

Sayers, Margery

From: Frank Hazzard <frank@buzzquake.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 6:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Repeal the TIF

Dear County Council Members,

The TIF deal was bad when it was passed. Now that Howard Hughes is renegeing on the parking garage, it is shameful should be repealed altogether.

I always vote and will remember what you do on this issue.

Frank Hazzard

Sayers, Margery

From: Joel Broida <jbroida1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 11:56 PM
To: CouncilMail; countyexecutive@howardcountymd.gov; hcletters@tribune.com; Columbia Flier
Cc: Broida Joel; Wengel Linda; Foehrkolb Lynn; Coombs Kirsten; Fitzgerald Kevin; Eagan Lin; Baker Jeryl; Mungo Tom; Loeber Pat
Subject: Crescent TIF for parking

It is time to carry out a serious and comprehensive assessment of the near as well as long term needs for parking for the Crescent, Merriweather, Symphony Woods Park, the Lakefront Core, and all land within the Mall/Ring Road areas. The current piecemeal approach is the equivalent of “kicking the can”/problem down the time road.

It has become clear that it is essential that you take a hard, honest look at the nature and scope of the needs and requirements for parking and transportation for the present and over the course of the next twenty-five to thirty years. It does not take a rocket scientist or even an ordinary Columbia or Howard County resident to realize that a combination of vehicles and people using Merriweather, the Crescent, Symphony Woods Park, the Lake Kittamaquindi Core, and the Mall/Ring Road work will produce gridlock.

The bottom line is that it is essential that a delay and, more to the point, a moratorium be invoked on any and all future action on the Crescent, Merriweather, Symphony Woods Park, the Lakefront Core, and all land within the Mall/Ring Road areas. The actions already taken by the County Council and County Executive reveal gaping holes in the overall County Downtown Plan that need to be fixed, now and not later when the damage has already been done.....lack of parking, streets, transportation, and more.

PLEASE STOP THE TRAIN, BEFORE NOT AFTER THE COLLISION. It is time to carry out a full and complete assessment followed by open and transparent hearings. Then, it will be time to amend the overall Columbia Downtown Plan to reflect reality. Doing less is both unfair and unreasonable to the tax paying, caring residents.

Thank you, and you can be assured that Howard County citizens expect nothing less from you, our elected officials.

Joel H. Broida, resident of Columbia and Howard County since 1970.

5400 Vantage Point Road Apt. 413

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443.996.0095 cell

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Jean Link <myjeanlink@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 10:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Repeal TIF

I was opposed to the TIF originally and was disappointed when it was passed. Having read Councilman Ball's concern and new proposal, I totally support it! Please don't let Howard Hughes Corporation totally dictate how Columbia will be run.

I live in Town Center and am a 45 year Columbia resident.

Jean Link
10205 Wincopin Circle
Unit 301

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie <bstuart1022@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 8:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: TIF

Stop the tax increase now!!!!

I agree

Bonnie Stuart

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Roy Appletree <roy.appletree@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 5:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 74-2017 Testimony
Attachments: TIF Testimony CB 74-2017 - Appletree.pdf

Please accept the attached written testimony in support of the legislation.

Thank you

Roy Appletree

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Roy Appletree
410-312-9044 H
410-707-2640 C

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
Roy Appletree
7230 Single Wheel Path, Columbia

CB 74-2017 TIF REPEAL
September 14, 2017

Position

I strongly support CB 74-2017 and the repeal of the current Downtown TIF. I am open to the reconsideration of a newer TIF.

Previous Testimony

On July 18, 2016, I testified to the following:

I am not opposed to a TIF though this is an unusual application, After all in 2010 you granted a 5,500 residential bonus density. To me the question isn't the "but for". The question for me is the "if not." What is the current physical or economic problem with our Downtown we are trying to fix? We have already established sound zoning for growth. What if the market doesn't catch up for 5 or 10 years? What is we only provide say \$30 million in TIF? What does that buy us? What do we gain or lose?

You may recall my closing statement:

I close with a quote from Donald Trump's "Art of the Deal" and highly recommend it to you and the Administration:

"The worst thing you can possibly do in a deal is seem desperate to make it. . .
.The best thing you can do is deal from strength, and leverage is the biggest strength you can have."

This sophisticated County can do much better.

Concerns

Yesterday I drove through Downtown for the movie premiere of "Columbia at 50". The ride and the movie solidified three of my concerns:

1. Downtown is growing at a rapid pace. It is exciting. It is happening. The new offices, roads and apartment were clearly in the pipeline when you approved a first stage, \$90m TIF. What significant role if any did the not yet executed TIF play?

2. In the movie, Councilwoman Sigaty voiced support for the TIF for the structured parking inherent in the 2010 Plan, and described as a potential use of TIF. Why are we now shifting away from using the TIF for parking? (see point 4)
3. In the movie County Executive Kittleman voiced support for the TIF in order to speed up the process. I believe he said it would be nice to have it completed in 10-15 years, rather than 25 years plus. What is the economic advantage of this to the County? The analysis never examined the tradeoffs between contributing fewer tax dollars to a Howard Hughes project versus a slower but constant building tax base. The entire argument was portrayed as an all or nothing at a given rate of return (or alternatively a beautiful Downtown or a Wal-Mart on the Crescent)

My fourth concern is pure cynicism. I have always heard that the developers have undue influence. None of you has ever heard this from me. However, it was clear that the Council and Executive's ears perked up when they heard one group of developers oppose Howard Hughes, the gorilla developer.

4. Why should anyone believe that the restructuring of the TIF is nothing more than a solution for the lawsuit that has been filed regarding parking? In one way or another all of the TIF bond money being placed indirectly into HH coffers is fungible. Why are the proposed changes nothing more than a sham?

Thank you for reading this testimony.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Galbraith <cjgalbraith@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 12:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Repeal the TIF

Please repeal the TIF and achieve transparency and due process.

Thank you,
Carol Galbraith
10118 Hyla Brook Road
Columbia 21044
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jon Lemich <jonlemich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 1:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Bill 74-2017

I support 74-2017 because I don't think developers should get a blank check. If there was a real need for \$90 million of our future tax dollars, then these developers would have had a clear plan for it. Since they're not even settled on what to use the money for, I say repeal it. When they can't even agree on what it's for, it's a sure sign it's just a giveaway to developers.

We need that money for other things. I can think of several things to use it for: New schools in the East side of the county and around this new development. Infrastructure construction to support the new downtown development. New low income and MIHU construction in the HoCo neighborhoods that have too few low/moderate income housing units. And low/no interest revitalization loans to homeowners in the older Columbia neighborhoods surrounding the new development.

Sayers, Margery

From: Keys Botzum <botzumk444@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 1:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Terrasa, Jen
Subject: TIF financing - opposed

I'll keep this short and sweet.

I have always been opposed to TIF financing for the downtown. The government should not be subsidizing private interests.

Now that the garage is no longer part of the TIF financing, my opposition only grows stronger.

Keys Botzum
7462 First League
Columbia, MD 21046
40+ year Columbia resident

Keys Botzum
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