

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Peter Edelen <peter.edelen@peteredelen.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 03, 2018 3:32 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** In Support of TAO 1-FY2019 and CB 61-2018 Testimony

Please retract previously testimony as it had incorrect name for TAO 1 -FY2019 and another typo. Below is corrected testimony. Thank you.

Dear Council Members,

I am Peter Edelen and live at 8380 Main Street. I am a volunteer for the Ellicott City Partnership but am testifying as a Resident in support of Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance 1-FY2019 and Council Bill 61-2018, i.e. the 5-Year Plan introduced by County Executive Allan Kittleman and Councilperson Jonathan Weinstein.

I have been a Howard County resident for 16 years (except Balt Co March 2005-Dec 2006) after falling in love with this town and have lived on Main Street for a better part of the last 11 years. This is my town and my home. I have been home for 2 of the 3 'major' floods since 2011. In 2011, I was at work in Annapolis and my landlord called me to make sure I was not home because the water running under Tiber Park was hitting the side of my building at 8059 Main Street where Bean Hollow is located. As I recall, he said the building was shaking. I rushed home to find no damage but to find my friends that lived in the basement apartment of the building I live in now at 8372-8380 were homeless. They lost everything. They were not home and their pets survived so they were at least spared that. That night I shoveled out mud and water in the basement of the Ellicott Mills Brewing Company while the media shined bright lights in my face.

Fast forward to 2016 in my new home since 2014, my 3 neighbors and close friends in the same basement apartment in 8372-8380 lost everything. One of them was home and swam out as the water was reaching the ceiling with his cat on his shoulder, his phone in his mouth, and his fiancé's engagement ring on his pinky finger. His fiancé frantically called me to go help him before this. I ran outside, and the water was almost up to the sidewalk on the pathway down to the backyard. I started to run into it but I felt debris when I was waist high in water and backed out. I ran back inside and broke into the dentist office to go down the stairs to the basement in case he tried to come up that way. I kicked open the door and the stairs to the back of basement were submerged in 8+ feet of water. I thought he was dead. When I came back outside, my friends that were at my front door said he swam out. I found him standing in the Wine Bin and had never been so relieved in my life. This is at the top of Main Street. It pales in comparison to the horror at the bottom of the street. I had no idea what had happened at the bottom of the street before we evacuated that night. I watched one video that night and could not watch any more videos for weeks. I went to live with a friend for a month and my dog had to stay with my family 30 miles away.

In 2018 on May 16<sup>th</sup>, I was sitting in Portalli's on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor with friends and a thunderstorm rolled in. Buckets of water rained down on Main Street. We had already had flood warnings recently and some businesses were moving inventory upstairs before the weekend. This was 11 days before May 27<sup>th</sup>. As the rain came down this evening, I went numb and felt claustrophobic and my only thought was "I don't want to die here." It was just pouring rain. This is how we think now. I left abruptly and walked up in the pouring rain and lightning to my home at the top of the street. My dog was in a panic when I got home. Thunder never bothered him before. This was new. I sat down with him on the floor to calm him down. I sat there for 30 minutes and held him and realized he was the one calming me down. The next 11 days were filled with complacency after multiple false alarms. Eleven days later, my sister is visiting me on May 27<sup>th</sup>. We had no idea what was coming. Shortly after her arrival, we were sitting in the Judges Bench and the rain started. We hadn't gotten any alerts. I never did that night. It wasn't until I started seeing water on the curbs that I knew something was wrong. I went over in to my backyard across the street and started taking video of the water coming into the backyard from the Lot F culvert and Lot F. I did a couple other stupid things to get more video, but I felt I had to document this. People had to see how dangerous it was at the top of the street. The basement apartment had not been occupied since 2016 but it was newly renovated and listed for rent on Craigslist. It was submerged in 8 feet of water again for the THIRD TIME in 7 years. No one's lives were destroyed this time. My sister's car was parked in Lot F. When all was said and done, her car was in my backyard submerged in mud. Thankfully she was not in it. I lived with my sister for the next month.

Now we live day to day worrying whenever it rains and how unsafe it is from Valley Mede to River Road and beyond. We could abandon our town, but we choose not to. This is our home and our community. A week after the May flood, I was driving from my neighbor's mother's house where she had relocated to a flood benefit at Black Flag in Columbia in pouring rain on I-95. My knuckles were white as I clenched the steering wheel. It was the longest 8 miles of my life as I drove through low visibility downpours. As I was about to turn into the parking lot off Snowden River Parkway, I started thinking about when we breached the berm from Saudi Arabia into Kuwait when I was a Marine in Desert Storm and we had random artillery coming down half a kilometer from us. That is a sound you never want to hear. It shakes you down to your bones. I asked myself which was worse? I realized the floods were and broke down for the first time since the 2016, not 2018, flood. I burst out in tears and sat in my truck for a while. I went inside and was welcomed with hugs. That is our loving community but also the horror we face.

Old Ellicott City needs to evolve and be stronger. Please don't hold this up this plan. I support and understand this plan, all of it, from 29 to the Patapsco. I understand the historical implications and their importance, but people also make the history. We are history too. These buildings will not be forgotten just like we won't forget the people we've lost. I lived in one of those buildings for 6 years above Bean Hollow and the memories are countless, but I don't want people to die down there. We are all emotionally attached to these buildings. You will find no one happy to tear them down but that is just a part of a bigger plan. The other parts are critical as well. The upstream work and the culvert work at Court Ave could potentially save lives if my landlord chooses to renovate and rent that

basement again. If the one part of this plan needs to be separated to complete these other parts immediately, please do so. I also want additional mitigation to keep going parallel to and beyond this 5-year plan. It should not just be a check box. There are many other credible ideas from knowledgeable well-informed people and experts out there. It's all in the studies.

Please keep mitigating after this and coming up with new complimentary solutions and stop delaying them with studies and special interests before more people die or livelihoods are destroyed. Don't let the decision about these buildings delay what else needs to be done. Altogether, I think it is a smart and necessary plan that needs to happen as a whole and quickly. I plan on dying in Old Ellicott City but it will be of old age. Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,  
Peter A. Edelen  
8380 Main Street  
443-605-3119

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** craig stewart <craig\_stewart@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 02, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Council Bill 61-2018

Members of the Council,

The proposed designation of an emergency act in the rush to tear down 10 buildings in Historic Ellicott City at the East end of town is unjustified and does warrant emergency status. The Ellicott City Hydrology/Hydraulic Study issued by McCormick and Taylor on June 16, 2017 proposed upstream and downstream improvements to protect Ellicott City from severe flooding and did not require the demolition or alteration of historic structures to create a safe environment. What is needed is more money and time to fulfill the vision of that report. We need to stay focused on the best solution not a quick ill-advised effort. An appropriate effort at this time to protect life, health and property, the area in the south east would be to barricade the area to prohibit the use of the buildings or sidewalks by the general public until restorations of the buildings is completed while allowing repairs and reinforcement of the buildings to continue. We need to be patient and persistent in enabling a sustainable future for Ellicott City. Tearing down damaged historic buildings would do nothing to reduce the current risk of flooding nor the risk to people in that area. However, tearing down historic buildings would forever destroy our irreplaceable cultural heritage and our unique cultural asset.

Yours truly,  
Craig Stewart  
Architect  
3820 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Cell: 410-375-7866

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sayers, Margery  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 01, 2018 9:35 PM  
**To:** Sally Tennant; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: testify sign up not working for 9-4

Ms. Tennant-

September 4 is a Legislative Session which is when the legislation is introduced. The meeting is open to public to attend; however testimony is not hear at this meeting.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for September 17. Sign-ups will be open at 12pm on Wednesday, September 5.

Sincerely,

Margery Sayers  
Executive Assistant  
Howard County Council  
410-313-0832

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**From:** Sally Tennant <sallyfoxt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 1, 2018 8:51 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** testify sign up not working for 9-4

Dear Council,

I am trying to sign up to testify in regards to the emergency designation on the EC flood mitigation on 9-4 and it will not proceed past "pick a session". I am a property owner of one of the 10 Lower Main buildings proposed for demolition, a business owner and resident of the same address. My testimony as a significant stakeholder is important to be heard. Please sign me up and reply to this e mail with confirmation.

Thanks,

Sally Fox Tennant  
8055 Main St  
Ellicott City, Md 21043  
410 404 3487

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Marjorie Valin <mvalin@frankbiz.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 01, 2018 4:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Frank Gerry  
**Subject:** What else - the Historic District

Dear Council members:

If any of you have seen the emotional outpouring on Facebook this past week, you know the fierce attachment people have to the historic significance, importance and unique character of the Main Street commercial core.

Everyone agrees that urgent action is needed to mitigate the impact of another flood like the one we just went through. It's the nature of that action that deserves careful consideration, especially at a time when the national mood is so politically charged.

Unfortunately, people feel blindsided by the County Executive's proposal. There were no indications in advance that a radical approach was under consideration. This lack of transparency has fueled suspicion of ulterior motives and led to the current backlash on Facebook.

To prevent emotions from reaching a flashpoint will require active listening and open minds to alternative plans, and there are a number of them proposed—by engineers, geologists, experts in flood management, and well informed constituents all seeking to avoid a contentious, all or nothing outcome.

I ask that you give due consideration to an approach that would separate the demolition of the "Tiber 10" as the buildings are being called, from other flood mitigation measures that could and need to be taken immediately. Delaying a decision on demolition would avoid a rush to judgment on a decision of this magnitude. At the same time, urgent flood mitigation could move forward on an emergency basis.

My husband and I had a marketing firm on Main Street and across the river in Oella for most of the agency's life. We want to preserve the heritage and character that attracted us there in the first place. Let's not save Historic Ellicott City from flooding only to destroy it in the process.

Thank you,

Marjorie Valin and Gerry Frank

5367 Five Fingers Way  
Columbia, MD 21045  
443.691.0289  
[mvalin@frankbiz.com](mailto:mvalin@frankbiz.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 12:21 PM  
**To:** Vickgi12@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Please

**First Name:** Vick

**Last Name:** G

**Email:** [Vickgi12@comcast.net](mailto:Vickgi12@comcast.net)

**Street Address:** Rowanberry Drive

**City:** Elkridge

**Subject:** Please

**Message:** Thank you for your hard work and expediency in dealing with the challenges that Ellicott City faces Please continue to move forward with emergency measures Thank you Sincerely Vick

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Peter Edelen <peter.edelen@peteredelen.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:27 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** In Support of TAO 1-2018 and CB 61-2018 Testimony

Dear Council Members,

I am Peter Edelen and live at 8380 Main Street. I am a volunteer for the Ellicott City Partnership but am testifying as a Resident in support of Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance 1-2018 and Council Bill 61-2018, i.e. the 5-Year Plan introduced by County Executive Allan Kittleman and Councilperson Jonathan Weinstein.

I have been a Howard County resident for 16 years (except Balt Co March 2005-Dec 2006) after falling in love with this town and have lived on Main Street for a better part of the last 11 years. This is my town and my home. I have been home for 2 of the 3 'major' floods since 2011. In 2011, I was at work in Annapolis and my landlord called me to make sure I was not home because the water running under Tiber Park was hitting the side of my building at 8059 Main Street where Bean Hollow is located. As I recall, he said the building was shaking. I rushed home to find no damage but to find my friends that lived in the basement apartment of the building I live in now at 8372-8380 were homeless. They lost everything. They were not home and their pets survived so they were at least spared that. That night I shoveled out mud and water in the basement of the Ellicott Mills Brewing Company while the media shined bright lights in my face.

Fast forward to 2016 in my new home since 2014, my 3 neighbors and close friends in the same basement apartment in 8372-3880 lost everything. One of them was home and swam out as the water was reaching the ceiling with his cat on his shoulder, his phone in his mouth, and his fiancé's engagement ring on his pinky finger. His fiancé frantically called me to go help him before this. I ran outside, and the water was almost up to the sidewalk on the pathway down to the backyard. I started to run into it but I felt debris when I was waist high in water and backed out. I ran back inside and broke into the dentist office to go down the stairs to the basement in case he tried to come up that



way. I kicked open the door and the stairs to the back of basement were submerged in 8+ feet of water. I thought he was dead. When I came back outside, my friends that were at my front door said he swam out. I found him standing in the Wine Bin and had never been so relieved in my life. This is at the top of Main Street. It pales in comparison to the horror at the bottom of the street. I had no idea what had happened at the bottom of the street before we evacuated that night. I watched one video that night and could not watch any more videos for weeks. I went to live with a friend for a month and my dog had to stay with my family 30 miles away.

In 2018 on May 16<sup>th</sup>, I was sitting in Portalli's on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor with friends and a thunderstorm rolled in. Buckets of water rained down on Main Street. We had already had flood warnings recently and some businesses were moving inventory upstairs before the weekend. This was 11 days before May 27<sup>th</sup>. As the rain came down this evening, I went numb and felt claustrophobic and my only thought was "I don't want to die here." It was just pouring rain. This is how we think now. I left abruptly and walked up in the pouring rain and lightning to my home at the top of the street. My dog was in a panic when I got home. Thunder never bothered him before. This was new. I sat down with him on the floor to calm him down. I sat there for 30 minutes and held him and realized he was the one calming me down. The next 11 days were filled with complacency after multiple false alarms.

Eleven days later, my sister is visiting me on May 27<sup>th</sup>. We had no idea what was coming. Shortly after her arrival, we were sitting in the Judges Bench and the rain started. We hadn't gotten any alerts. I never did that night. It wasn't until I started seeing water on the curbs that I knew something was wrong. I went over in to my backyard across the street and started taking video of the water coming into the backyard from the Lot F culvert and Lot F. I did a couple other stupid things to get more video, but I felt I had to document this. People had to see how dangerous it was at the top of the street. The basement apartment had not been occupied since 2016 but it was newly renovated and listed for rent on Craigslist. It was submerged in 8 feet of water again for the THIRD TIME in 7 years. No one's lives were destroyed this time. My sister's car was parked in Lot F. When all was said and done, her car was in my backyard submerged in mud. Thankfully she was not in it. I lived with my sister for the next month.

Now we live day to day worrying whenever it rains and how unsafe it is from Valley Mede to River Road and beyond. We could abandon our town, but we choose not to. This is our home and our community. A week after the May flood, I was driving from my neighbor's mother's house where she had relocated to a flood benefit at Black Flag in Columbia in pouring rain on I-95. My knuckles were white as I clenched the steering wheel. It was the longest 8 miles of my life as I drove through low visibility downpours. As I was about to turn into the parking lot off Snowden River Parkway, I started thinking about when we breached the berm from Saudi Arabia into Kuwait when I was a Marine in Desert Storm and we had random artillery coming down half a kilometer from us. That is a sound you never want to hear. It shakes you down to your bones. I asked myself which was worse? I realized the floods were and broke down for the first time since the 2016, not 2018, flood. I burst out in tears and sat in my truck for a while. I went inside and was welcomed with hugs. That is our loving community but also the horror we face.

Old Ellicott City needs to evolve and be stronger. Please don't hold this up this plan. I support and understand this plan, all of it, from 29 to the Patapsco. I understand the historical implications and their importance, but people also make the history. We are history too. These buildings will not be forgotten just like we won't forget the people we've lost. I lived in one of those buildings for 6 years above Bean Hollow and the memories are countless, but I don't want people to die down there. We are all emotionally attached to these buildings. You will find no one happy to tear them down but that is just a part of a bigger plan. The other parts are critical as well. The upstream work and the culvert work at Court Ave could potentially save lives if my landlord chooses to renovate and rent that basement again. If the one part of this plan needs to be separated to complete these other parts immediately, please do so. I also want additional mitigation to keep going parallel to and beyond this 5-year plan. It should not just be a check box. There are many other credible ideas from knowledgeable well-informed people and experts out there. It's all in the studies.

Please keep mitigating after this and coming up with new complimentary solutions and stop delaying them with studies and special interests before more people die or livelihoods are destroyed. Don't let the decision about these buildings delay what else needs to be done. Altogether, I think it is a smart

and necessary plan that needs to happen as a whole and quickly. I plan on dying in Old Ellicott City but it will be of old age. Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Edelen

8380 Main Street

443-605-3119

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tammy Bean <saveoldec@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2018 4:12 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Main Street

Hello,

As a lifelong resident of Main Street, as is my family going back 100+ years. I am sickened by this latest proposal to remove our history due to poor planning and greed. This is taken from an earlier report (1976)

"The portion of a parcel which could be covered by impervious surfaces would be limited to 20% . On flood prone portions of a parcel/ Sand coverage would be zero: i.e. no development. On portions having slopes of 25% or more, land coverage should be 10% or less. The term "land coverage" here refers to any impervious surfaces introduced as a result of development, and includes streets, sidewalks, driveways, patios/ and accessory structures, as well as the residences themselves"

How many times has that been amended for the sake of greed, development, & tax dollars?

My family has helped rebuild that town after floods and fires during our long history on Main Street & West End. I will tell each one of you to go out and talk to anyone that has been on at that little stretch of ground for longer then 40 years and they will all tell you this; we have had rains like that, harder rains, for longer....yet never have we seen this " Top Down" damage before. 1952 was related to the tail end of a hurricane, not a heavy summer storm. You have paid for many studies, none of which recommend the ripping ( I use that word because that is exactly what this is) down of our history. You instead have chosen to toss those studies aside in favor of a cowards was to save face. This proposal comes with ZERO assurances that it will mitigate **any** of the water that rushes down from above, ZERO assurances that it will not cause unforeseen issues that may indeed be worse, ZERO assurances that it will save lives. The only assurance that you can give is that you cannot flood what is not there, also that Ellicott City will be torn from the Historic Registry.

We down here where it matters know that you on the hill have nothing to lose, no skin in this game, while we stand to lose everything. You will all be long gone when the consequences of your actions play out. We were born there, raised there, loved, bled, and died there. We deserve a voice in this. If you listen to the past you will know that faced with this in the past, they refused to tear down anything, refused to take the cheap easy way out.

This is also from that same report:

The first and last sentences are the most important

The acquisition policy is probably the most "cost-effective" flood prevention measure. That is, it would prevent future flooding/ even by the largest storm on record, at a cost to county taxpayers considerably less than that of engineering works providing comparable flood prevention effectiveness, On the other hand, it is clear that the objective of flood prevention cannot be pursued in isolation from all other values: e.g, the historic value of a mill town established on the banks of the Patapsco before the American Revolution, whose present physical fabric reflects its evolution over two centuries; the value of the cultural and leisure opportunities of the old mill community for residents of an expanding metropolitan region; the town's value as an environment for special commercial residential and educational activities which could not be duplicated elsewhere; its value to county government as part of a setting evoking the traditions of local government in Howard County. The existence of these values make it impossible to consider implementation of the most "cost-effective" means of flood

prevention. The town cannot be removed from the historic setting that shaped it, just to meet flood prevention objectives.

Buy those buildings as planned, but do not be the cowards and tear them down, mitigate the flooding from ABOVE, repair those buildings, sell them, rent them....that is how you win this. Anything else is cowardly.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Shelley Wygant <wdgdirect@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Bulldozing of Historic Ellicott City

Dear Howard County Council Members --

Yesterday I was on hand at the B&O Train Station plaza to listen to the announcement of plans to demolish 1/2 of lower Main Street as well as other historic properties in our town -- including possibly two then unnamed properties -- La Palapa and the Brew Pub at the top of the hill.

I listened as our County executive assured us that this plan was extremely well thought out and considered. That the best and brightest minds they could find had weighed in and had agreed that this plan was the "best" solution -- which we had to take his word for since the public has been largely kept in the dark.

Considering the statement put out by Preservation Maryland later in the day, obviously that is not true.

According to Preservation Maryland:

Demolition of historic buildings, is not, however, a proven strategy nor has it been adequately studied in Ellicott City to understand its hydrological impact. Furthermore, this plan, developed without substantive public input, could result in the de-listing of Ellicott City from the National Register of Historic Places which would curtail certain incentives and tax credits available for the historic community.

Perhaps most concerning is that this \$50 million demolition plan does not appear to substantively mitigate or resolve flood risks. At the same time, by removing large portions of the built environment, new flood patterns could arise and potentially cause extensive damage to the National Historic Landmark B&O Railroad station which would sit in an even more vulnerable location. Additionally, Preservation Maryland is interested to learn more about the county's decision making process in this planning effort and the extent to which other resources and structures were reviewed for demolition — and whether impervious surfaces, undeveloped land and existing structures above the historic town were considered as a part of the county's review.

I am EXTREMELY disappointed that our county government didn't consult with preservation experts in our state before proposing wide scale demolition of one of Maryland's most beautiful and important jewels.

I respectfully urge you to halt any plans to send the bulldozers in until the public can review all the options, preservation experts can be brought in, and a thoughtful discussion of what is actually the plan for preserving Ellicott City as a historical site and a safe place to do business.

Destroying historic Ellicott City is a bell that can't be un-rung.

Sincerely,

Shelley Davies Wygant  
3920 College Avenue

Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Sigaty, Mary Kay**

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**From:** Christopher Schisler <metalmanec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 9:20 AM  
**To:** Sigaty, Mary Kay; Clay, Mary  
**Subject:** Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plans

Dear Ms. Sigaty:

I am writing in reference to County Executive Kittleman's plan for flood mitigation in Historic Ellicott City. As a resident within the historic district I understand the need to both prevent future flooding and prevent further loss of life. What I don't understand is how this plan accomplishes those goals. Further, I don't feel the plan does enough to preserve historic structures. Instead of reaching the conclusion that these goals can only be accomplished via decimation of the historic structures in our town after exploring all other viable options, the plan jumps to that conclusion without adequate study and public engagement.

As a resident of the historic district I have been to at least three storm water management meetings, the last at Saint John's School. I sat through meetings while presentations were made by consultants and county officials on possible ways to slow storm water run off, and prevent flooding. In none of these meetings was demolition of this scale ever presented as an option. I understand these options were presented privately to property owners after the flood of 2018. I also understand they were also presented privately to the Ellicott City Partnership weeks or months before finally being presented to the public last week. The need to negotiate with property owners over purchase in private is logical, but presenting this plan as a forgone conclusion to residents WITHIN the historic district, and rushing this plan to vote with a stated goal of beginning emergency demolitions as soon as possible is unfair to residents. This approach has also set up an "us against them" mentality between property owners who are being bought out and happy with their agreement and therefore feel a need to aggressively defend the plan and residents/property owners who did not have the advantage of early and inside information. I am of the opinion this was deliberate strategy to suppress other voices and alternatives.

I am not an uninformed citizen, I did attend meetings, my property which sits high on a hill was impacted during the storm this spring as a result of a new up-hill development that was not there in 2016. Yet, every time I bring up the fact that I was blindsided by this proposal revealed only a week ago, I have been attacked by property owners that stand to benefit from this plan yelling "you should have come to meetings" or "this has been the plan for two years", this is simply not factual.

As a resident within the historic district any alteration to my home has required approval of the Historic Preservation Commission. I have been forced by this commission to make modifications to my home using options that are often more expensive than commonly available alternatives. I've never once complained about this burden, because I feel preserving the district and what makes it special is a big part of why I chose to live here. The County's Historic Preservation Commission's guidelines clearly state that demolition should only be allowed after all other alternatives have been considered. I am asking that the county follow its own rules that are so stringently applied to others, especially when the proposed demolition is in the core of the area the historic district was created to protect.

I also think the county owes it to current and future generations to do the best job possible in making an informed non-rushed decision on bulldozing our history. I ask this process be slowed down to allow time to review options proposed by Preservation Maryland and those recommended in the 2016 H&H Study in combination with recommendations from the Army Corps of Engineers. Further, I think public engagement on why those alternatives were discounted is important.



Finally, I ask that regardless of what decision you come to, that you take into account the impact any of these options will have on residents as they are implemented. During past events the county has bent over backwards for businesses while ignoring residents. Many of the business owners affected reside elsewhere, while I understand the major impact on their livelihoods following these events, they were able to leave the district to go home at night--we live here, there is no escape. We deserve(d) at minimum the same level of consideration. My home sits on a small lane with only two residences right above the area where much of this work will occur. We are often overlooked and have suffered as a result. We have been blocked from accessing our unaffected home, accessing our unaffected road, blocked from receiving our mail and deliveries, unable to have family members, workers or guests visit our home, blocked from taking advantage of county services such as trash removal or road cleaning, left to worry about the accessibility of our homes to emergency fire and EMS services, etc. We've had to argue with county officials regarding our existence, "there are no homes up there". Unlike multiple floods, a train derailment, or collapsed retention walls, any actions for this mitigation will be a planned and known event. I expect the county to do its due diligence in informing affected residents and insuring their access to their property and services.

Thank you for your consideration. I know in the end we all want the same thing--confidence that collectively the best decision was reached that takes into account the voices of all stakeholders and best preserves what has accurately been described as a "Crown Jewel" of Maryland.

Regards,  
Christopher Schisler  
3819 Mulligans Hill Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[metelmanec@gmail.com](mailto:metelmanec@gmail.com)  
410-350-4142

## Sigaty, Mary Kay

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**From:** Julianne Danna <juliannedanna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 12:57 PM  
**To:** Sigaty, Mary Kay  
**Subject:** Preservation from the Trenches

Ms. Sigaty,

I could send the form letter that was provided for the residents working to preserve Ellicott City. But my passion is deeper than that.

I am new to the area. I grew up in Baltimore and lived in Delaware, Massachusetts, and Virginia. I am an archaeologist with a Masters degree. My career has been spent preserving the items that were recovered after sites were demolished. And while I can appreciate that major roadways, dams, even government buildings need to happen, I am a caretaker of the remains.

But these remains have no home. They are drifting, unattached, and speak of a place that once was. And so it is from this background that I strongly encourage you to vote against authorizing emergency appropriation to implement the building demolition/flood mitigation bill. Preservation Maryland, along with many other agencies, have presented several other plans that could be incorporated in Historic Ellicott City.

I am highly concerned with the lack of transparency that has been present throughout this entire situation. While action needs to be taken sooner than later, I strongly encourage you to consider all options being presented by those invested in the city, including Preservation Maryland.

Please do not pass this bill as emergency legislation.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you of the history of Fells Point and Harper's Ferry. Fells Point almost became a highway in the 1960s, and today it is one of the main attractions in Baltimore City, bringing millions of dollars to the economy. It was through activism that this was achieved. And Harper's Ferry. The site of many a school field trip to learn of the Civil War, which floods on a regular basis. Installation and use of flood-friendly measures keep this a major hub of history and 4th graders.

I hope that revisions will be made in the future to these plans and that a compromise will be sought.

Respectfully,

Julianne Danna

8114 Brightlink Court

Ellicott City, MD

## Sigaty, Mary Kay

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**From:** Tara Simpson <thsimpson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 1:41 PM  
**To:** Sigaty, Mary Kay  
**Subject:** Vote against the demo part of the plan- Please.

Dear Ms Sigaty:

I am writing to you as someone who is deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and the needless rush to pass a plan that would destroy nearly 20% of Historic Ellicott City's Main Street -- a measure that does nothing to mitigate flooding in it's entirety (or very much at all).

I urge you to vote AGAINST authorizing emergency appropriation to implement the building demolition/flood mitigation bill so that the community and other experts have enough time to both understand and comment on this drastic action. I have read your plan and think you can start with several of the other components since there is an urgency to do something.

My basement has flooded twice. I know this urgency but I cannot conceptualize the demolition of Main Street more than it has been. You will be cutting off your nose to spite your face.

I share your desire to protect the lives of residents and visitors, but I do not believe that destroying Historic Ellicott City is absolutely necessary to accomplishing that goal. We can have safety and historic preservation together- they are not mutually exclusive.

Regards,

Tara H. Simpson  
Historic Ellicott City resident