

Date: 16 January 2018

Subject: HCCA Testimony for CR10-2018 Council Procedures

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 are very much in favor of improving the Introduction of Bills, Resolutions and Petitions as stated on page 2, lines 5 thru 18. If this in anyway benefits to prevent the catastrophe we all faced with both the APFO and Mulching Bill re-runs then this will be an extremely positive step for all.

Please refer to page 4, lines 27 and 28 and consider adding the following: After the word "Administrator" on line 28 add – at a minimum of one week prior to the Public Legislative Hearing.

Now for the unfortunate negative reaction to this proposed Resolution. We simply do not understand the rationale for eliminating the standard 5 minute Group testimony as described on page 4 lines 8 thru 26. Why? What precipitated this proposed action? What did we do? Do you know the average time that a Group representative takes to testify?

If this portion of the Resolution is not amended it will be known as the Archie Bunker clause. Meaning when Archie stated, to Edith to stifle herself. This is what you are doing to respected organizations? By having Groups testifying it serves to eliminate time as not as many individuals would testify who are members of a particular Group, thus saving time. Question – how much time will the Petitioner be allowed?

We are glad to see that there are no sponsors associated with this Resolution. Hopefully this means the majority of the Council does not support the proposed decrease of the time limit for Group testimony. We would not want the passage of CR10 as it stands now to be a part of your legacy. After all, Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, "Information is the currency of democracy."

Although my five minutes is not up, I thank you for listening. Hopefully, you will in no way approve the elimination of the 5-minute Group testimony. We would think you would want to gather as much information as possible to make your decisions.

Thank you.

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:16 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; Weinstein, Jon; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: Groups

Dear Council and County Executive,

As the past president of the Saint Johns Community Association representing more than 1,000 homes, for over ten years, I would like to support NOT changing the 5 minute limit for groups. 3 minutes is a very short time for well thought out testimony. I know because after stepping down as the president of the group, I had to start limiting my testimony to three minutes. For personal testimony that is OK, but when you have to represent the views of the many diverse citizens in your group, you need the extra two minutes to properly represent all of the citizens within your group. Testimony is gleaned from conversations and Emails from the people that you are speaking for, and you must be able to have the time to properly articulate their feelings.

We have had some huge hearings lately, that have demanded some late nights, from all of us, not just the council. Possibly booking less contentious bills on the same night might fix this problem. But limiting the free speech of citizens that have banded together to seek your attention is not the way to fix these late nights. Paying more attention to things that are really important to the constituents that you serve might be well warranted. When you have that many people showing up for hearings, maybe you haven't been listening as well as you might. You are here to represent us, not the other way around. When associations work together to bring you testimony it shows great community activism and should not be limited.

Thank you,
Diane Butler

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Markovitz <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 06, 2018 2:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR10

Dear Council Members,

I believe there are many good parts of Council Resolution 10 in current legislation. If anyone can please tell me what the purpose was in proposing to eliminate groups from having 5 minutes instead of 3, please advise.

The public, for the most part, doesn't see any other goal than to limit testimony time due to frustratingly long hearings. The optics on that aren't good as you can imagine. I am hopeful this resolution will be amended to possibly fix whatever problem you see needs fixing in a different way. I would be happy to discuss if you desire, as I am hearing a lot of feedback, as I am sure you also will. I actually think this will backfire and make hearings longer.

Thank you for your hard work.

Lisa Markovitz

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>