in Frederick County is its diversity and cultural heritage where all races, religions, ages, and cultures are welcome, as should be all languages,

WHEREAS, we believe that this Ordinance, and the perception it has created, is a barrier to making Frederick County the very best place to live, work, and raise a family.

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THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on this 28th day of April, 2015, that the Human Relations Commission of Frederick County recommends to the Frederick County Council that Ordinance Number 12-03-598 be repealed.

Angela H. Spencer (signed)
Chair

Tonya Amedon (signed)
Vice Chair

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Frederick County Repeal Bill, 2015 (passed)

Bill No. 15-08
Concerning: An Act to Repeal Ordinance No. 12-03-598
(Frederick County Official English Ordinance)
Introduced: June 16, 2015
Enacted: August 18, 2015
Executive: Jan H. Gardner 8-25-15 (signed)
Effective: October 17, 2015

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Member Fitzwater. Co-Sponsor Council Vice President Keegan-Ayer

AN ACT to: Repeal Ordinance No. 12-03-598, for the purpose of promoting a competitive business climate for Frederick County's existing 6,200 businesses which employ 79,000 workers; attracting new life science businesses and jobs that will move Frederick County closer to becoming the State's bio-tech hub; ensuring that non-English language speakers are not deterred from reporting crimes, seeking medical care or other human services; and generally relating to Frederick County's encouragement of multi-linguistic acceptance, tolerance and multi-cultural diversity in an increasingly global economy.

By amending:
Frederick County Code, Chapter N/A

Bill No. 15-08

The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland, enacted Ordinance No. 12-03-598, titled "Frederick County Official English Ordinance" (Ordinance), effective February 22, 2012.

The Ordinance proclaimed English as the official language of Frederick County. The Ordinance required that official actions which bind or commit Frederick County or which give the appearance of presenting the official views or positions of Frederick County be taken in the English language.

The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, (Council) finds that the Ordinance, and the perception it has created, constitutes a barrier to good business and impedes the growth and development of business and commercial endeavors in Frederick County.

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The Council has determined that in order to broaden the appeal of Frederick County to the business community, and to attract and retain businesses and employees in the biotech and life science segments of the commercial economy, Frederick County must and does embrace diversity.

The Council determines and believes that Frederick County is, and should be, a welcoming community to all, with pride in the diversity of cultures and individuals who participate in and promote the well-being and growth of the County.

The Council finds that there are numerous federal and Maryland State laws and regulations that currently exist which require translation and interpretation to facilitate and recognize the increasing diversity of persons residing in Frederick County.

The Council further finds and determines that the Ordinance impedes the integration of diverse culture and values into our community and is contrary to the tolerance and acceptance of all individuals which is a hallmark of the community which is Frederick County.

In light of these circumstances, the Council has determined that it is necessary and proper, and in the best interest of the residents of Frederick County, that the Ordinance be repealed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that Ordinance 12-03-598, attached hereto as Exhibit A, be, and the same is hereby, REPEALED.

Harold F. (Bud) Otis, President (signed)
County Council of Frederick County, Maryland

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