



HOWARD COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
ELlicott CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT ■ LAWYERS HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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Subject: Testimony for Support of CB 67-2016
Historic Preservation Code Revisions

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Historic Preservation Commission

Date: October 6, 2016

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) endorses the adoption of Council Bill 67-2016, which proposes to amend the Howard County Code, Sections 16.601, 16.603, 16.604, 16.607 and Section 20.112, to exempt certain minor alterations from the Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) Certificate of Approval requirement and streamline the tax-credit approval process, with a proposed amendment.

On July 30, 2016, Ellicott City was flooded, leaving the historic town in need of significant repairs throughout the Historic District. To meet the need for numerous hearings to issue Certificates of Approval, the Historic Preservation Commission has doubled its meetings to expedite the review process for Ellicott City citizens needing to repair the exterior of their buildings. The Commission recognizes that much of the work is in-kind repair or minor alterations that are eligible for property tax credits. The amendments to the Code will expedite the approval process by allowing designated DPZ Staff to pre-approve tax credits for repairs and approve minor exterior alterations such as paint color, lighting, hardware, and deteriorated materials such as siding, roofs, chimneys, railings and gutters. The HPC will retain final approval authority over both minor alterations and tax-credit approvals.

The Commission has carefully reviewed the proposed Code changes. Formal discussion and feedback occurred at the monthly HPC meeting on October 6, 2016, where the HPC unanimously voted to support the proposed Code changes, with the following amendment:

On page 4, line 23, after the word "website." Add, "**The Executive Secretary will notify each Commissioner in writing.**"

On page 4, line 24, after the word "posting" add "**on the website, and written notification to the Commission,**"

These changes will enable the HPC to fulfill its responsibilities, by ensuring that Commissioners are informed in a timely manner, of any minor alternation approvals.

The Howard County Historic Preservation Commission supports Council Bill 67-2016, with the proposed amendment.

Allan Shad, Historic Preservation Commission Chair

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cc: Valdis Lazdins, Director of Department of Planning and Zoning
Jen Sager, Legislative Coordinator