

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Jon Schultz <wcp444@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 12:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for Flood Mitigation Proposal/bicycle commuting

Dear County Council,

As a resident and homeowner in the Ellicott City Historic District, I wanted to communicate my support for the Five-Year Flood Mitigation Strategy proposed by Executive Kittleman and Councilman Weinstein.

The time for action is now, and I believe the proposed plan provides the best approach for practical flood mitigation. As an Engineering Program Manager for a large defense contractor, I understand no plan can be perfect and the realistic nature of implementing mitigation.

As a full-time bicycle commuter, I would like to suggest that future construction plans take into consideration the impact on bicyclists. The Ellicott City historic district is a challenging area due to limited connecting roads and hills, and closed roads can have a dramatic effect on bicycle commuters. The recent closure of Main Street and Maryland Avenue added almost 3 miles each way on my commute to Sykesville. The impact is further increased from the closure of New Cut road.

thank-you,

Jon Schultz  
3784 College Ave, Ellicott City

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Loretta Moran <lorettaharkum@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 11:19 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** bills taoi-fy2019 cb61-20018and cb62-20018

Good Morning,

I am in favor of the of the bills to remove buildings and widen the Tiber River. My husband and I first opened a shop after Hurricane Agnes. Several years later we purchased the property at 8016-8018 Main Street. I served on the ECBA for several years and helped to implement several projects including Midnight Madness. In the mid 80's we moved to the suburbs to raise our children with the hope of someday returning. In 2010 we returned to our beloved building on Main Street.. We had been through several floods from the Patapsco River in our early years but since the widening of the Patapsco in1977 it had only been minor flooding with ample time to prepare....Since our return in retirement we have been through a train derailment , which I knew Liz Nass as a child from our time in Mt. Hebron, and three floods...we have also shared many great times...Benjamen Moore,festivals,, and my favorite Midnight Madness... But we are starting to re-think our retirement plans..The flood of 2016 we were evacuated...I saw the young couple in the honda screaming as they were swept to their death...Our second floor flooded from the run-off from Church Road and the storefront was totaled...but we rebuilt...been their done that from our earlier years. On the May 2018 flood we were returning from our son's wedding in Deep Creek. It was a beautiful,sunny day until we reached the Ellicott City exit. Suddenly we were in torrential rain. As we continued down West End I told my husband this does not look good...we were following a raging river down Main Street. We parked our car at the B&O Museum and by the time we crossed the street we were knee deep in water...we opened our home to several merchants and neighbors to escape through our third floor to church street...they helped us..frankly we are too old to be climbing rough terrain in torrential rain...before I left our home I called my newly wedded son and told him I loved him and I wasn't sure if we were going to make it...our will was left on our bedroom bureau top...Not a great ending to what should have been a beautiful weekend...Had we made one more stop on our way home we probably would have been swept away by the flood....This is not a way to live...in constant fear of a flash flood that suddenly appears....Just as they widen the Patapsco;the Tiber must be widen....Please take this under your consideration....

Thank You,  
Loretta & Tim Moran

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Fatima Zaryoh <fatimazaryoh@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 10:56 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hi

I'm coming from France and old Ellicott City, was my weekly visit for the last 16 years. Why?

Just because it reminds me my country. Except the new store who has nothing to do there.

Please let me know that my dream place will not disappear.

I'm praying.

Ms. Fatima Zaryoh

My name is Dianne Paulus of 8392 Merryman Street. I am the treasurer of the Ellicott City partnership, but my testimony is as a resident and homeowner.

I am here in full support of the 5-year flood mitigation plan and funding legislation. It is a thorough and comprehensive plan that focuses on challenges from the West End to the river. I believe in the science and data models created by experts in the field, I trust the work of our government leaders, and I respect the immense work done by our friends and neighbors on the flood workgroup, community advisory groups, local storm water experts and more.

There is understandable concern about the water remaining on lower Main with this plan. Please do not lose sight of the important fact that this is a plan designed to address challenges throughout the watershed. Of course, we would all love a solution that removes all water but given our geography that is not feasible per experts in the field. The plan significantly reduces water throughout town – including the highly residential West End area while bringing down the velocity of the water by 60%. This is a strong and crucial first step in a comprehensive plan for flood mitigation for Ellicott City.

I also believe that action, not further studies, is required now.

First, please consider the economic impact of any further delay on our already struggling small businesses on Main Street. These folks are barely hanging on with reduced traffic due to fear and uncertainty regarding flooding. Without real action now, we cannot expect anyone to stay open and our vibrant Main Street will cease to exist.

Second and most importantly - safety. You have heard many heartbreaking stories from July 30 and May 27. The bravery and resilience of my friends and neighbors is awe-inspiring. But let me tell you about being a resident of EC on July 25, 2018. It had been raining for a week and we had flood warnings on a daily basis, the river was high, and the ground was saturated. We all unfortunately now know the sound of rain when it's coming down too hard and too fast, and it was doing that.

At about 7:00 the police raced up and down the street telling people to get to higher ground. If it is ok I would ask my fellow residents to raise their hands if they recall this evening. I ran to a safe spot on Merryman overlooking where the Tiber and Hudson meet at Lapalapas – a critical area addressed by the plan. I watched that channel rise and rise and rise. People were frightened and panicked. And as it continued to rise I stood in the rain crying, because I knew what it meant if it left that channel and I knew we cannot come back from another flood. That was a storm the NOAA meteorologist pointed out in the presentation two weeks ago as a near miss, one of many we've experienced just this summer.

We were lucky that day. The stream stayed in the channel. We can't count on being lucky going forward. We cannot afford further delay. We need action and brave decisions and a commitment to making this town safe. Now. Thank you.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Dave F <terrapi443@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 9:01 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** 3910 New Cut Rd testimony

### September 17, 2018 Howard County Council Testimony

My name is David Fullarton. I have lived at 3910 New Cut Road for 21 years. The bridge leading to my home was destroyed in the flooding on May 27. I watched it wash away. That entire structure, including the decking, steel support beams and two 30,000 pound concrete abutments were all washed downstream. The creek bed also laterally eroded approximately 30 feet as well. My neighbors also lost two bridges, and other neighbors experienced flooded homes and property, as well as major erosion to their property. My bridge was probably at least 25 years old when I moved in and had withstood decades of severe weather. Life was dramatically changed as my home has been drastically devalued, and my vehicles and belongings were stranded on the wrong side of the creek. I no longer have visitors to my home and simple things like grocery shopping or garbage collection have become logistical headaches. It has been a nightmare. New Cut Creek has been noted as being the largest tributary of the Tiber river. A report by several hydrologists states that at the peak of the May 27 flooding, up to 6600 cubic feet of water PER SECOND was rushing unchecked down New Cut Creek. This comes out to 160 million gallons per hour. Add several hours of lesser flows before and after the peak and we had somewhere around a quarter to a half billion gallons of flood water coming out of New Cut Creek. Yet there is absolutely nothing in this plan to do anything to mitigate the first drop of this water. Of course, the plan contains more studies and proposals about possible actions, but studies and proposals are worthless without decisive action. When the next flood occurs, we can expect to repeat this disaster.

I understand that the goal of this plan is to "save lives". What about the lives and property of those who live on New Cut Road? There is more to Ellicott City than just Main Street. Aside from random acts of kindness by firefighters and police officers, neither myself nor my neighbors have received any assistance in any way, shape, or form from the county since this flood. We feel that we have been have been forgotten, ignored, and abandoned. We live on the 2018 version of the "wrong side of the railroad tracks" and we continue to be at risk to losing lives and property.

Also, understand that during future floods, hundreds of millions of gallons of unrestrained floodwater from New Cut Creek will again inundate the Tiber river and overwhelm lower main street. Any progress being made in furtherance of the county's plan will be destroyed and washed away, while anyone in town risks being killed. This "50 million" dollar plan will quickly escalate into a 100 million? 200 million? dollar plan with each subsequent flood. It is therefore PARAMOUNT that the floodwaters coming down new cut creek be addressed and PROPERLY mitigated in order to achieve the county's goal of saving lives.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Greg Hollingsworth <greg@gregluci.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 8:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Wait... tearing down buildings in EC? I'm so very opposed to this plan.

Wait, we're going to tear down historic buildings to accommodate recent development which has been attributed to EC's flooding? I think we've got it backward, we should tear down the new/recent construction that caused the problem and should put the breaks on any future development that would impact EC.

I'm opposed to this plan and I believe that we need to take a hard look at further development along the Patapso watershed.

Sykesville, MD

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Robert G. Hollingsworth

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** lyn raabe <lynraabe@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 12:19 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** OEC

opposed

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Maryse Maillochon Petasis <marysemaillochon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 11:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Bill # 61-2018

Dear Sir, Madam,

My name is Maryse Maillochon Petasis. I am a longtime resident of Ellicott City and I'm writing to you concerning the Allan Kittleman and Jon Weinstein's plan to demolish some selected historic buildings on Main Street in response to the second flood the historic city has experienced in May.

I strongly oppose that plan. It is hasty, ill advised and asinine. The community has not been consulted and was instead presented with the plan as a done deal. The plan does not explain how the rushing waters coming from the upper parts of the city and its surroundings will be diverted and managed in order to avoid any more loss of life and properties. Furthermore, there has been no study, not even any thought about the impact of this plan on the future economic situation of the area.

One of the big draw in Howard county is Old Ellicott City and its Main Street. I was born and raised in France and have lived in Howard county for 30 years and in Ellicott City for the last 15. Every time my friends and family visit, I take them to Old Ellicott City multiple times. We stroll down Main Street, drive through the seven hills, visit the B&O railroad station, shop at the many unique stores, explore the antique shops, have a beer, a glass of wine, coffee, a snack or a meal at the many wonderful restaurants. But mostly, we marvel at the many historic buildings; from the Thomas Isaac log cabin, to the firehouse, the Ellicott house, Tongue row and many more just as deserving. It always impresses my family and friend, so much so that my sister once told me she understood why I liked it so much here and stayed here for so long.

Europeans have a tradition of cherishing, honoring and respecting History, in memorizing its historical figures, in keeping with cultural traditions and also in maintaining and taking care of our buildings, our streets, our neighborhoods, our architecture. Occasionally, Americans do the same for big historical sites Gettysburg, Manassas, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and of course Ground Zero. Americans also preserve History as a source of pride and proof to the country's achievements, trials and tribulations such as in Annapolis, Harper's Ferry, Fells Point and Alexandria.

Old Ellicott City is such a place and deserves nothing less.

Even if we were to focus solely on the economic aspect of the demolition plan, I believe that it is akin to killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Purposefully demolishing these buildings will wound our city, our community and our potential.

I also believe that when there's a will, there's a way. Please find a way to save Old Ellicott City.

Thank you for reading.

Maryse Maillochon Petasis



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Gayle Killen <killchar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 11:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony: TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018

Greetings,

Other than the immediate demolition of buildings on the north side of lower Main St, I support flood mitigation efforts proposed. I have participated in meetings, workshops and hearings since 2011 with many in the community including organizations such as the Ellicott City Flood Workshop Group, the EC Watershed Masterplan Workshops & have been involved in economic and business focused groups such as Ellicott City Business Administration (ECBA) AKA ECP, and the Ellicott City Flood Solutions (ECFS) group formed by Frank Durantaye and Lori Lilly. I believe that \$50 million is too much money for too little impact.

I live directly between the Hudson Branch and Main St just east of Rogers Avenue. I lost 10ft of land along the Hudson Branch in 2011. In 2016, Main St washed away from my home. I watched as runoff surrounded my home on all four sides, and continued to watch helpless as my neighbor was dragged by rapids skinning his entire body; having escorted his cookout guests to the safety of hills only to be pinned to a car by a floating tree. My neighbor's nephew braved the rapids, and they both came within seconds of becoming casualties.. I'm still rebuilding.

We can't wait. It was too late in 2016, when we knew by studies and models that the watershed could not move more than a few inches of rain without several feet on Main St.

You're now hearing a good bit from Valley Mede. You'll hear even more from New Cut Rd this time, also taking a sudden increase in runoff. I'd also point out that West End folks are significantly worn down by now, many older generations impoverished and simply too exhausted to even testify. I can't count how many in the West End community have had to move out since 2011 and 2016, and those struggling to survive are likely not intent on the details of study after study after study. If the development along Montgomery Road is permitted to continue, you can be certain you'll hear from Old Columbia Pike next.

Old Ellicott City gathers at the river, physically and holistically. If our shopping district is compromised, we all lose economically.

We cannot wait for retention solutions. And it is important to note that it was negligent to permit New Cut and College Ave to develop runoff even after 2011 called for a watershed study. Further, it is dangerous to permit further development without first accurately mapping and calculating the watershed's ability to convey rainfall (current rainfall at least with consideration for climate increases). However many feet of runoff this or any development contributes, this oversight is deadly in our town.

Recognize that this proposal omits sizable opportunities to reduce runoff on our streets far below the 4-6' that remain with this plan. Removal of lower Main St buildings does not protect communities - it is not enough to "convey" the runoff at the bottom of the hill.

West End Services Trucking company was noted for residential re-development in the most recent EC "Watershed Masterplan" - it is worth considering the number of "acre-feet" of retention available on this 5 acres. We are obligated to consider this site is exactly where the 8600 culvert work is being done, and the site itself is slowly but surely sinking into the Hudson Branch. A 10+ foot deep sinkhole has been present since the 2016 runoff event, and a fissure along the asphalt parking lot of broken leaking trucks is evident. This 5 acre site is an opportunity already situated directly in the

path of the runoff charging down Main St and has the elevation necessary to collect and slow runoff. To be clear, this site offers proactive mitigation that can protect the Main Street community from Rogers Ave all the way to the river...not just the lowest section of Main St. Retention high above also alleviates the lower Tiber-Hudson Branch, allowing it to convey runoff from New Cut. It also serves as mitigation for water quality measures, easily attained by the removal of broken trucks whose runoff enters the Hudson Branch without buffer.

Council should mandate the following requirements prior to permitting demolition on lower Main St:  
Culvert maintenance (all checked, cleared and slated for upgrade if re-sizing is necessary)  
Sediment removal and prevention (sediment from 2011, 2016, 2018 and all rains between have deposited sediment but no effort to remove as of yet - this is hazardous and a deadly risk in this watershed)  
Stream side plantings should be mandatory throughout watershed (AKA Stream Buffers)  
Street repairs (drains along curbs, slant toward drains)  
Sidewalk repairs (8" curb to protect buildings from rapid surface runoff)

The 5-yr emergency plan claims "immediate life threat addressed in one year"...

The plan includes retention efforts that there is funding already available for, and no opposition for - other than the controversial demolition of lower Main St. We have bigger retention projects to fund. And 4- 6' of swift water is still deadly, so while we slow the consideration of controversial demolition, we can consider better plans (introduced in the McCormick Taylor Study) that don't require demolition and can be analyzed from a fiscal and feasibility standpoint before making an irreversible decision. There's no reason to postpone proceeding on all other mitigation projects while investigating the lower Main Street options. (Note that the 5-year plan would demolish the buildings now, but not start mitigation until FY21-23, so no time would be lost by delaying demolition until other proposed options are studied). For the same reason that a building moratorium was upheld, a moratorium on demolition should also be respected.

I've reinforced my walls and perimeter. I've replaced all utilities and moved them up a floor. I'm preserving the original Ice House for Ellicott City, built in 1809. Please make choices that protect all of us, please consider aggressively moving forward on major retention and prevention, please help us avoid band-aids that may become a never ending string of expenditures. I, like my neighbors, am nearing impoverishment. Please help develop strategies that preserve community and incentivize recovery and watershed strengthening.

\$50 million is too much for too little impact. The demolition of the south side of lower Main St only brings controversy, while we must move forward retention projects today without delay.

We can not wait.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and compassion,  
Gayle Killen  
8572 Main Street  
ECMD 21043

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Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.  
~Thomas H. Huxley

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tracey Davidson <thefurnitureresolution@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 11:27 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Oppose demolition plan

There is no harm in putting this off.

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Pam Whelan <pammiewhelan@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 10:52 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Old Ellicott City

Please do not let history be erased. If the buildings are torn down and the city has another flood and people die, then what? The plan failed and history is gone. There are better ways, let's try to find one that works to save lives and preserve history. It's what makes Historic EC so charming.

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Melissa <melissawrites4u@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 10:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Historic EC

Opposed. Very opposed to demolition of a major portion of the lower section of Main Street in the Ellicott City Historic District. As a former executive director of Howard County Tourism Council and having been involved with Preservation Howard County and Maryland Historic Trust, sitting on the board of Tourism Works for America Council, as well as sitting on the board of other local and national tourism, arts, and preservation organizations, I can attest to the historic and economic value of the Ellicott City Historic District. The Visitors Center in the former post office on Main Street has hosted hundreds of thousands of tourists, which represents roughly 10 percent of the overall visitors to the historic district. I personally greeted visitors from Italy, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Spain, dozens of other countries, and a group of Tibetan monks...all here to visit the unique collection of historic structures, representing in the original locations the architecture and American history spanning the 1700s, 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s all in one unique, original location. Yes, most shopped and dined, too. But it was the historic structures that drew them here. I am also keenly aware of the need to keep tourists and locals all safe, during their visits to the historic district. That cannot be denied or ignored. But the permanent, irreparable historic and economic impact demolition of such a significant portion of lower Main Street cannot be denied and should not be ignored either. Honestly, it feels like your decision has been rushed and is totally ignoring any solutions that not only keep people safe but also preserve the historic and economic impact of this section of lower Main Street. An alternative to what you have decided HAS been proposed and MUST be an option now.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Arnold

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Wiley Purkey <wileypurkey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 10:06 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Ellicott City

I am opposed to the proposed demolition of part of my beloved Ellicott City. I was born on Fel's Lane, and witnessed it's destruction, numerous fires, and was displaced during the flood of 1972. The town always comes back, driven by the resiliency of it's people. The history of Ellicott City is greater than all of us, we are just temporary, however, we are the current caretakers of it's greatness, and we owe it to those that will come after us that it remane as it has been.

Please have the wisdom to turn back from the plan of destruction that will not solve the flooding problem, but WILL destroy nearly every business in town.

Find a better way, not a short-sighted one, least we all have regrets that can never be erased, and we will be known as the worst example of the destruction of a historic community that has ever been.

Wiley Purkey

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Wiley's Art site is here: <http://www.wileypurkey.com>

The Art Events site: <https://www.facebook.com/purkeyfinearts>

Etsy shop: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/wileypurkey>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wileypurkey>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wileypurkey>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/wileypurkey>

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Scott Varian <svarian@alumni.nd.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 9:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Ellicott City

Dear Council Members,

My name is Scott Varian. I am a graduate of Notre Dame and currently an architect in Saint Louis. I heard the distressing news of plans to demolish a segment of historic downtown as a way of alleviating excess runoff in the area.

I unintentionally happened upon Ellicott City on a trip to Richmond several years ago. I could only describe the town as a hidden treasure. The small town charm and historic character of Main Street are very rare on this side of the Atlantic and they set the city and county apart from many others. It goes without saying that if demolished, a unique piece of history will be forever lost. I strongly ask you to consider the hands that built those structures, the souls that inhabited and toiled in them and the hearts which took pride in them for centuries.

Many cities in this country are rediscovering the immense value of traditional urbanism and architecture. They strive to emulate that which you already have in its authentic form. Please reconsider the value of your gem and give more consideration to alternative options to addressing the problem at hand. Where there's a will, there's a way, especially in America.

Most Respectfully,  
Scott Varian

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Stephanie Waters Thompson <stephmwaters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 7:50 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: SUPPORT FOR CURRENT EC FLOOD PLAN

Please confirm receipt and that this written testimony has been added to the record in support of the bills associated with the Kittleman/Weinstein flood plan.

Many thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 12, 2018, at 2:40 PM, Stephanie Waters Thompson <[stephmwaters@gmail.com](mailto:stephmwaters@gmail.com)> wrote:

Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing in support of Executive Kittleman and Councilman Weinstein's current flood mitigation proposal. My family bought a home in historic downtown in 2010, specifically because we could walk to Main Street to take advantage of our "small town within a big city".

I am sorry that the plan has been mired in controversy, misrepresentation, misinformation and social media gossip. Those of us who have been following the progression and details of the plan, understand that this was an incredibly tough decision to make but one that sadly needs to be made. As I hope you have seen, those who actually live and work in the historic district support the plan however painful it may be. We recognize that we have studied this ad nauseam and the time for action is now. We need to do whatever it takes to stop the problem as quickly and cost efficiently as possible, even if it means sacrificing some buildings in order to strengthen the rest of the town.

Please add this as "testimony" to any record is being kept. Unfortunately, I have three small children at home and am not always able to make it to the council meetings, however I do watch them on livestream.

Many thanks,  
Stephanie Waters Thompson  
3740 College Ave  
Ellicott City

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Stephanie Waters Thompson  
240-463-7799 cell



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Erin Gillaspy <eringillaspy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 7:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Ellicott City proposal

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Maryland and a trained architect, I strongly disagree with the current flood-mitigation proposal in Ellicott City, and urge you to reconsider it. The counter-proposals from Preservation Maryland are worthy of consideration and ought to be taken into serious account when making this decision, as many American cities (such as Syracuse, New York, the city of my training) have suffered horribly from losing even portions of their historic district. Please keep your historic buildings intact, and seek an alternate method of flood prevention.

Sincerely,  
Erin Gillaspy  
Syracuse Architecture  
B.Arch. '16

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Pam Long Photography <pam@pamlongphotography.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 7:20 PM  
**To:** HCGWebsiteMailbox; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony Signup

Thank you. I will not be able to testify live this evening, but will be submitting a written testimony. If lack of time does not allow all testimony to be heard this evening, I'd like the opportunity to be added to the next date if possible.

Thank you for all that each of you do for our incredible county!

My best, Pam

Pam Long, Cr.Photog., CPP  
Certified Professional Photographer  
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On Sep 17, 2018, at 3:28 PM, [hcgwebsitemailbox@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcgwebsitemailbox@howardcountymd.gov) wrote:

First Name:Pam  
Last Name:Long  
Address 1:8202 Main Street  
Address 2:  
City:Ellicott City  
State:Maryland  
Zipcode:21043  
Phone:(410) 988-5563

Agenda: TAO1-FY19, CB61-2018, CB62-2018

Stance: For

Speaking for a group?: No

Organization Name:

Organization Street:

Organization City:

Organization State:

Organization Zip:

Comments:

Testimony is limited to three minutes for an individual or five minutes for the single representative of an organization. If you have prepared written testimony, please provide 7 copies when you testify.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ricky & Leslie Bauer <[rrfarm@verizon.net](mailto:rrfarm@verizon.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 5:40 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fwd: Correction Council Bill 63-2018

**From:** Ricky & Leslie Bauer <[rrfarm@verizon.net](mailto:rrfarm@verizon.net)>  
**Date:** September 17, 2018 at 4:34:22 PM EDT  
**To:** Howard County Council <[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Council Bill 62-2018

Honorable Council members:

My name is Ricky Bauer and I reside at 13817 Howard Rd, Dayton. I am a past member and former chair of the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. I am writing you to ask for your support of Council Bill 63-2018. During my time serving on the board I personally experienced, and witnessed many others experience, difficulties with our ever growing number of non-farm neighbors. It came to light, after many inquiries from the ag community for help that there wasn't a lot of avenues to seek help for these problems, and after reading the ALPB roles and rules, our hands were often tied to be of much assistance with these inquiries. After sharing some of these concerns with County Executive Kittleman, he appointed an Agricultural Coordinator, a great step, but we thought there should be a broader group to give the ag community a place to bring questions, problems and disputes to and a place to help find solutions. Who better than the ALPB, which is already in place, with a diverse group of ag and ag related people to accomplish this? After discussions with many council members, and especially with the help and hard work of Council Chair Ms. Sigaty, who after much discussion and research on her own came up with this bill. I think if this can pass it will go along way to try to alleviate conflicts in the county pertaining to the business of agriculture. The only change I would like to see is the role of the ALPB board expanded a little more so that when it comes to actual ALP easement business that does not involve the exchange of funds, the board would have final say to request with out involving other personnel employed by county government in the final decisions.

Thank you,  
Ricky Bauer  
[rrfarm@verizon.net](mailto:rrfarm@verizon.net)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Steve Miller <steve@scottomiller.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 4:40 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** TAO1-FY19

RE: TAO1FY19

My name is Steve Miller. I grew up in Ellicott City. My folks relocated here from Catonsville when I was four. That was 34 years ago. When people ask me where I'm from, I proudly tell them here- Ellicott City. My parents still live in that house in Mt Hebron in which my sisters and I grew up.

In full disclosure, I am a Maryland licensed real estate agent and have served on volunteer committees for the Ellicott City Partnership. However, this evening I speak to you as a private citizen and my views are that of my own.

Some of you may recognize me from Portalli's, where I was known as the Most Okayest Bartender on Main Street. Some of you also may have been unwittingly serenaded by me on an open mic or karaoke night in one of our Main Street establishments, and for that I am truly sorry.

I offer my testimony in support of the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation plan as proposed by County Executive Kittleman and Councilman Weinstein. I urge this Council to vote unanimously in support of these critically important measures.

Main Street has been a part of my life for over 20 years. I have worked in many of the restaurants, been a patron of the businesses, and some of the most important moments of my life have occurred in the buildings that are to be demolished. I have been and will remain a stalwart member of the Main Street community.

County Executive Kittleman told me in the shadow of the former intersection of Ellicott Mills Drive and Main Street the evening of May 28 of this year: "We thought we had more time." Each and every one of us connected to Ellicott City in every way shared that thought.

After watching our town get destroyed twice in less than two years by unpreventable flooding that we now know Ellicott City does not have the luxury of time.

We have heard from experts at the National Weather Service that not only are these types of storms becoming increasingly frequent, but that we narrowly missed another catastrophic flooding event of similar type by a handful of miles in the end of July of this year.

Important and difficult decisions must be made to not only protect the safety of residents, visitors, employees, and business owners, but to ensure the long term economic viability of the town. Those visitors, the employees, the business and property owners, and the residents comprise a strong, vibrant community.

After Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, community stake holders asked for solutions. Studies were performed, some small improvements occurred, but still the public stayed away out of fear- fear that Ellicott City would flood if it rained and they be caught in it.

I can confirm that as a former manager for years at Portalli's, every time it rained reservations would be cancelled due to concerns that it was dangerous in town when it rained.

Businesses all along Main Street, from the Patapsco River to Ellicott Mills Drive would see substantial drops in revenue every time it would rain.

After the 2016 flood, the drop off in business for all in the district was exponentially increased.

The businesses in this town are a vital part of its existence. They not only bring visitors from out of town but they contribute substantially to the economic vitality of Howard County as a whole. More importantly, they serve the very people who reside all throughout the historic district, from the West End to the Patapsco River and all points in between. They are the centers of the community, the places where we gather, shop, and create new and lasting memories.

Right now, those business owners that have chosen to return are hurting- badly. These are not faceless corporations, these are friends and neighbors who have mortgaged their homes, forgone days off, vacations, quality time with their own friends and families to not only rebuild once but now a second time. Kudos to them for believing in our town and community.

Right now, Main Street has more boarded store fronts than not. From a public relations standpoint, it is not a good look. It looks like the town is shut down. And with the threat of bad weather and repeated flash flood warnings, customers will continue to stay away.

Without those businesses, Historic Ellicott City dies.

With this in mind, we cannot blame the property owners for not wanting to rebuild again. The prospects of a return on their reinvestment are not bright.

After all, what business would willingly enter into a lease in a building straddling a trickle of a stream that can turn into a 20 foot plus wall of raging water and debris without warning?

What business would open in an area that is endlessly being pummeled by not only water but study after study with no resolution achieved?

Without those businesses, the residents who patronize them will leave. Part of the allure of living along Main Street is its vibrant street full of stores and restaurants. The same thing that attracts tourists keeps our residents here.

It is imperative that the Council approve these measures to ensure that, in part, these business and property owners have not wasted their time and effort to reopen in an ersatz ghost town.

The proposal before you has not been without its critics, some of whom are likely here this evening. Some of those critics have proposed alternatives to this current plan that are economically untenable, physically impossible, logistically unreal or outlandish beyond comprehension.

I would, however, like to commend the opposition for doing something I thought to be totally impossible: uniting the entire street- but not in alignment with them- only against their alternative plans and their tactics.

Make no mistake, I am not, as I have been characterized by the opponents of this plan "Pro-demolition." I do not like that these buildings will come down but I recognize and accept that this is the best way forward. The science and data from the H&H studies backs this, the engineering backs this, the experts in flood and storm water management in the watershed back this, and thus do I.

I do not wish to hear of another life lost or another near tragedy because Main Street flooded- again. Safety is paramount, and should always trump historic preservation. What good is historic preservation if there is nothing of the town left to preserve?

I firmly believe that the plan put forth and which I am in support of, although requiring the removal of some buildings that have framed some of the most important moments of my life is a necessary step towards ensuring that Ellicott City is here for another 250+ years.

Our lives are comprised of thoughts and memories of what we have done, places we have been, and what we have experienced. Main Street, especially the bottom of the hill has been a key component of my life and my memories. However, even with those buildings gone, the memories shall remain.

Theodore Roosevelt once said **"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing and the worst thing you can do is nothing."**

With that in mind, I ask that you vote for this measure. Doing nothing is not an option. I implore you make the right decision, by voting for these measures. Not to preserve structures of Ellicott City, but to PRESERVE THE COMMUNITY of ELLICOTT CITY.

Thank you.

**Steve Miller**

**Scott O. Miller & Associates Team of RE/MAX 100**

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September 17, 2018

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

Re: Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan TA01-FY19, CB61-2018, CD62-2018

Dear Councilmembers:

Thank you for giving your full consideration to these comments regarding the County Executive's proposed five year flood mitigation plan. I have grave concerns about the safety and viability of Main Street in the coming years under this plan, its bottom up approach, timeline to mitigation, and irreversible impact on the lower Main streetscape, have not been fully examined or presented to the public. I strongly urge you to fully review the plan, all its details, assumptions, models and alternatives BEFORE taking action on this legislation.

This plan forever alters the Main Street streetscape, has irreversible impact on the larger National Register historic district, threatens the National Landmark B&O Railroad Depot AND does not protect residents and visitors from the 4-6 feet of floodwater still predicted by the plan. There must be a better way – other alternatives exist and should be fully considered before taking this drastic action.

You and your partners in the County Government are faced with very difficult decisions in the coming months, as all recognize that unprecedented action must be taken to protect not only the future of the entire Ellicott City Historic District but to provide true life-safety improvements for all who, live, work, and visit this community. However, the current plan proposes drastic loss to the character of the community, with purchase and demolition before design or flood mitigation occurs, but little gain in life-safety protection. What will protect the community over the next three years while design options for a new “river walk” are explored? As the current stewards of this unique and treasured valley, I ask that you not act in haste toward demolition, but call on the County Executive to develop a “model” flood mitigation plan that explores, and improves both RETENTION and conveyance throughout the watershed.

The structures to be demolished, affectionately referred to as the Tiber ten, and possible earlier buildings on shared footprints have long and varied histories, dating back to 1930, 1890, and as early as 1830. Individually, they have varying degrees of architectural, and historical significance to the local Historic District, with many noted as contributing structures. Collectively, their impact is larger and loss greater. The Tiber ten have stood along Main Street as an integral part of the developing city for multiple generations, reflective of the development, growth, and culture of both Ellicott City and the Patapsco Valley.

Significant historically, architecturally, and as part of the Main Street district these buildings are vital to Ellicott City's historic vernacular cultural landscape, unique as the intersection of not one but two of this Nation's earliest commercial transportation routes – the B&O railroad and the National Road. Main Street and railroad communities may be ubiquitous throughout the Country, but none

can rival the heritage of our own – you have the honor and distinction of protecting and preserving this heritage for all current and future residents of this valley, city, county, and our Nation.

Other feasible options to demolition do exist, and as demolition of the Tiber Ten will forever alter the streetscape along Main, I call on you to ask the tough questions, explore other alternatives, and NOT act on demolition of the Tiber Ten until alternatives for retention and conveyance have been fully vetted. Furthermore, I urge that prior to any demolition on Main Street, the Council reviews detailed plans for the future of these parcels, requires full research, historical, and architectural documentation, and a timeline for reuse of the site to avoid a vacant cavity in the heart of the Historic District.

Thank you for your time and attention to these remarks.

Nancy Pickard  
1080 Copperstone Court  
Rockville, MD 20852  
22-year resident of Howard County  
17-year resident of Ellicott City



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ann jones <annholmesjones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 3:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB 62-2018 - Support

**Ann H. Jones**

**2921 Greenway Drive**

**Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Testimony Re: Council bill – 62-2018

Modifications to the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Act and

Associated Reorganization

September 17, 2018

Position: Favorable

Good Evening,

My name is Ann Jones and I live at 2921 Greenway Drive in Ellicott City and I am a member of the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. I would like to thank the administration and the County Council, especially Councilwoman Sigaty, for working with the Preservation Board to draft this proposed legislation that will make the board more responsive to the needs of the agricultural community.

The preservation board is, and will remain, an advisory board to the County. We do not have, nor does this legislation seek to add, any final decision authority. Rather, it expands the list of concerns that we can address. We were surprised to find that we could not even listen to the problems encountered by members of the farming community unless there was legislation allowing the board to listen to those concerns. This legislation and the accompanying proposed reorganization gives the board that authority.

Howard County has done an amazing job of preserving agricultural land. Were it not for the efforts of the government over the years we would never have the base of agricultural land available that we have today, and I am very grateful for the Counties continued support.

However, the same development that increased the need for agricultural land preservation has also increased the conflicts between the farming community and their new neighbors. Council bill – 62-2018 seeks to make it clear that the board always has members who are full time farmers, and is able to consider a wider range of issues of importance to farmers.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing to assist the county in supporting out agricultural economy, and the farmers who improve the quality of life for all County residents.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ann jones <annholmesjones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 3:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB 61-2018

**Ann H. Jones**

**2921 Greenway Drive**

**Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Testimony Re: Council bill – TA01-FY2019 and 61-2018

September 17, 2018

Support – Elements of the Plan

Do Not Support – Demolition of Structures on Lower Main Street

It is difficult to say that you are against all elements of the proposed Flood Mitigation Plan. Clearly increasing the size of culverts, reducing the flood damage in the West End and adding more substantial storage facilities are important elements whether you are dealing with a 5-year storm, 10-year storm, 25-year storm or probably a 50-year storm. However, you have to acknowledge that there will always be storms that will simply overwhelm any engineered solution that you can construct.

I well remember Agnes, and Eloise that came a mere 3 years later. At that time there was significant doubt that Ellicott City would ever recover, but there were no demolition plans. I oppose the demolition of significant portions of historic Ellicott City to achieve marginal additional flood control.

The most important concern of any plan must be the protection of lives. Looking back at the history of major floods of Ellicott City the flood of 1868 killed 42 people. 7 people lost their lives in Hurricane Agnes. The most recent flood took the life of one hero. All deaths are tragic,

and I by no means intend to discount the importance of any life. If we want to save lives we must determine what is the effective means of saving lives.

What changed between the Flood of 1868 and today? Clearly it was not an engineered change, a decrease in impervious surface, or the result of an improving climate. Rather it was a change in the notice people receive of impending flood events and the training and equipping of first responders to deal with flood emergencies. Those factors have been proven to save lives, and yet the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan before you tonight references up to 18 large infrastructure projects. None of these infrastructure projects address warnings, planning and equipment for first responders or requirements for flood escape routes.

The more I think about flood control in Ellicott City the more I liken it to fire protection and fire escape plans. The building we are in tonight is not 100% fire proof. Rather it is constructed with fire alarms and clearly delineated emergency escape routes.

The heart rendering video of the Joan Eve survival story is perhaps the best example of why this is necessary. In the video they state that at one point a door was bolted so they could not escape, and there was no clear route. We all know that doors are required to be equipped to be opened in a fire emergency. Those same types of emergency doors could and should be installed for flood emergencies.

One of my favorite places in Ellicott City was the Coco Lane Rooftop Deck. What if the rebuilding of Ellicott City included a series of walkways and decks that formed a connected path to safety leading to the Courthouse on the North side of the street and to St Pauls Church on the South Side. Might this become an additional tourist attraction for the town, and a way to tie the existing old town Ellicott city to the Courthouse redevelopment, and even provide access to additional parking areas.

Combining a clear escape route with an advanced warning system through alarms, sirens and cell phone notifications is the type of system that has been proven over and over to save lives. It is the basic of all fire protection strategies.

Please do not demolish significant portions of historic Ellicott City until you have examined all the options to save lives. There can always be a storm that will overwhelm the best engineering plans. This plan should concentrate on saving lives when that storm happens.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tracey Davidson <thefurnitureresolution@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Against Ellicott City demolition

We must not rush into a poorly researched plan that will destroy our history permanently. I'm concerned that this plan was concocted behind closed doors. Please do not approve this plan, instead work with preservationists to find a plan that increases safety and protects these irreplaceable gems. Human life and history can both be saved, serving developers should not be our priority,

Tracey Davidson  
West Friendship,

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** galileo1@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 12:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** No to the demolition of the old buildings

Dear City Council!

All around our country we rightfully cherish historical artifacts like various Native American structures. I believe these buildings should have similar historical status. Please, let's think of the future generations who would enjoy this part of Maryland history.

Respectfully submitted,

--- Geza Binger  
Hacienda Heights, California

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mary Elizabeth Kaltenbach <mekaltenbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 12:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Preserve Old Ellicott City!

Dear County Council,

When you meet tonight, please act to preserve the buildings of historic Ellicott City that TAO1-FY2019 proposes to destroy.

These buildings have historical significance and are vital to the character of the town. Destroying them is akin to ripping out the heart of the city. It might only be 5%, but it is the 5% that gives the town its very life. The 5% that's charm and age draw people, both local and tourist, back again and again.

There are better options, especially since the recent floods were aggravated by massive amounts of run-off from the housing developments recently built uphill. Overhaul retention ponds in the new developments, or channel the water to the few remaining wooded areas. These beautiful, historic buildings don't deserve to go because of poor planning.

Thank you for protecting our heritage.

Mary Elizabeth Kaltenbach  
443-520-5688





8307 Main Street  
Ellicott City, MD. 21043  
410-465-0070  
lapalapagrill.com  
info@lapalapagrill.com

September 17, 2018

**RE: Letter to approve County Executive Kittleman and Councilmember Weinstein's flood mitigation plan**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Simon Cortes and my family and I own La Palapa Grill & Cantina and the building located at 8321 Main Street. We have been in business on Main Street since 1999 and currently employ over 60 people at our restaurant. I am writing because I am for the flood mitigation plan County Executive Kittleman and Councilmember Weinstein have proposed.

I was at La Palapa Grill & Cantina during both of the last major floods (July 2016 & May 2018). I saw first-hand how quickly the water rises and how scary and dangerous it is to be trapped in a situation like that. Both times the restaurant was full of families with small children and elderly people.

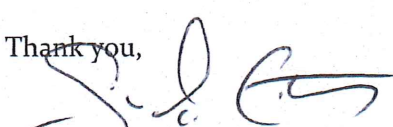
During the most recent flood we helped over 150+ move from the Main Street Ballroom located under La Palapa Grill & Cantina up to our space to escape the rising water. My friend Eddison Hermand was at La Palapa Grill & Cantina and lost his life while trying to help the owner from Clippers Canine (located under La Palapa Grill & Cantina) to safety. The deadly waters rise extremely fast and give little to no time for people to evacuate quickly and safely. My business and staff can no longer risk so much and request that our county take immediate action and move this plan forward.

Our business has declined because our guests do not feel safe coming to Old Ellicott City. They fear that every time it rains they would be putting themselves at risk of losing up to their lives.

Meetings regarding flood mitigation in Old Ellicott City have been going on for many years and the studies show this is the best and quickest way to make Old Ellicott City safe for our guests. If this plan does not move forward immediately we will be forced to leave this town and relocate elsewhere.

We simply do not have time to waste on more studies or the chance that someone else will lose their life.

Thank you,

  
Simon Cortes

Date: September 17, 2018

To: Howard County Council

From: The Rev. Anjel Scarborough, Priest in Charge  
St. Peter's Church, 3695 Rogers Ave, Ellicott City MD

RE: Council bills TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018

I am here to speak to this proposed plan again as a moral issue of lives, limbs and livelihoods. Three catastrophic top-down floods in seven years is a significant change in the rhythm of life in Old Ellicott City. H.L. Mencken said, "For every complex problem, there is a simple solution – and it will be wrong." The complexities of dangerous flooding have been studied ad nauseum since at least 1976 and one thing is clear: there is no simple solution and none without painful decisions. Studies are only helpful if they lead to action. Do not mistake doing studies for doing something. We don't have the luxury of analysis paralysis and more delays. Lives, limbs and livelihoods of the people of Old Ellicott City are on the line.

I've read a number of plans and proposed solutions over the past two months. In a perfect world, we would be able to remove all the flood waters, reroute water underground through massive pipe systems, preserve every building, and do so overnight so as not to negatively impact the economy of Old Ellicott City's businesses or inconvenience its residents. But I've just described a fantasy because we don't live in a perfect world. Perfection belongs to God alone, not to humanity. But, as our Judeo-Christian tradition teaches, we are made in the image of God – as sentient beings with intellect. As such, we are to reflect that intellect and put our minds to work using the best of science to address complex matters. To willfully ignore science, the realities of global climate change and its impact right here is to reject our God-given intellect and that is a sin against our Creator.

To paraphrase Voltaire, "the perfect is the enemy of the good." The county's proposed plan is not perfect, but it is good. It doesn't come without pain. As a priest, I love old buildings – especially churches. But my father taught me "Never love anything that can't love you back." He taught me to remember our relationships and lives are more precious in God's sight than anything made with our hands. History isn't enshrined in buildings – history is the relational memory of people and place. Buildings represent memories but they are not the same thing. History is a living, breathing matrix of memory and story. It requires people to maintain it. It is the lives of these people which need protection.

The demolition of old buildings is a painful, emotional matter. I am not pro-demolition – I'm for preserving what we can and make sure that lives, limbs and livelihoods are first priority. I've lived in Maryland for 30 years but I'm a native Californian where we have four seasons: earthquake, fire, flood and mudslide. In 1979, the Episcopal diocese of Los Angeles made the painful decision to sell St. Paul's Cathedral to Mitsui Corporation knowing full well it would be demolished. Successive earthquakes, including one in 1971 which killed 64 people, rendered the historic Spanish Revival structure unsafe. Preservationists tried to save it but both safety and lack of funding only delayed inevitable. It was emotionally painful for many who had been baptized, married and whose loved ones were buried from St. Paul's. But selling the land made way for a new cathedral complex to be built and for the safer St. James Wilshire to become the pro-cathedral for worship. The change allowed for new memories to be made while older memories of St. Paul's are preserved in pictorial and written records.

It's easy to forget that politics is the art of compromise. When a plan is good, everyone walks away with something they want but not everything they want. This plan provides for retention ponds, widening and deepening of river channels, and to accomplish this the removal of buildings which impede the completion of this work. After attending the hydrology briefing back in July, I learned how our forbearers filled in the Tiber's natural flood plain to develop Main Street – the buildings are historic but not original. It seems we've had a 135-year lease of the Tiber's flood plain and she's canceling our lease.

In closing, as a pastor, one of the hardest things I have to do is to preside over the funeral of a preventable death. Whether it's innocent victims of gun violence, someone killed by a drunk driver, or a death caused by any kind of negligence – senseless, preventable deaths are gut wrenching. I pray I don't have to preside at the funeral of someone swept away in a flash flood because our county leaders chose more studies over action. We are called to love our neighbors who can love us back and put that love into action now to protect lives, limbs and livelihoods.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Meg Boyd <boydfamily11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 11:17 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Opposition to CB 61-2018

Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to CB 61-2018. I do not believe adequate time has been spent researching alternatives to demolition, nor do I believe it is in the long term interest of Historic Ellicott City to demolish a significant portion of the historic district.

Meg Boyd

Elkridge MD

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tyler Case <casetyler99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Save oec

*Dear Howard County Council:*

*Historic Ellicott City deserves a better plan to protect its citizens, visitors and businesses. Push pause on the portion of the plan that seeks to demolish buildings years before real flood mitigation is undertaken. As someone who cares deeply about saving lives and preserving the historic integrity and economic viability of Ellicott City, I urge you to fully investigate proposals that stand to take lethal waters off of lower Main Street and truly make the town as safe as it can be.*

*Sincerely,  
Tyler Case*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** holly Jarrell <htrevey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 9:34 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail

*Dear Howard County Council:*

*Historic Ellicott City deserves a better plan to protect its citizens, visitors and businesses. Push pause on the portion of the plan that seeks to demolish buildings years before real flood mitigation is undertaken. As someone who cares deeply about saving lives and preserving the historic integrity and economic viability of Ellicott City, I urge you to fully investigate proposals that stand to take lethal waters off of lower Main Street and truly make the town as safe as it can be.*

*Sincerely,  
Holly Jarrell*

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
RECEIVEDCOMMENTS ON TAO 1 AND CB 61 AND 62  
PAUL FARRAGUT 3602 LIGON ROAD, ELLICOTT CITY 21042  
PJFARRAGUT@AOL.COM-410-461-2569  
2018 SEP 17 AM 9:22HELLO HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS; *Greg*

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ABOVE BECAUSE MY WIFE IS RECOVERING FROM RECENT HIP SURGERY. INSTEAD, I AM PROVIDING WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

AS A RESULT OF TWO 1,000 YEAR FLOODS IN ELLICOTT CITY WITHIN TWO YEARS, I'M SURE WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND BOLD ACTION IS NEEDED. OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS I HAVE ATTENDED SEVERAL MEETINGS ON THE ELLICOTT CITY MASTER PLAN INCLUDING DETAILED DISCUSSION ON HYDROLOGY. I HAVE ALSO CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE ELLICOTT FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN DATED 8/23/18. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW MY BACKGROUND, I HAVE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMICS.

MY SUPPORT FOR PRESERVING HISTORIC SITES IN HOWARD COUNTY GOES BACK MANY YEARS. WHEN I WAS ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL, I SUPPORTED PURCHASE OF THE PATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ELLICOTT CITY COLORED SCHOOL AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TIBER PARK IN DOWNTOWN ELLICOTT CITY. WHILE TRAVELING MY WIFE AND I OFTEN VISIT HISTORIC SITES. OUR INTEREST IN CONSERVING SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE IS QUITE STRONG. WE LOVE THE HISTORIC NATURE OF OEC AND OFTEN VISIT THE TOWN AND TAKE OUT OF TOWN GUESTS TO VISIT. BEFORE THE LAST FLOOD, I WAS A FREQUENT USER OF THE BEAN HOLLOW COFFEE SHOP AND ENJOYED SHOPPING AT SHOE-MAKERS COUNTRY STORE ON MAIN STREET. SADLY, BOTH STORES ARE NOW PERMANENTLY CLOSED.

WE HAVE A CRITICAL SAFETY ISSUE THAT SADLY HAS RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL PEOPLE, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY A HERO- STG. EDDIE A. HERMOND- WHO LOST HIS LIFE ASSISTING SOMEONE ELSE. HIS LIFE WAS ONE OF FOUR LOST OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. WE ALSO HAVE A PERCEPTION OF DANGER EVERY TIME IT RAINS HEAVILY AND THE COUNTY'S MOBILE, ELECTRONIC SIGNS AT EITHER END OF TOWN BEGIN SENDING A MESSAGE "FLOOD WARNING." THE BOARDED UP SHOPS ALONG LOWER MAIN STREET IS A VERY SAD SIGHT AND THIS NEGATIVELY IMPACTS BUSINESS IN THE ENTIRE TOWN.

THIS IS NOT A SUSTAINABLE SITUATION AND WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, IT IS LIKELY THAT FLOODING WILL ONLY GET WORSE AND POTENTIALLY MORE DANGEROUS. THE SITUATION WE ARE NOW IN DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THIS COUNTY COUNCIL. WE CANNOT POSTPONE THE DECISION ANY LONGER. THE SITUATION AT HAND REMINDS ME OF THE SURGEON WHO ADVISES THAT AN ORGAN NEEDS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE BODY IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PATIENT. I THINK THIS IS THE SITUATION WE FACE IN DECIDING WHAT TO DO IN ELLICOTT CITY. WE MUST LOSE A SMALL PART OF THE DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE TO SAVE THE WHOLE. THIS IS NOT AN EASY DECISION BUT ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE MADE BECAUSE THE PATIENT IS ON LIFE SUPPORT AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

WE HAVE A NON-SUSTAINABLE SITUATION AT THE LOWER SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET WHERE BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED OVER OR IN THE IMMEDIATE FLOOD PLAIN. THE PRESENT CHANNEL IS INADEQUATELY SIZED AND CREATES A MAJOR "CHOKE POINT." WE HAVE MANY BUSINESS OWNERS WHO ARE NOT COMING BACK AFTER TWO RECENT FLOODS AND WE HAVE BUILDING OWNERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE BOUGHT OUT BY THE COUNTY. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS COMPLEX AND INVOLVES WIDENING THE CHANNEL AT THE LOWER END OF MAIN STREET, IMPROVING OTHER CHANNELS, CONSTRUCTING STORM WATER RETENTION PONDS UPSTREAM AND PURCHASING SOME HOUSES CLOSE TO TRIBUTARY STREAMS. THIS WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO ESCAPE UNDESIRABLE AND SOMETIMES UNHEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS, POSSIBLY UNSAFE SITUATIONS AND ALLOW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME NEEDED CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS. THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR RETROFITTING EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS VALLEY MEDE. I SUPPORT THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

THE HYDROLOGIC STUDY THAT IS THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSAL BEFORE YOU INDICATES THAT ONCE IMPLEMENTED, LOWER MAIN STREET WOULD RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY 4 FEET OF WATER IN A 1,000 YEAR PROBABILITY STORM RATHER THAN MORE THAN EIGHT FEET AT PRESENT, OR A REDUCTION OF AT LEAST 50%. IMPORTANTLY, THE SPEED OF WATER WOULD ALSO BE REDUCED MAKING DROWNING FROM A FLOOD STILL POSSIBLE BUT MUCH LESS LIKELY. SUCH A REDUCTION IN THE PEAK WATER LEVEL WOULD ALSO MAKE FLOOD PROOFING PROPERTIES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER. WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT FLOODS OF ONCE IN 100 YEARS ARE MUCH MORE PROBABLE THAN WHAT WE HAVE SEEN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THESE 100 YEAR FLOODS, I BELIEVE, WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY THE PROPOSED SYSTEM. PLANNING A SYSTEM FOR THE PEAK DAY IS OFTEN UNECONOMICAL.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A LARGE TUNNEL UNDER OR ADJACENT TO MAIN STREET WOULD BE A BETTER SOLUTION IF IT COULD CONTAIN ALL FLOOD WATER FROM A 1,000 YEAR EVENT. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS PROJECT WOULD BE EXTREMELY COSTLY AND COULD NEVER BE JUSTIFIED. BORING EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO CUT THROUGH THE VERY HARD PATAPSCO GRANITE THAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE, REQUIRE THE SHORING UP OF BUILDINGS CLOSE TO THE SITE, DISRUPT WATER AND SEWER LINES AND RESULT IN THE CLOSING OF MAIN STREET FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. PRESENT TUNNELING FOR A SUBWAY EXTENSION IN MANHATTAN IN BEDROCK IS TAKING MUCH LONGER TO COMPLETE THAN PROJECTED AND IS SIGNIFICANTLY OVER BUDGET.

I THINK YOU SHOULD APPROVE THIS LEGISLATION AND NOT PASS IT OFF TO A NEW COUNTY COUNCIL. WE CAN QUIBBLE ABOUT THE NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION OR OTHER DETAILS BUT THE DELAY WOULD FURTHER PUSH OFF DECISIONS AND FURTHER THREATEN AN ALREADY FRAGILE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WHEN I WORKED WITH THAT COMMUNITY AT THE MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION, I REALIZED THAT UNCERTAINTY IS A VERY NEGATIVE FACTOR IN MAKING ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS. AGAIN TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

IN REGARD TO TAO 1, I WOULD THINK THAT PROVIDING MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE LINE ITEMS NOTED WOULD BE DESIRABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF MORE MONEY WERE NEEDED FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT PERHAPS VALUE ENGINEERING WOULD PROVIDE A WAY OF REDUCING NEEDS IN ANOTHER BUDGET CATEGORY. SO ALLOWING FLEXIBILITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN CATEGORIES WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

I THINK THE PROPOSALS BEFORE YOU ARE COST EFFECTIVE AND CAN READILY BE IMPLEMENTED. I ASK FOR YOUR APPROVAL FOR THE THREE PIECES OF LEGISLATION. THANK YOU

MY FINAL THOUGHTS DON'T DIRECTLY RELATE TO THE LEGISLATION AND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AFTER THE 10 BUILDINGS FROM CAPLANS DOWN TO THE TRAIN STATION ARE REMOVED THAT A NEW, EXCITING PLAZA, WATER FEATURE (THE CHANNEL) AND WALKWAY COULD BE BUILT AT THIS SITE. IT WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ENHANCE THE VIEW OF THE HISTORIC TRAIN STATION. HEADING EAST ON MAIN STREET-TOWARD CATONSVILLE- ONE WOULD SEE THE GRANITE TRAIN STATION. SOME IN THE HISTORIC COMMUNITY HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FLOODING POTENTIAL AT THE TRAIN STATION ONCE THE BUILDINGS ARE REMOVED. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FLOOD PROOF THE STATION IF NECESSARY (IT DIDN'T FLOOD DURING THE LAST STORM).

2. THERE MAY BE AN ARGUMENT THAT BY REMOVING 10 STRUCTURES FROM MAIN STREET THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH "CRITICAL MASS" TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VISIT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A PARKING GARAGE BE BUILT AT THE LOCATION OF THE OLD ROGER CARTER CENTER AND THE BUILDING USE SOME OF THE INTERESTING FACADES OF THE BUILDINGS THAT WOULD BE REMOVED FROM MAIN STREET. BY ALLOWING SAY 10 NEW, SMALL BUILDINGS TO SURROUND THE GARAGE, THE NEW COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES COULD HELP FUND THE GARAGE, IMPROVE THE AESTHETICS OF THE STRUCTURE AND PROVIDE MORE SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES. THE BASEMENT OF THE GARAGE COULD ALSO BE DESIGNED TO STORE STORM WATER AND A GREEN ROOF COULD PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ATTRACTIVE AMENITY.

Paul 9/17/18