

Date: 16 January 2018

Subject: HCCA Testimony on CB-3/4-2018

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. The address is PO Box 89, Ellicott City, MD.

We strongly support the increases of the annual salary for both the members of the County Council and the Executive as recommended by the Compensation Review Commission. In 2010 and 2014 I was the only one that testified in front of this Commission. I did not this time as no one else did. Had I known about it, I would have taken the time to do so. How was the public meeting advertised?

When you consider that the average work week for a Council member is approximately 50 hours as stated in the Howard County Times article on 9 January then the proposed \$80,000 per year salary is more than justified and should be considered as full-time employment. There is some thinking that when people are full-time employees that perhaps greater attention might be applicable. When you compare their salaries with that of Montgomery at \$128,519 and Prince George's at \$117,347 then our Councilmembers are underpaid. When our Councilmembers are making approximately 2 ½ times less than the Council Administrator then something is wrong with the equation.

We believe the proposed annual salary of \$226,000 per year for the County Executive is justified. Presently, the Executive is making less than his counterparts in Montgomery and Prince George's as well as three of his Agency employees. They are his County Chief Administrator at \$231,612, the Director of Information Technology at \$231,612 and the Director of Public Works at \$209,012. Even with the approval of CB4 the Executive will be making less than two of his employees. Why?

Even though we might at times disagree with the decisions of the Council or the County Executive we believe all parties are entitled to the compensation they deserve based on the amount of time and effort spent on the job.

Thank you.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President