

Date: 18 September 2017

Subject: The Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) Supports CB73-2017

Good evening. My name is Stu Kohn and I reside at 8709 Yellow Bird Court, Laurel, Md. 20723. I have the honor of being the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA President. We are in support of CB73-2017. Why wouldn't anyone be in full support? Whenever one can obtain a timelier source of information to enable a decision rendered by the Council or Zoning Board for perhaps the betterment of the public all should be in support.


Please refer to Page 2, Line 18 of the Bill we recommend you add the wording "at a minimum of "X" amount of days in advance of the legislation which will be introduced to the public." The same would apply on Page 4, after Line 16 we recommend you add the wording – "at a minimum of "X" amount of days in advance of the legislation which will be introduced to the public."

One thing we want you to note is that HCCA worked with Councilwoman Sigaty CB 6-2015 it was co-sponsored by: Dr. Calvin Ball, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein which amended the Howard County Code to clarify that DPZ is required to send their technical staff reports for any petitions considered by the Zoning Board, County Council, Planning Board, Hearing Examiner, or Board of Appeals to the appropriate decision making body and the general public at least two weeks prior to the required public hearing or meeting; generally related to DPZ's technical staff reports. So we ask does this Bill in anyway supersede a portion of CB73-2017 regarding the aspect of the Technical Staff Report of this Bill?

Our goal is to ensure that enforcement applies to legislation and Rules of Procedure for both the Zoning and Planning Boards. In the case of the Rules of Procedure for both bodies they have not been updated since 2002 and 2007 respectively. You all know what I am referring to when it comes to the Zoning Board Rules of Procedure especially regarding the issuance of the Decision and Order to the parties after a 60-day period. All we are saying is if the Rules or in the case of this Bill quantitative proclamations are not followed then what is the penalty if not enforced? If enforcement is not a major part of the package then simply hit the delete button to erase the directive.

Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, "Information is the currency of democracy." So the more you have at your fingertips we might all be better for it.

Sincerely,



Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President



CB73-2017