

Sayers, Margery

From: Fred Dorsey <fdorsey1130@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 9:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB70-2017

County Council Members:

Preservation Howard County (PHC) is supportive of CB70-2017 establishing a personal property tax exemption of a business located in a historic district or a National Register District, under certain conditions, providing for an application procedure and administration of the exemption, and generally relating to personal property tax exemption for five years.

This bill provides financial relief to those businesses affected by the damages and losses caused by the 2016 flood. These businesses have dealt with extraordinary expenses of property repairs, inventory replacement, store fixtures, and rent/lease payments to recover and reopen. This personal property tax exemption will assist them in their financial recovery and to continue as a Main Street merchant.

Preservation Howard County asks the Council members to pass CB70-2017.

Fred Dorsey
President, Preservation Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Charlene Townsend <charatmaxines4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 5:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB70-2017

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I own _____Maxines Antiques & Collectibles_____ business in historic Ellicott City.

I am writing in support of Council Bill 70 (CB70-2017) which would exempt businesses in Howard County historic districts from personal property taxes (PPT) for five years. There are three main reasons for my support.

1. This Bill would substantially benefit businesses still recovering from the 2016 flood. Its passage would help with business retention as well as new business recruitment. Many returning business owners have expressed that re-opening has been extremely difficult enough but staying in business after such a long interruption and capital outlay has been even harder. For newly opened businesses this Bill would give them a better head start, as well as act as an incentive for potential new businesses deciding if they want to invest in the historic district.

2. Many business owners and even their accountants often find the personal property tax confusing. KeeCharlenets of all of the applicable furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) is burdensome and accurately calculating the depreciation and requisite PPT leads to concern regarding penalties for mistakes.

3. Acknowledging that sales taxes and personal property taxes go to two different entities, it still appears that businesses are being taxed multiple times for the same FF&E. After paying sales tax when purchasing those items, one then has to keep remitting PPT on them year after year just to use them in the course of doing business which in turn generates sales taxes.

I respectfully request that you pass this bill and give struggling businesses an extra incentive to remain invested in the historic district.

_____CharleneTownsend_____ (Name of Business Owner)

_____443-985-0202_____ (Contact Phone Number)