

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Stu Kohn <stukohn@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2018 9:42 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB16-2018 -- A Suggestion to Improve Informational Sharing

Dear Council Members,

I would like to ask your consideration for a Legislative Amendment to the recently passed **CB16-2018 -- AN ACT** amending the Howard County Code to modify the process for piecemeal map amendments and development plan approvals by the Zoning Board; and generally relating to Zoning Board hearings.

I believe there was an omission regarding the Public's ability to question the Director of DPZ or his designee at the Planning Board hearings. The Bill as written states the Zoning Board but omits the Planning Board. The Planning Board should also be included for citizens to question DPZ reference Page 4. After all the Developer (usually the Petitioner) has previously been working with the DPZ staff for a lengthy period of time whereas we (the Protestants) are seeing the Technical Staff Report only two weeks prior to the case being heard.

4. (I) PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENTAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. AT LEAST 30 DAYS
5. PRIOR TO A ZONING BOARD HEARING, THE BOARD ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SEND A WRITTEN
6. NOTICE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING AS TO THE DATE,
7. TIME, AND PLACE OF THE HEARING. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
8. ZONING, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNER, SHALL ATTEND A ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
9. CONCERNING A PETITION FOR PIECEMEAL MAP AMENDMENT OR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND,
10. UNDER OATH AND SUBJECT TO CROSS-EXAMINATION, SUMMARIZE THE DEPARTMENT'S
11. FINDINGS, EXPLAIN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AND ANSWER ANY RELATED QUESTIONS **at the Planning/Zoning Board Hearing or Meeting.**

Perhaps the above suggestion in Bold above would give further meaning to informational sharing with the Planning Board. Our questions to DPZ should not have to wait before it gets to the Zoning Board. In fact it might even save the Zoning Board if our questions are answered by DPZ at the Planning Board Level so they don't necessarily have to be repeated when the case goes before the Zoning Board.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President