

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Christine Lemyze <clemyze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:20 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Council Bill 74-2017

Dear Council Members,

My name is Christine Lemyze. I live at 3861 Woodville Lane in Ellicott City, 21042.

I have been a resident of Howard County for over 30 years and care deeply about quality of life in the county.

I urge you to repeal CB 56-2016, and vote FOR CB 74-2017. Since the proposed use of the special financing has changed, it is now mandatory that bill 56-2016 be repealed and new data submitted to the council and citizens in order to evaluate the need for TIF financing and potentially approve it for specific purposes.

Thank you.

Christine Lemyze

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** melissa mulreany <mjmhtc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 7:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support CB74

Please support CB74. The TIF should be spent as voted by the council or another vote taken if spending plans change

These back room deals have no place in an open and honest community

Melissa J Mulreany, DDS  
MJM-Health Training Concepts  
Mjmhtc@yahoo.com  
(301)421-1997  
Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Joanne Heckman <joanneheckman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 5:51 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB 74 testimony from The People's Voice

The People's Voice  
Joanne Heckman  
Secretary  
3205 B Corporate Court  
Ellicott City 21042

September 18, 2017

Support of CB74 - 2017

The TIF for downtown Columbia was meant to finance a parking garage, and should be removed with the decision to no longer use public funds to build that garage.

What's more, as a general principle, we believe that developers should pay for their own road needs and adjacent remedies. The size of the project doesn't reduce the obligation of the developer to pay the cost for related infrastructure. The size of the profit to the developer is proportional to the size of the project.

Growth in the County has already created the need to update infrastructure for schools and roads in Columbia and elsewhere. Anticipated infrastructure expenses should be met by the developers who profit by creating the need for the infrastructure.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Td Lattimer <lattimertp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 4:32 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Please support approval of CB74

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman:

I strongly support the proposed repeal proposed under CB74 to withdraw last year's approval of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for parking improvements in Downtown Columbia. I support CB74 on both substantive and procedural grounds. Substantively, I am concerned that taking public funds out of the originally intended purpose of constructing a public parking facility would open the way for one private firm to control all or most of the downtown Columbia area's parking. I don't believe it serves the public interest for any firm to have a monopoly over downtown parking.

Procedurally, I am troubled by what appears to be a lack of open and transparent dealings on this matter. There should be opportunities for public review and comment on any proposals to change significantly the use of TIF monies from their originally intended use (a public parking structure). This is particularly true if said funds would instead be used to finance road improvements that might arguably be the responsibility of private developers that created the need for such improvements. At a minimum, the pros and cons of such a drastic change in the use of public tax monies should be subject to public debate and transparent decision-making.

I urge the County Council to support CB74-2017.

Thanks for your consideration and best regards, Tim Lattimer  
8452 Each Leaf Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21045

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Susan Garber <buzysusan23@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support of CB74-2017

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my support of CB74-17 (to repeal CB 56-2016). I opposed the \$90 million TIF when it was originally proposed for numerous reasons. However, I could not have imagined that this quickly a change of such magnitude could occur in that TIF --behind closed doors!

The public was told repeatedly that approximately \$67 million was absolutely essential to build a County owned and operated parking garage which would serve the Crescent area.

Surely when numbers “were crunched” the potential rental income from the parking garage was part of the equation. Without that additional revenue stream, surely significant adjustments in analysis would be warranted. Are we not risking providing Howard Hughes Corp. with a monopoly on parking—allowing them to charge truly “urban rates” for parking for MPP and Toby patrons, not to mention library patrons!!!

The lack of transparency demonstrated on the part of the administration is enormously disappointing. Should I expect the same back room deals to occur for the Laurel Park TIF looming right around the corner? While the information was shared with SOME Council members, why not ALL? Why hasn't the public been informed and given the opportunity to weigh in? Re-opening the discussion is the only way to remove the cloud. If money is to be redirected-- and we are to believe that no one will drive in the Downtown—perhaps investment in a truly functional transportation system should be prioritized.

In the HCCA-sponsored documentary, “Columbia at 50 –A Bridge to the Future,” it was made clear that one element of Columbia’s success was attributed to developers/builders taking responsibility (through Connecticut General’s financing) to *forward fund* their communities. I see no reason why so highly touted a community as Columbia and Howard County needs to assume so much risk for the developer. WHY does Howard County continue to beg people to build here—and accept whatever they propose--in one of the most affluent and desirable places in the country?

It has been stated that the money previously designated for the garage will now be directed to roads “to speed up development.” Speeding up is likely the most harmful thing we can do when the County is woefully behind in providing adequate public facilities—with little hope in sight. Our school construction needs should be a far greater priority than helping a large corporation improve their bottom line. It came as no surprise when the County was sued by four other developers who regarded the HHC deal as providing HCC an unfair advantage over other builders who must finance their own infrastructure for projects!

**Pass CB74-2017 NOW and provide the public with full information and an opportunity for comment before a TIF is reconsidered.**

Please also consider passing legislation that would prohibit any HC elected or appointed official, member of the DPZ, DPW, Office of Law, Office of Finance, or Economic Development Authority from accepting employment (salaried or contractual) from any development concern—especially any which is benefitting from TIF financing, other special concessions, or any contract exceeding \$100,000 for a period of 5 years after terminating “public service.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Garber

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kelly Johnson <ksumme@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; countyexecutive@howardcountymd.gov  
**Cc:** Jake Cohen  
**Subject:** repeal the TIF, vote for CB74-2017

Dear Executive Kittleman and members of the County Council,

My name is Kelly Johnson, I am a resident of Howard County. I was born and raised here and am now raising my family in this wonderful community. I am also a member of PATH, People Acting Together in Howard.

It has come to my attention that the TIF, which I originally opposed, is now being used differently than was originally proposed and, most alarmingly, without public input or scrutiny.

The reason I first opposed the TIF is simple- our community is great because of the people. Builders and developers want to build here because it is a vibrant growing community. We had no need to give more incentives to the Howard Hughes company to build in a community where they were already going to see vast profits. As I learned more about the issue, it became clear to me that TIFs can be a slippery slope, allowing more freedom with public funds and land than should be given to any private company.

And here we are. I am very disturbed to hear that the negotiations to change the TIF have been taking place in private. These are our communities tax dollars at work and we deserve a voice! The main community proponent of the TIF last time was the Save Merriweather group and other Arts groups. If the TIF is no longer going to fund a community parking garage for Merriweather, then the main community reason for the TIF has disappeared.

I urge the members of the County Council to join Councilwoman Terrasa and Councilman Ball in voting for CB74-2017, to repeal the TIF.

Executive Kittleman, I urge you to bring your negotiations with Howard Hughes out into the open, and include the County Council and PATH (our coordinator, Jake is CCed here) in those negotiations, as a voice of the people. We are the ones who elected you to be our voice, not a voice for Howard Hughes!

Sincerely,  
Kelly Johnson

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Leonardo McClarty <lmclarty@howardchamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** TIF Repeal Letter\_9.18.17 - final  
**Attachments:** TIF Repeal Letter\_9.18.17 - final.pdf

Please find attached the Howard County Chamber's position on the TIF repeal.

Thanks

Leonardo McClarty





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**Leonardo McClarty**  
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

September 18, 2017

Mr. Jon Weinstein  
Chair, Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

***RE: Council Bill 74-2017 - TIF Repeal***

Dear Councilman Weinstein:

Like many in Howard County, the redevelopment of downtown Columbia has been a major priority since conversations and public forums begin nearly a decade ago. Recent developments in downtown such as the Metropolitan, Little Patuxent Square, the Chrysalis, and One Merriweather have generated a level of excitement and energy that is captivating all who conduct business and live in the downtown area. Unfortunately, this heightened sense of enthusiasm has been hampered by the introduction of Council Bill 74-2017.

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) leadership understands that recent changes related to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan approved earlier this year has caused consternation for some. However, to repeal the TIF legislation currently in place would significantly affect future development thereby slowing down the momentum currently underway. Not to mention, the utilization of TIF as a mechanism for funding infrastructure improvements is suggested and recommended in the downtown Columbia plan.

Of greater concern to the Chamber is the message this legislation would send to the business community and to those considering Howard County as a place of business. Businesses make decisions based upon predictability. The business community looks to government as a reliable partner for economic development, especially when it makes a legislative commitment to a public-private partnership. Changing public policy once dollars have been spent and financing obtained sends a bad message to the private sector.

CB 74-2017 TIF Repeal  
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In closing, downtown Columbia is under transformation. The eyes of the region are watching with a great level of expectation. It is our belief that repealing the TIF legislation would significantly dampen development and affect future development countywide. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that Council Bill 74-2017 receive an unfavorable vote from the County Council.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Howard County Council  
Howard County Board of Directors

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** LINDA Wengel <lwengel@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 5:51 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** TIF turnaround

I had been inclined to support the legislation advocating repeal of the Howard Hughes TIF legislation, but I have come to realize that what is really needed is a thorough public airing about how this change came about and ways to proceed that are in the best interest of the citizens of Howard County.

I would like to see the Council spend as much time resolving the current situation as they did during the long negotiation process leading up to passage of the TIF. Thank you for considering a more deliberative approach.

Linda Wengel  
(Writing for myself)

Sent from my iPad