

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** R. Michael Anson <ranson1@alumni.jh.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 09, 2018 10:28 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** The Feds WANT to help ....

Good morning,

Quoting one of our founding members: "At the Thursday <Sep 6> Historic Preservation Commission a local engineer stepped forward to say that he had approached the County to offer a no-cost consultation and proposal on implementing a tunnel bore solution to divert flash flood waters completely away from down town Ellicott City -- and his offer of help was declined. His name is John Harmon, and he works for FHWA." (I recall it a bit differently: I think he said that the offer went unanswered.)

The Feds can't help unless the county council invites them. To paraphrase his testimony: "We're assistants, not enforcers. We want to help, but we can't unless we're asked by the county."

PLEASE ask!

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc\\_5/change2.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_5/change2.cfm)

Best regards,

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R. Michael Anson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

The Community College of Baltimore County | School of Mathematics and Science

Associate Editor

The Journals of Gerontology | Biological Sciences

*(Published by the Gerontological Society of America)*

Editorial Board Member

GeroScience (formerly "The Journal of the American Aging Association")

Association Fellow, Board Member (elected for 2018-2021), and Trainee Advocate

The American Aging Association

Primary Email: [ranson1@alumni.jh.edu](mailto:ranson1@alumni.jh.edu)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** C.A. Page <sihaya09@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 07, 2018 10:26 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Written Testimony for September 17th hearing

The previous was in reference to TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018!

Warmly,  
Christina

Sihaya Designs Jewelry - [www.SihayaDesigns.com](http://www.SihayaDesigns.com)  
Sihaya & Company - [www.SihayaAndCompany.com](http://www.SihayaAndCompany.com)

On Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 10:25 AM, C.A. Page <[sihaya09@gmail.com](mailto:sihaya09@gmail.com)> wrote:

My name is Christina Allen Page and I live at 8552 Main Street. My home was built in 1890, and was purchased during the last flood. My husband and I proceeded with the sale in part because we believed the narrative that the 1,000 year storm was unlikely to reoccur so soon, and also because of the way we saw the community that we already had loved for nearly 10 years pull together in the days and months after it occurred. We moved to Main, and I felt the draw to become active within this community of neighbors and business owners, because they were, and remain, incredibly inspiring to me. It is with pride that I call myself an Ellicott City Main Street resident.

What I have heard since the May 2018 flood amounts to a very distinct divide in opinion. A large number of us who are directly in harm's way on Main Street support the County plan. Those who oppose it largely live either outside of the watershed in areas like Columbia or Frederick, or high enough above Main that they are not in harm's way whenever we get a strong storm system coming through town.

To those people, I have questions.

- How do you think it feels to have your livelihood taken from you twice in two years? To incur monumental debt? To be out of business for months or years? To have to tell your staff they cannot rely on you for income?
- How do you think it feels when customers tell you that they will not return to your business, which is built directly over the river, as the risk is too great to their lives when the river rises? How do you think it feels knowing you and your staff are directly in harm's way during these stronger, more frequent storms? When your business revenue is down 30% because people are scared to return? How do you think it feels when some of those who purport to be "saving" Ellicott City have spread some of the most vicious and unfounded rumors about your fellow business owners because they cannot return and/or they support the County Proposal?
- How do you think it feels to incur tens of thousands of dollars of damage to your home twice in two years? And to have that compounded by the need to take weeks of unpaid leave from work to do necessary repair work? To have to rush home from work to sandbag when a storm appears on the radar? How do you think it feels to have to excavate your life from mud and sewage and broken shards twice in two years?
- How do you think it feels to lose a car, multiple cars, or a beloved pet to flooding?
- How do you think it feels to have to scramble for emergency childcare whenever we expect a storm because your children are too fearful to stay in your home?

-- How do you think it feels to have to evacuate during flash flood warnings all summer long, and spend long sleepless nights watching the stream cams?

-- How do you think it feels to walk down your street and it looks like the set of a disaster movie, months after the event?

-- How do you think it feels to experience anything from anxiety to full-blown PTSD when you look at the weather forecast and see rain?

-- How do you think it feels to think to yourself "thank GOD more people did not die" knowing that four already have?

Not all of those have happened to me, thankfully. But those examples are drawn directly from my neighbors on Main. Please understand that these people have lived a nightmare twice, and it is still happening and will happen again.

I have heard over and over again how insulting the perception is that opponents to the County proposal value buildings over lives. Please understand that the flip side of that is that we who are ACTUALLY in harm's way have been told that our well-being and safety should continue to be put at risk while we delay again and again until we find solutions more palatable to those who are not directly impacted, many of whom did not so much as pick up a shovel. We cannot stay in an unending cycle of trauma. We must act.

If my time as an EC resident has taught me anything, it is this: yes, our history is important. But Ellicott City is more than just its buildings. The people who live and work on Main are the beating heart of this town. Our quality of life-- and indeed, our overall life safety-- is the priority. None of us WANTS to take down historic buildings, but we realize that it is a sad necessity that the stream channel be widened and the most at-risk buildings need to be moved or taken down.

In conclusion, I join many of my fellow Main St residents & business owners in supporting the County Proposal. Thank you for your time.

## Sayers, Margery

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2018 9:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Flood Mitigation on Merryman Street

Hi Mr. Kittleman and Mr. Weinstein,

I'm emailing you on behalf of my father, Samuel McClung of 8411 Merryman Street in Ellicott City. He does not have a computer, and I, and my brother, maintain this email account for him, the account that we created for him after July 2016 flood.

I've been going through the Flood Mitigation Plan and looking over the maps that are included in it. I see Merryman Street on the maps on page 11 however, my dad's property on Merryman St is hidden behind the legend on the maps on page 16. These are the maps that show how flood mitigation will improve the situation and my dad's property does not seem to be included. Do I assume that there is no flood mitigation for Merryman Street? Is there someone who I can talk to that can point me to a place that explains flood mitigation for Merryman Street, in particular to 8411 Merryman St, that I may be missing?

Please help so I can get my dad, Sam, the information he needs about how his property is included in the flood mitigation plan.

Thank you so much!

Cheers,  
Heather McClung, daughter of Sam McClung

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Bruce Taylor <btaylor@taylorservice.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2018 6:54 PM  
**To:** Holmes, Samantha; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan; Burgess, Beth; Ball, Calvin B; Weinstein, Jon; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg  
**Subject:** Support letter for Ho Co Flood Mitigation Plan of Aug. 2018  
**Attachments:** HEP support of HoCO Flood Plan 090618.pdf

Attached please find our letter of support for the County plan before the Historic Preservation Commission. Please also consider this as testimony in support of and Testimony for TAO1-FY2019

Thanks,

Bruce T. Taylor, M.D.

Office: 410-465-3674  
Cell: 410-868-9871



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September 6, 2018

**Letter in support of Howard County's Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan of August 23,2018**  
Before the Historic Preservation Commission And Testimony for TAO1-FY2019

Dear County Executive Kittleman, County Council Members, Members of the Historic Preservation Commission and staff,

The Caplan/Taylor family has played a role in Ellicott City since the 1890's, starting with my great grandparents and Caplan's store. With my son Ross now involved in the business, we have had five generations working to improve Ellicott City.

It is with sadness but also a sense of great hopefulness that we endorse and support the plan to remove ten buildings from Caplan's to the Phoenix, as these structures restrict the flow of water in the Tiber River, contributing significantly to the flooding and tragic loss of life in the last two years. We have presented a similar concept plan to re-vitalize the city, including the opening up, widening and dredging of the Tiber to allow it to convey more water without overflowing its banks.

As many of you know, we own 8125 Main Street (Caplan's, with others) and 8095 Main Street (Shoemaker's), yet we support this visionary plan because it is the best solution to achieve the most result in the shortest time to make Ellicott City safer for us all. It is a sacrifice to be sure, and it is not the complete solution to the problem, but it is an excellent start. These two buildings have been rebuilt after each of the prior floods. The structure at 8095 was engineered in its 1999 rebuild to withstand four feet of water in the street, yet it's first floor is damaged beyond use this time due to the intense upward forces of water from underneath the building many times exceeding the design characteristics. Sadly, we have been forced to decide not to rebuild these buildings as to do so would be economically and emotionally unsound. We must face the unfortunate fact that in just the past 46 years we have seen three major flood events, in 1972, 2016 and again this year. To rebuild again now, thinking that we will not flood again soon, would deny the reality of being destroyed yet again as a result of increasingly harsh and severe weather patterns due to climate change.

We are grateful for the hydrology studies by McCormick Taylor commissioned by the County which point out that development, especially substantial development in the watershed without modern stormwater management, has contributed only 20% to the flooding, as indicated by the model showing that if the entire watershed were forested, we would still have had 80% of the water on Main Street that we experienced in these last two devastating floods. The 2016-2017 study went on to note that even if the entire remaining properties of the watershed were developed, it would not make matters significantly worse. What the study did not point out, is that modern development with flood management retaining 8.5 inches of water in 24 hours on site, is part of the solution to reducing water flows to Ellicott City. Thus, private development and re-development particularly of sites without water retention currently, can play an important part in helping to prevent flooding in Ellicott City.

We all need to work together to return Ellicott City to being a safe and secure place where residents, businesses, visitors and workers can thrive, enjoy and build on the history and strong sense of community which we have built over the years. Removing these 10 buildings that are all severely damaged, and which otherwise would be boarded up for the foreseeable future, will help to create a vibrant parklike setting for lower Main Street to help the town to move forward safely.

As building owners, we will be pleased to cooperate with the County and preservation groups to document the history and artifacts of the properties and to assist in any way we reasonably can with the salvaging or even relocation of some or all of the significant history of these sites.

We urge you to approve the acquisition, salvaging what can be saved, and demolition of these ten structures, along with the subsequent widening and deepening of the Tiber channel, to improve the flood mitigation and safety of Ellicott City along with other warning measures and infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,



Bruce T. Taylor, M.D.

  
Ross I. Taylor



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** R. Michael Anson <ranson1@alumni.jh.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2018 11:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Old Town Ellicott City -- questions that must be asked

First, thank you for hosting an informative meeting last night (September 4). In response to the request for questions related to the plan for Old Town Ellicott City which was put forth:

First, to avoid misrepresentation due to heated emotions: our group, now over 1000 strong, has the following priorities:

1. Safety (Most important. Those for and against the proposed plan agree on this, if little else.)
2. Indemnification for business and property owners, including purchase and recompense.
3. Flood alleviation.
4. AVOID DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY'S HEART.

It was stated in the Sep 4 meeting that the culvert along Main Street was unworkable, since it would mean "no automobile traffic" to Main Street for a year or more and would negatively impact business there.

Related questions:

- Has the financial impact of a culvert and street closure been compared to the loss of historic authenticity (the major attraction to Old Town EC) which will result from the removal of so many buildings?
- Could the loss of automobile traffic be compensated with pedestrian access? (Removing buildings has a much greater impact on many business owners than a year of road closure.) Couldn't construction be planned so that distant parking with pedestrian access from both sides of the closure, similar to a pedestrian mall, remain feasible?
- 50 years from now, will "historic" Ellicott City still be historic? Lives are precious and must take first priority, but destroying a large section of a National Landmark should not be driven by financial expediency. If the risk to life is high in the short term, buying the buildings and treating them as "unsafe, do-not-enter" even for years would be an action that future generations would appreciate.

A touching video of Joan Eve and Gary (my wife and I have been frequent customer of theirs, and value them as individuals!) was shown in order to support the proposed plan, but several of us in the audience noted that they had no emergency egress available and that cars floated by. We were horrified. The 2016 flood should have taught us one thing, if nothing else: no one should be trapped, and cars should not be allowed in the flood zone.

That leads to the following questions.

- Why were cars there, to float by and create hazards?
- Why were Joan and Gary locked into a room with only one available exit? (The buildings are close. Egress via rooftop to higher ground would seem to me to be almost an overnight addition that could save human lives.)?

Speaking of Joan Eve and the other merchants: this town is a historic treasure. Expecting individuals to bear the brunt of its upkeep is shirking national responsibility. The town predated the U.S. by 4 years! It is ESSENTIAL that we indemnify those who risked all to build and buy in a known flood zone so integral to our history.

With best regards,

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R. Michael Anson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

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Primary Email: [ranson1@alumni.jh.edu](mailto:ranson1@alumni.jh.edu)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** craig stewart <craig\_stewart@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2018 10:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Council Bill 61-2018

Members of the Council,

I attended the hearing this evening of the proposed alterations to Historic Ellicott City to mitigate flooding. I think that tearing down 10 buildings along the southeastern side of town is an insensitive and simplistic solution to the problem and shows no regard to the historic character of our town. I believe that it is important to learn how McCormick Taylor defined the remaining storefronts along Main Street to do their analysis in Model 4 in their report. We need to know the following:

1. Leaving only storefronts not structures that are about 20 feet deep along Main Street would enable an expanded stream channel . How would this change the analysis?
2. Did the report assume that all the storefronts would remain?
3. Did the report assume the remaining storefronts would have doors and windows as they do now or did they assume that all openings were left open?
4. Did McCormick Taylor study the effect of some of the storefronts left in place? 50%? 25%. In each case, what changes in the flood analysis result from these changes?

I am an architect and do not believe that there would be any difficulty safely structuring the remaining storefronts to withstand the effects of flooding; however, I am concerned about the height, scale and character of the Shoemaker building and personally feel that it should be removed due to the fact that it was only built 18 years ago. It is my expectation that the refinements of McCormick Taylor's model #4 as I outlined above will result in a flood impact nearly identical to model #5 ( removing all of the buildings) resulting in a design solution that is sensitive to historic preservation and flood mitigation.

Yours truly,  
Craig Stewart  
410-375-7866

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** George <ggvgoeller@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2018 3:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** TA01-FY2019 CB61-2018

Please vote for the 5 year plan.I am the property owner of 8049 Main St, the Phoenix Emporium since1978 also the original business owner. I have lived in Ellicott City for 40 yrs.

George Goeller  
8378 Court Ave  
Ellicott City

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Stephanie Hopkins <shopki20@jhmi.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2018 2:46 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** TAO 1-FY2019 and CB 61-2018 Testimony

Good afternoon:

I am writing this letter 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 currently reside as a resident of the Burgess Mill Community in Ellicott City. I was not living here during the first two “major” floods, but my son and I were during the 2018 flood. I moved here two months prior and I thought some measures had been taken to help prevent future floods. I know that I was not the only who thought that, due to conversations I had with those stuck in the flood with me. I did not think EC would flood again—at least not 22 months later. I was wrong.

On May 27, 2018 my 11 year old son and I were on River Road making our way home when I drove up Main Street. It was pouring horribly, but I still didn’t think it would flood. We ended up stopping at the Phoenix Emporium to eat dinner, not knowing that my jeep would end up getting totaled and my son would be traumatized by seeing a body floating past us in the road.

By the time I finally parked at the Phoenix, I literally had a couple minutes to make a decision to leave or stay. I was standing at the side door taking some video of the water splashing up the curb. That was at 4:18pm. The rain worsened. My son wanted to leave and even ran and got into my Jeep (which I made him get out of). There was a police car under the bridge and I was told he had the road blocked off. I figured they were taking precautions and due to this, we stayed and went inside to get a table. We didn’t even sit down for 10 seconds when the owner told everyone to go to the second floor. Less than three minutes from when I took my last video of the curbs, cars starting to washing down Main Street in 2-3 feet of water that was rising rapidly (at 4:22pm). THAT quick. I don’t even want to think what could have happened if I listened to my son and attempted to drive up that hill to get home.

There were 22 of us stuck in the Phoenix. At 4:34pm while recording, I saw a person being carried in the water from the alley behind the Phoenix onto Maryland Ave but it didn’t register at first because I was in such shock. I heard my son screaming “Mom,Mom,Mom there’s a body”. Others saw and started screaming too. Right away I took him inside where he was crying and upset. Shortly afterwards, a small part of the brick on the side wall deteriorated from the force of the water underneath the window. Thank goodness it was not a major supporting structure of the building. But what if it was? What could have happened to those of us on the second floor that were standing in the front part of the building if more destruction occurred from the strength of that water? Not always waiting out a flood on a second floor is safe.

It was very traumatizing to both of us because now when it rains, our anxiety is over the top--even with my home being on high ground. I panic, and feel like there is a loss of control. I hate it. But we still **won’t** move from the area.

Please don’t hold up this plan, and separate out what you need to, so we can make this town a safer place for all. We have run out of time and fixing this needs to happen NOW. I am currently renting my apartment, and I still plan on buying a home in this area next year, even after all this. And for me, that’s an even bigger part of why something needs to be done NOW --to prevent the further destruction of the town that I love so much. Also to prevent the loss of life like in the past floods. It **will** flood again. We don’t have time. I don’t want to see anyone loose another family member, friend, or for a child, like mine, to have to witness what he did that day. The studies have been done and we know what needs to happen. History will always be there. It

cannot be erased, even with the removal of buildings. Not everyone is in agreeance to this, however, it's the right choice for Main Street.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Hopkins

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kimberly K ATT <kkimberly@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Letter of Conditional Support 1-2018 & 61-2018  
**Attachments:** County Council Conditional Support Kepnes.docx

September 4, 2018

Howard County Council  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Reference: Council Bills 1-2018 and 61-2018

Via Email: [CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov)

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am writing this letter as a Howard County citizen and Historic Ellicott City resident, property and business owner.

I understand there is legislation coming before the Council this evening on the funding of certain projects in Ellicott City which contain provisions to fund the purchase and removal of buildings along Main Street in the commercial district.

I understand the council has the authority to approve, disallow or make contingency recommendations to legislation.

I understand most of the buildings targeted for removal are with owners who are in favor of selling their buildings rather than invest in their restoration.

I understand leaving buildings in a state of deterioration is a safety hazard and will not contribute positively to a thriving economic district.

I understand there are various studies and plans containing solutions and actions to attempt to slow, capture and reduce the flow of water through Main Street in the name of flood mitigation and safety.

I understand some studies contain recommendations for the removal of the buildings which are targeted for purchase along Main Street in the commercial district in the name of flood mitigation and safety.

I understand there are studies containing recommendations in the name of flood mitigation and safety which do not include the removal of the target buildings along Main Street in the commercial district.

I understand there are outside organizations who are interested to invest in Main Street restoration and redevelopment.

I understand the removal of the targeted buildings along Main Street in the commercial district will represent cultural and economic loss.

I understand the purchase of the targeted properties along Main Street in the commercial district by Howard County Government will provide a unique, single-owner, opportunity for a portfolio of properties for commercial restoration and redevelopment strategic planning.

I understand there is a value to public-private enterprise where commercial requests for proposal can bring forward private organizations and funding for comprehensive planning, restoration and redevelopment for sites such as the one targeted on Main Street in the commercial district and could serve to restore County acquisition costs and fund mitigation measures.

Considering these understandings:

It seems sensible for the County Council to consider a contingency for any approval to fund the purchase of targeted buildings along Main Street in the commercial district by Howard County Government to stay and disallow the demolition of any of those buildings until it has had opportunity to evaluate proposals by outside organizations to repurchase, restore and revitalize the properties from Howard County Government. This process could allow private organizations to fund restoration and redevelopment while funding storm water retention and flood mitigation efforts at the same time.

This contingency approval would effectively address the economic concerns of targeted building owners along Main Street's commercial district, the interests Howard County Government and allow a resale reinvestment to fund mitigation measures.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Kepnes,  
Resident, Building, Property & Business Owner,  
Historic Ellicott City,  
3585 Church Road,  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
443-250-4241  
[kimberly@kimberlykhomes.com](mailto:kimberly@kimberlykhomes.com)

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Sent from my iPad



September 4, 2018

Howard County Council  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Reference: Council Bills 1-2018 and 61-2018

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I understand there are outside organizations who are interested to invest in Main Street restoration and redevelopment.

I understand the removal of the targeted buildings along Main Street in the commercial district will represent cultural and economic loss.

I understand the purchase of the targeted properties along Main Street in the commercial district by Howard County Government will provide a unique, single-owner, opportunity for a portfolio of properties for commercial restoration and redevelopment strategic planning.

I understand there is a value to public-private enterprise where commercial requests for proposal can bring forward private organizations and funding for comprehensive planning, restoration and redevelopment for sites such as the one targeted on Main Street in the commercial district and could serve to restore County acquisition costs and fund mitigation measures.

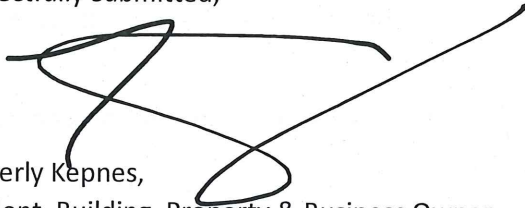
Considering these understandings:

It seems sensible for the County Council to consider a contingency for any approval to fund the purchase of targeted buildings along Main Street in the commercial district by Howard County Government to stay and disallow the demolition of any of those buildings until it has had opportunity to evaluate proposals by outside organizations to repurchase, restore and revitalize the properties from Howard County Government. This process could allow private organizations to fund restoration and redevelopment while funding storm water retention and flood mitigation efforts at the same time.

This contingency approval would effectively address the economic concerns of targeted building owners along Main Street's commercial district, the interests Howard County Government and allow a resale reinvestment to fund

mitigation measures.

Respectfully submitted,



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**From:** Randy Marriner <[Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com](mailto:Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 4, 2018 3:15 PM  
**To:** Weinstein, Jon <[jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** TAO 1-FY2018, CB 61-21-018

Jon,

I am writing to share my thoughts on, and support of the Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance 1-FY2019 and Council Bill 61-2018, otherwise known as the Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Plan.

As you know, we purchased 3733 Old Columbia Pike (formerly The Diamondback Tavern) on July 1, 2016. The cobbling of those five buildings together, were known as Taylor's Row, and date back to 1830. Thirty days later came the 2016 flood.

While the flooded Tiber River did not reach our front door, the 6-1/2" of rain came down the hill behind us, and much of it went through the back walls. Likewise, some of the water coming down Old Columbia Pike, went through the kitchen.

Suffice it to say, rather than an initial deep clean and paint, we had to do extensive reconstruction. We created our own SWM system across the whole back of the building, by raising the foundation walls with 18" of reinforced concrete which diverted the water away and keep it from coming through the building yet again.

Manor Hill Tavern finally opened in February 2017. By May 15, 2018, MHT was known for our Smokier Burger with Bacon Fries, our Bird's the Word Chicken Sandwich, Holy Smoke Pizza, and Cobbecue Salad. But more importantly, it had become home to seventy-five amazing employees, making us the largest private employer in Old Ellicott City.

That all stopped on May 27<sup>th</sup> when we lost our Eddison Hermond. Eddie was 'our guy' and one of the original VGP employees before helping us open MHT. He lived to serve and died serving.

Fortunately, at Manor Hill Tavern the storm water control system we created worked and we had no flood damage. Unfortunately, we lost power for three days, had to dump unrefrigerated food and beer, and needed a Health Department reinspection to open. We received our Reopened Permit on June 1<sup>st</sup>, but Old Ellicott City was closed.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, in order to put some of our employees back to work, we decided to 'open' to the First Responders, Public Works crews, business owners or anyone else that was credentialed to be in the Flood Zone, providing clean bathrooms, air conditioning, free food, etc.

On June 17, with the opening of Lot D, we reopened to the public. Twelve weeks later, we are not back to our former employment levels by at least 33% and our sales volume is still off by 50%. The recurring theme we hear from our guests is "We are afraid to come back to OEC", "when are 'they' going to fix it?", or 'how many more will have to die before they fix it?'.

We have now invested over two million dollars in MHT and my financial advisors are pushing me to consider cutting our losses and moving out of OEC entirely. The immediate implementation of this Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Plan, will allow us to safely remain.

I urge you to approve these two, much needed pieces of legislation.

Best Regards,

Randy

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E. Randolph Marriner  
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