

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR's 72/73

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your hard work this budget season and always. I deeply appreciate Council Chair Rigby letting me know, at the public hearing, that the Office of Law had advised you that you could not amend Council Resolutions 72 and 73, and said an answer as to why could be provided. I was confused as to whether or not this situation was one of timeliness since the issue was raised on this a month prior, see email below. For a while now, I had wondered if locally controlled fees could be analyzed now, separately from the State-enabling school surcharge issue you will soon take up. I sent the email below not even realizing that these very fees would be annually reviewed the next month.

Any information about why you cannot amend these resolutions would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to discussing the bigger school surcharge issues in the future.

Take care,

Lisa

----- Original Message -----

From: LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>  
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov  
Date: April 24, 2019 at 5:10 PM  
Subject: Budget testimony (cannot make it tonight)

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your hard work during this busy budget time. So many competing needs and never enough money for all we need and want to accommodate. Due to my involvement with development issues, and the State Impact Fee Bill, I have a

suggestion for an area of adding revenues to the budget. A bit of a different "ask" than you are used to reading.

Since the State enabling legislation to increase school surcharges to developers, which will give you that right if/when Governor Hogan signs HB1409, exempted all senior housing, that lost a lot of local income. Many believed that was a helpful consideration toward having more affordable senior housing. Unfortunately, that is not the case. As I forwarded to you recently, in our code, school surcharges do not apply to homes priced under \$200,000 (adjusted for inflation for over a decade, so likely far higher now). Thus, not allowing these fees to be increased, is only favoring high-priced units, not helping lower income seniors.

Therefore, I suggest you look at every single local fee, permit, filing, tax, or any expense associated with development that is under local control, and raise it, every year, to the maximum legal amount possible. It is only right to capture these funds, when your hands have been tied for inaccurate reasons, not to mention the fact that we have foregone so much in fees for so long, them being so woefully low compared to other growing counties. I realize many of these types of charges are capped, but do the best you can. We are the highest growing county, yet again, and we cannot seem to get proper fees to fund needed infrastructure to maintain our high quality of public services for residents current and future.

Thank you,

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, Ellicott City