

Sayers, Margery

From: Steve Sprecher <slsprecher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 9:58 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Re: Old Ellicott City--idea

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Also, the would the lots behind the old courthouse be avialbe when it moves? Not sure who is moving into it.

From: Steve Sprecher <slsprecher@yahoo.com>
To: "MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov" <MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 11:28 AM
Subject: Old Ellicott City--idea

Mary Kay

That was quite an announcement yesterday to tear down those buildings in order to provide a flood mitigation zone and channel (plus public park). I do think it must be done.

But there must be a little more thought about this. If the buildings cannot remain there, can we consider the County moving them up the street to the County-owned public parking lot at the top of the hill next to the fire station ("E" on the attached map)? Seems if you are going to pay \$50 million for a flood mitigation package, a little more to move these structures to safety would be worth it. As a Howard County taxpayer I would be in favor of this.

My two cents. Thoughts?

Steve

Sayers, Margery

From: misty ann <mistyannsmith@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 9:11 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: demoliton plans

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The plan to destroy historical buildings in old Ellicott City is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard and cannot be allowed to happen. That 'option' must be trashed. It is necessary to save old Ellicott City and the surrounding areas NOT destroy it. The OEC and surrounding areas are being devastated by the floods caused by the overbuilding and lack of infrastructure that should have been put into place. This top down flooding is directly related to overbuilding. This issue may be solved by addressing the overbuilding and stopping it and addressing the issue 'uphill' even if those new homes must be taken out. Clearly there is an agenda here and it is not to save old Ellicott City and the surrounding areas that have been caused such harm. Further, there must be a moratorium put into place to stop this madness with no more building in the area, including Dr. Taylor's plan of extensive development right up the hill. Stop it!

Thank you.
Misty Smith

Sayers, Margery

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

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

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

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

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

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

This is also from that same report:

The first and last sentences are the most important

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

its value to county government as part of a setting evoking the traditions of local government in Howard County. The existence of these values make it impossible to consider implementation of the most "cost-effective" means of flood prevention. The town cannot be removed from the historic setting that shaped it, just to meet flood prevention objectives.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: ome <pjfarragut@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Proposal for combating Ellicott Flooding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Mary Kay,

I'm hoping to testify in support of the proposal to help mitigate flooding in Ellicott City on September 17 but my wife, Joan, is having a hip operation tomorrow, so my availability is uncertain at this time. I will prepare testimony, in any event, to send to Council members should I not be able to attend. I suspect you will be the swing vote on this important issue and I can't think of anyone I would rather have involved in the debate. One issue that I find very puzzling that is coming from the preservation community is the idea that the buildings from the old Caplan's Department store to the Phoenix Restaurant should be retained because they "bounce water" away from the historic B&O Train Station. A more logical way to protect this very historic building is to create a 3-4 foot curving granite wall made from the remains of the building that houses the tea room. An opening for passage could accommodate a flood proof steel door (there is one at the World Trade Center in Baltimore that I have seen) that is left open except when severe storms are anticipated. I think an attractively designed park on the south side of main street, where the demolition would occur, with an attractive stream channel, shaded walkway and view of the train station would provide an attractive amenity that could be used for community events and special gatherings. My overall concern is that if we have people fearful of coming to Ellicott City and shop owners are not willing to invest in the downtown because of fear of flooding, the area will not have enough "critical mass" to attract visitors. I also support a comprehensive solution involving upland stormwater management ponds and purchase of residential structures in the floodplain on the west end as proposed. I know you want to hear from the public before taking a position but wondered what your thoughts might be on my comments. Thank you and have a great day!

Paul

“GREAT PANES” ART GLASS STUDIO
8069 MAIN STREET
HISTORIC ELLICOTT CITY, MARYLAND 21043
410-461-9336 FAX: 410-418-4643
greatpanes@gmail.com www.greatpanesstudio.com

August 27, 2018

An Open Letter

To the people of Howard County, but especially the residents, business owners, and property owners of Historic Ellicott City, we want to make this statement.

“Great Panes” Art Glass Studio, one of the oldest active business on Main Street and a property owner wish everyone consider the importance of the decisions necessary to the future of Historic Ellicott City.

As a member of the Flood Advisory Board for over a year after the flood of 2016, I participated and was very aware that unless a drastic change is made the future in Historic Ellicott City is destined to end (as we know it). No amount of mitigation was possible for a satisfactory solution and we could not continue our life long dream at the lower end of Main Street.

The bold decision by County Executive Kittleman to remove buildings at both the West End and Lower Main Street to facilitate water flow, straighten, widen, deepen, and develop a River Walk is the right and only decision that will save the Historic District. It is a plan for the future not the end.

We also suggest the that the River Walk should be extended up through the New Cut branch to give a more natural experience in contrast to the Historic one.

We are coming up to our 40th anniversary in Historic Ellicott City, our loss will be the gain for future generations.

Our love and respect for Historic Ellicott City is not diminished and we are more than willing to do our part to support the bold future plans.

Please take the time to plan a trip to Frederick and walk their River Walk to imagine the future of Historic Ellicott City.

Yes, it will take time, patience, and money, but the future is all we have to look forward too.

“Great Panes” is excited about our future plans as well.

Len Berkowitz & Sherry Fackler-Berkowitz
8069 Main Street
Historic Ellicott City, MD 221043
410-461-9336 / 443-864-6517

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Vote against the demo part of the plan- Please.

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

Dear Ms Sigaty:

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Tara H. Simpson
Historic Ellicott City resident

Sayers, Margery

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Regards,

Tara H. Simpson
Historic Ellicott City resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Ellicott City's Main Street

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy Eve <tracy.eve.01@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 5:52 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Ellicott City's Main Street

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

I am writing to you as one who is deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and the needless rush to pass a plan that would destroy nearly 20% of Historic Ellicott City's Main Street -- a measure that does nothing to mitigate flooding.

I urge you to vote AGAINST authorizing emergency appropriation to implement the building demolition/flood mitigation bill so that the community and other experts have enough time to both understand and comment on this drastic action.

I share your desire to protect the lives of residents and visitors, but I do not believe that destroying Historic Ellicott City is absolutely necessary to accomplishing that goal.

Respectfully,

Tracy Eve

Sent from my iPad

Clay, Mary

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms. Sigaty:

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

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

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

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

I also think the county owes it to current and future generations to do the best job possible in making an informed non-rushed decision on bulldozing our history. I ask this process be slowed down to allow time to review options proposed by Preservation Maryland and those recommended in the 2016 H&H Study in combination with recommendations from

the Army Corps of Engineers. Further, I think public engagement on why those alternatives were discounted is important.

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

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

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

metalmanc@gmail.com
410-350-4142

Sayers, Margery

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ms. Sigaty,

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

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

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

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

Please do not pass this bill as emergency legislation.

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

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

Respectfully,

Julianne Danna

8114 Brightlink Court

Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Patrick Nash <pj@pjswineaccessories.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2018 11:17 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Ellicott City Flood Remediation Plan Vote this week

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Mary Kay,

I am firmly in support of doing something soon the stop the damage in Old Town EC. I think that the Emergency measures being proposed need some more investigation before quick, rash decisions are taken.

I have seen some good options discussed on Social Media that need to be fully looked at before any vote take place unless it is a vote to have more discussion on this very important issue.

Demolishing those buildings does not address the problem at the top it the only deals with the side effects at the base of the hills.

My family moved to Howard County in 1962 & my mom is still in that house. Maybe someday I will inherit part of the property so I'd say I have a direct interest in this situation. Our back yard was flooded twice during the summer of 1972 so I do have personal experience with floods in HoCo & evacuations of neighbors.

As you are all probably aware there are several Face Book Groups that have been discussing this out in the open including "Let's work to save Historic Ellicott City"(1,171 members in just a few weeks), "You know you grew up in Ellicott City when....." (3664 members) & "You may have grown up in Howard County if..."(6,886 members). These are people who care deeply about EC & HoCo.

This is a not a time of rash decisions but a time for our elected officials to carefully but quickly make some important decisions.

Thanks for you time on the Council.

Pat Nash
79 Allview Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
531-5635 in 1962

Pat Nash
PJ's Wine Accessories LLC
pj@pjswineaccessories.com
www.pjswineaccessories.com

Sayers, Margery

From: listan 1 <listan1@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2018 10:58 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: The Old Ellicott City Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello. I am writing as a resident of Ellicott City to share my grave concerns over the plan that County Executive Kittleman has proposed. I eagerly tuned in to the recent press conference announcement, with a hopeful/optimistic mindset (as OEC is a treasure to me and our County), but was stunned to hear that the plan being pushed included demolition of buildings at the end of Main Street. I listened carefully for the rationale as to why demolition was necessary, but I never heard it. Rather, it was sold as if this had to happen to save lives and as if this was the only way to act now. I wondered why the need to use this emotional ploy and to set up a false choice? (Feedback to Councilman Weinstein: It was so transparent and, even if not the actual case, it felt like a fast one was being pulled. Bad strategy.) Since that time, I have tried to read all I could about the plans and the studies. Demolishing the buildings just does not make sense (and I don't believe it was in any of the plans as a recommendation). It greatly jeopardizes the future of Main Street — we are stewards of this historic town for generations to come; not beholden to the wishes and needs (and understandable desperation) of business owners and residents who come and go — and not only does not guarantee preservation of life and safety, but there is no evidence that demolition saves more lives than many other options we have with regard to the lower Main buildings which come short of demolition.

My request of you. Approve all mitigation efforts now and separate out and put on hold the demolition of the lower Main historic buildings (which are so vital to the OEC experience and the streetscape). Then review the many options for those buildings and lower Main, and do a safety study to understand what actions will do the most to improve safety. We should not be destroying historic buildings and the gem of OEC on a hunch that it will save lives. Once those buildings are destroyed, we cannot unring that bell and I fear that we will look back on it in 50 years as an absolute crime. If you are motivated by the suffering business owners, go ahead and buy them out still. We need to remove that suffering from the equation, as it is not an appropriate driver to decide the fate of a 200+ year old town which, if we are good stewards, will be around for another 200+ years.

Lisa Orenstein
4341 Stonecrest Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: R. Michael Anson <ranson1@alumni.jh.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2018 5:12 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Don't be hasty.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Sigaty;

I have very, very grave concerns about the request for emergency action on the bill to remove many of the most historic buildings in Ellicott City. While the safety of inhabitants, merchants, and consumers is of the highest importance, the destruction of buildings that pre-date the United States itself should not be a hasty undertaking.

Perhaps the city could simply be deemed "unsafe" until further consideration is possible, with monetary compensation to merchants who lose business during deliberations. Perhaps some other way can be found for those opposing this destruction to voice their reasoning and to seek alternatives.

The proposed destruction is irreversible, and MUST not be begun without many opportunities for public debate.

Sincerely,

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Tony McGuffin <tonyjmcguffin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 3:07 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay; marykay@marykaysigaty.com
Subject: Ellicott City flood mitigation plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Mary Kay, how are you doing? I hope all is well with you. I'm reaching out to you in advance of tonight's Council meeting. Ellicott City needs the Council's help on this issue. The current plan that was announced on August 23rd by Allan Kittleman and Jon Weinstein was a shock to most Ellicott City residents. It's an extreme measure which, as you know, includes the demolition of some buildings in the Historic district.

To be clear my first priority in dealing with our flood problem is to strive for public safety and life-saving measures. My second priority is that no buildings be torn down - unnecessarily. That's a determination that I don't think has been answered or adequately addressed. Third: that the normal, legal process be followed, that the system of checks and balances be adhered to as any American citizen expects, so should go through the Council first, then the Executive may announce it. And fourth, that the process be transparent.

Over the last eleven days since the Executive's announcement, a field of red flags has cropped up, making me very uneasy about the process and the plan. There have been various studies over the last several years concerning flood water mitigation. This latest plan appears to be not the safest, nor the most mitigating in the amount of water reaching historic Main Street, but is perhaps the cheapest. There seemed to be a rush to demolish the buildings in the historic part of town, which would appear to undermine the safety aspects, since as we know from experience, the overwhelming rains can occur at any time, likely before the project would be completed. If nothing else those buildings serve as a buffer against the current, and protecting the National Historic site, the B&O Train Station. It seems that now that the opinion that the mitigation efforts should begin in the west end, to result in less rain actually reaching downtown, has prevailed. So, the plan is changing.

One red flag has been the lack of transparency. Although Allan and Jon insist that it was transparent, I would argue that it was only transparent to a small group of people, a fact which is counter to the usual definition of transparent. The rest of us have had to guess and rely on rumors. They defend that by saying they were trying to protect the privacy of the people whose property was in negotiation for purchase. The selling of properties is not usually so private, we put up signs, don't we, and list sales as public information. I think they did not want the public to see some of the names and jump to conclusions about conflicts of interest. I understand that, but feel that the interests of the over 65,000 Ellicott City residents, and even the 300,000+ Howard County residents out- weighs the privacy concerns of a few people, and puts it on the border of secrecy. Also, the fact that Republican Allan sees the "stakeholders" as business people is no surprise given his ideology. I don't hold that against him, but would stress that this is a case where the process of checks and balances is particularly important.

While I am no expert in Hydrology, I am very well versed in political rhetoric and the use of logical fallacies in the art. That is probably the reddest flag to me. Both Allan and Jon have relied almost entirely in responding to questions or challenges to this plan with a barrage of logical fallacies, rather than a scientific defense. Allan has been incredibly defensive in his responses to Preservation Maryland's opinions, and both he and Jon are

dismissive of any other ideas. That causes me to question the strength and legitimacy of their arguments for this plan.

The Hydrology and Hydraulics Study from 2016 seems to be the safest, most comprehensive plan, utilizing mitigation methods in the west of EC and including the New Cut Branch, which contributes lots of water. It's more expensive, but also more effective. I think we temporary stewards of the town owe it to the future Ellicott City to not rush into an inferior attempt, burdened with who-knows-what financial conflicts of interests. There is the urgency to get started, but I hope you can find a way to fund the start of a project that is supported by all the studies so far, while pushing for the best comprehensive plan. Thank you!

I hope to see you soon, but probably not tonight though. I've been laid up with a knee injury, a bad case of misery and decrepitude.

Be well, take care, and thank you for your time and attention.

Tony McGuffin

443-538-3609

tonymcguffin@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Amyeboyce1968@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amy Boyce <Amyeboyce1968@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding historic Ellicott City.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the current proposal to demolish large portions of the nationally significant historic structures without seriously considering all viable options, including those put forward by the 2016 McCormick Taylor Hydrology/Hydraulic Study.

I fully recognize the complexity and the challenges of this moment in Ellicott City's history and appreciate the hard work the staff and elected officials of Howard County have put into planning for the future of this community. I know the work ahead will not be easy.

Howard County Government does not have to face these challenges alone. Preservation Maryland, the statewide historic preservation organization, stands prepared to assist in the effort with the support of local and national partners. The organization is willing to pledge funds to support this effort – and the potential planning necessary to support alternatives to demolition. The organization will also continue to provide broad-based public outreach and legislative advocacy to assist the county in building the necessary political will to protect this historic resource.

Fortunately, there are many examples of historic communities and places similar to Ellicott City where innovation and creativity have balanced life safety and historic preservation. Existing studies have provided valuable insight into the work necessary to mitigate the most dire impacts of flooding – but more work is needed to understand the impact of the demolition of historic structures. There are legitimate and prudent alternatives to demolition which must be fully considered and studied before the bulldozer's blade is leveled at some of Maryland's most significant heritage. The economic, historic, and hydrologic impact must be fully understood before an irreversible demolition process begins.

Ellicott City is one of the State of Maryland's crown jewels. What you do here today will resonate for generations to come – and could, if done correctly, set a standard to which the rest of the nation strives to meet.

Therefore, I urge you to rise to meet this challenge and consider all options before permanently altering the historic fabric of such an important piece of Maryland's history and heritage. The future of Ellicott City depends on it.

Sincerely,
Amy Boyce
23 Kane Dr Scituate, MA 02066-3810
Amyeboyce1968@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Randy Marriner <Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 6:48 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: CB 62-2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

All,

I support this one as well.

Thanks,

Randy

E. Randolph Marriner
President & CEO
Victoria Restaurant Group
Manor Hill Brewing
MHF Productions
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Cell 410-215-4001

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Randy Marriner <Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: TAO 1-FY2018, CB 61-2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

MK,

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 27th 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 1st, but Old Ellicott City was closed.

On June 2nd, 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?'.

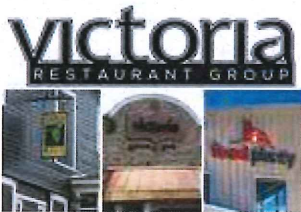
We have now invested over two million dollars in MHT and my financial advisors are pushing me to consider cutting our losses and moving out of OEC entirely. The immediate implementation of this Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Plan, will allow us to safely remain.

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

Best Regards,

Randy

E. Randolph Marriner
President & CEO
Victoria Restaurant Group
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042



410-215-4001 (cell)

Sayers, Margery

From: Victoria Goeller <gvgoeller@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: TA01-FY2019 CB61-2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Sigaty,
I have resided in the Ellicott City Historic District for 33 years and I support the 5 year plan.
Sincerwly,
Victoria Goeller
8378 Court Ave
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: wingatelj@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: PLEASE do NOT fund lower Main St DEMO! Separate funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please separate the funding for proposed flood mitigation projects benefiting Old EC from DEMOLITION of the 10 lower Main St buildings, the highly visible historic fabric that makes our crown jewel heritage town unique!

Please DON'T leave a wasteland behind when you leave the COUNCIL! #FindABetterWay

Lisa Wingate,
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Ted Cochran <tedcochran55409@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 5:31 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: In strong opposition to CB61-2018

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Councilwoman Sigaty,

I am writing in opposition to both TAO1-FY2019 and CB61-2018 that are being introduced September 4. As you know, these acts are being introduced as emergency measures necessary for the protection of life, health and property, and there is significant pressure to move out on them in order to demonstrate action in the face of the horrific flood last May.

Please resist that pressure.

A close inspection of the proposals demonstrates that, in FY19, they have the primary effect of delaying the needed Waterloo Fire Station (again) in order to purchase and demolish privately-owned buildings. However, as the detail chart for project C0337 in TAO1-FY2019 demonstrates, the land thus cleared will sit vacant for two years. No reduction in flood water will result just from the demolition of those buildings. No mitigation of the depth or velocity of floodwaters roaring down Main Street will result. Even when (and if) the project as conceptualized in the Five Year Plan can be completed, in 2023(!), swift water floods 4-6' deep can be expected, according to the county's own models.

In the proposals to be introduced, there are vague descriptions of how additional funds (apparently whatever is left over from \$5M in new construction money after the buildings are demolished) will be spent efforts to replace/improve failed culverts and reconstruct roadways.

There is also mention of a FY19 design effort for the trench and floodplain that are intended to replace the demolished buildings two years later. The design of the project's key component—a pair of 250' long, 10' diameter culverts under Maryland Avenue, through the B&O turntable, and underneath the active rail line—isn't scheduled until FY20. But given that no engineering studies yet conducted assure us that those tunnels can feasibly be built, let alone be effective, shouldn't that design work be done first?

And why are we waiting until FY20 to start on a subset of the storm water retention facilities up hill that were recommended in the H&H study and announced with great fanfare in 2017? And to fix New Cut Road?

If we're going to take emergency action in FY19, it should be aimed at repairing damage and implementing storm water management measures, not on buying privately owned buildings. If it turns out that, after a principled analysis, those buildings need to come down, there is plenty of time to do that in FY21 when the county is ready to start construction on the implementation of their five year plan.

There's a clear need for the Fire Station—for all we know, the next flash flood will be on the Patuxent, where that station will be needed. There is no "emergency" need to spend public funds to buy private buildings and turn them into vacant lots for two years.

There is a large contingent of your constituents that believe the proposal should be rejected on historical grounds alone. My objections above are entirely about fiscal responsibility and project execution; the historical argument for preserving Lower Main Street doesn't even need to be made to convince me that this is a hastily-conceived, ill-advised, poorly prioritized use of \$50M of public funds.

Regards,

Ted Cochran
5178 Downwest Ride
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindi Ryland <taylorcollective@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: Fwd: 5-year plan for Old Ellicott City

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Howard County Council Members,

Below is a copy of an email I just sent to Jonathan Weinstein and Allan Kittelman expressing my support for their proposed 5-year plan to reduce flooding impact in Old Ellicott City. I hope you will take my views as expressed below into consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindi Ryland
President, Retropolitan Ltd
and
Retropolitan Ltd, Manager
Taylor's Collective: Antiques, Art, Artisans

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cindi Ryland <taylorcollective@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 1:11 PM
Subject: 5-year plan for Old Ellicott City
To: Weinstein, Jon <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov>, Kittelman, Allan <akittleman@howardcountymd.gov>

Hello, Jon and Allan,

First and foremost: thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our town, especially in the aftermath of both of the devastating floods that have occurred in the past 2 years. Your unrelenting commitment to Old Ellicott City, its business and property owners has been and is greatly appreciated.

Retropolitan has been in Old Ellicott City for over 20 years and Taylor's Collective will be celebrating its 2-year anniversary in November; both have thrived in this time and very much want to continue to do so. When I first heard of your 5-year plan, I must admit I was not entirely convinced that this is The Way To Go; during your recent press conference at the B&O Plaza, however, your united strength and commitment to this plan came through and after more research I can now say I am 100% in favor of this plan. Please know that I have discussed this plan with most of Taylor's Collective's 50 artists, artisans and vendors and all concur.,

Although I am saddened by the fact that we must lose 10 of our precious buildings at the bottom of Main Street, I feel that we cannot afford to wait and yes, as you both have stated, lives are more important than brick and mortar. To those who want to preserve these buildings at all costs, I would suggest that they live in and/or operate their businesses from these buildings and report back their feelings after the next flood - that is, if they are still alive to do so.

I hope you will continue working for us as you have done. I am extremely disappointed that Jon will not be on the County Council for the next term, but I know in my heart that he will still be on our side and working to see that flood mitigation work continues.

Thank you for being Team-Old Ellicott City, -Howard County and -Maryland!

Sincerely,
Cindi Ryland
President, Retropolitan Ltd
and
Retropolitan Ltd., Manager
Taylor's Collective: Antiques, Art, Artisans

Sayers, Margery

From: Kyler Home <kylar.iv@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 3:00 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Flood mitigation plan questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mary Kay,

After last night presentation, I have two questions and a proposal.

First my questions,

1. Of the five models reviewed in last nights present, the chosen option still showed 6-8 ft of water on lower Main Street and 1-4 ft of water on the remainder of Main Street. Wether it's 1 ft or 6 ft, it can float and move cars, it can still wash people away with the projected flow rate and it still destroys interiors, inventories and infrastructure resulting in millions of dollars of damage, closure of businesses and interruption of Main Street.

How is this protection lives, property or our community?

2. The plan calls for two 10ft culverts to be placed under Maryland Ave. to divert excess water from the channel to the Patapsco. That plan shows water levels and flow rates on lower Main Street greatly reduced form those of just removing the 10 buildings.

What would the water level and flow rates be if just the two culverts were put in place without building removal?

After the 2016 flood, my Rotary Club, The Ellicott City Rotary Club, was given regular presentations from members of the counties flood group on updates to flood mitigation efforts and recovery. This proposal was made during one of those meetings and was also brought to the Flood group by one of our members. The proposal was brushed aside at the time as being too expensive. Now, in light of the counties proposed multi project plan that would span at least a decade, I believe the cost would be lower and protect more lives and property faster.

Single Bore Diversion Tunnel Proposal for Historic Ellicott City MD.

To mitigate excess water from the Hudson, Tiber and New Cut stream tributaries, we are proposing a single bore tunnel, starting on the south side of Frederic Road near West End Services and proceeding in a straight line to the Patapsco River south of the Historic B&O Terminus.

The proposed tunnel would be .75 miles long and would include water entry points south west of Lot D to pick up the Tiber watershed, at New Cut Creek near the intersection of New Cut and College Ave to pick up the New Cut watershed, and terminating at the Patapsco River.

Using the H&H study from 2016, and available information of local geology as baselines, a tunnel 20' in diameter would likely be able to transfer excess water capacity to the Patapsco without having to do any mitigation to the downtown area. Installing surface retention projects on the Tiber and New Cut would further slow the flow of water into the Tiber/Hudson channel, and in conjunction with the tunnel, eliminate top down flooding on all sections of Main Street thus protecting lives and property.

Using a similar flood relief boring project in the Chicago area of Albany Park, through hard rock, an similar cost, \$70 mil, would be anticipated.

Unlike the Albany Park bore, no blasting to start the project would be necessary as the start of the bore would be at grade level.

The current county proposal, after demolition, still calls for 6-8' of water on lower Main Street and continued flooding of 1-4' on the rest of Main Street until additional mitigation projects are completed over a 5+ year span of time. Tunnel boring once started would take an anticipated 1-2 yrs. this is without closing down Main Street, without major land acquisition or building relocation/removal.

Final entry/exit points and bore sizing will need to be approved by the Army Core of Engineering and the Counties engineers.

Please find attached a map indicating the proposed path of the single bore tunnel project and links to articles on the Albany Park tunnel. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,
Charles Kyler
Resident of Historic Ellicott City since 1997
Co-Chair of the 2004 Ellicott City Master Plan

410-925-2410



<https://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2018/07/24/70-million-albany-park-floodwater-tunnel-goes-online>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/chicago.suntimes.com/news/rahm-emanuel-70-million-stormwater-diversion-tunnel-albany-park-flooding-flood-control/amp/>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/mayor-announces-albany-park-flooding-prevention-tunnel-completed-489044451.html%3famp=y>

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2018/07/24/new-70-million-albany-park-tunnel-has-stopped-flood-waters-since-may-city-says/>

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Russ Roder <roderra@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 3:08 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan
Cc: Fox, Greg; Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Russ Roder
Subject: improvements for buildings in OEC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Kittleman,

Are you planning to take questions at the public information meeting on September 12, regarding the Ellicott City Master Plan? If not, I hope you'll spend a couple minutes discussing what, if any, requirements the Master Plan will place on buildings regarding improvements to doors and windows.

A couple of the quotes in the presentation to the County Council on 9/4 mentioned how quickly the water rose in OEC buildings during the floods. That's what happens when a window breaks or a door is knocked off its hinges. All of a sudden there's a giant hole in the building, letting water gush in. (I should know. That's what happened to my basement in 2016.) Equipping the buildings with doors and windows that will stay in place during a large storm would make the buildings much safer, giving the people inside more time to get out or get to a higher floor.

When it comes to improving doors and windows, the bang for your buck is high. With the Master Plan, we're talking about tens of millions of dollars to remove buildings and make other large changes to OEC. For another million dollars or so, you can put in new doors and windows. This will significantly improve the safety of the buildings that will remain and decrease the odds of huge repair bills for them after the next big storm.

As I mentioned, my basement flooded in 2016. When we bought a new door, we bought an out-swinging door, instead of the typical in-swinging door. That way, any water outside the door would push the door against the frame, instead of away from the frame. We also made sure there's a good load path from the door frame to the foundation wall. The door was a special order, but it looks like a regular door – it's not some giant metal slab that doesn't belong in a historic area like OEC. The new door stayed in place during this year's flood. So, all we had to deal with was really wet carpet. Unfortunately, my neighbors on the other side of the creek weren't so lucky. One of the glass panes in their slider broke and they got about four feet of water in the basement. They had to replace (again) their heat pump, washer and dryer. And they had to clean flood mud off all the walls and floor. They would have lost more, but they keep as little as possible in the basement

because of all the floods we've had. My neighbors are now trying to find a contractor who will fill in half their doorway with cinder block and put an out-swinging door in the other half.

Not only would better doors and windows be relatively inexpensive, the timeframe for installing them is weeks or months, instead of the years it will take to expand culverts and build storage ponds. (Those projects are absolutely necessary, but, by nature, they take much longer.)

I don't have any firsthand experience with installing better windows. But I think hurricane impact rated windows would be a significant improvement. As you may be aware, they're tested by using an air cannon to launch a 2x4 at the window, to simulate debris blown around during a hurricane (here's a link to one of many videos online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OekkMyu5xbQ>). If a window can withstand that type of impact, it's probably a lot more likely to stay intact and watertight, even when exposed to the large forces of fast-flowing water. And they don't look any different than "regular" windows.

I don't know if or how the County can go about regulating what doors and windows are used in the flood-prone buildings in OEC. But I think upgrading doors and windows would be a great safety improvement and save a lot of money in the long-run.

Thanks for your consideration.

Russell Roder

301-537-5359
9513 Longview Drive

Sayers, Margery

From: Megan Reuwer <mreuwer@reuwerlaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: Support for the Ellicott City Flood Plan (TAO1-FY2019)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Council Members:

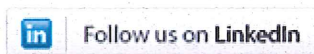
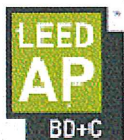
I am writing in support of TAO1-FY2019. As an owner of commercial property located in the historic district, and as a business person with my office located right off Lot D in Ellicott City, I am very invested in this community. I have rebuilt my buildings twice now (my brother and I together own 8086 Main Street, 8137 Main Street, and 8191 Main Street), and I am tired of rebuilding, finding new tenants, and taking large financial hits each and every time. I am also frustrated with the "lack of safety" our residents, tenants, and visitors feel each and every time they come to Ellicott City. No one should have to feel as though they are taking a calculated risk by patronizing our town. I do not want to see any more businesses, residents, or visitors suffer personal harm or financial loss when it can be avoided, and I have read the plan and believe this is a necessary step forward toward ensuring some return to feelings of safety and security in our town.

Thank you,
Megan Reuwer

The Law Offices of
Megan L. Reuwer, P.A.



8318 Forrest Street, Suite 200
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
Office: (443) 367-0422
Mobile: (410) 960-3755
mreuwer@reuwerlaw.com - my preferred method of communication



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We are Dave and Tina Callaway. We are renters in the 8600 block of Main Street in West End. We have suffered major personal belongings losses in both recent floods. We had to close down our home based business...twice. We decided to move after the 2018 flood because we are certain it will happen again. The flood mitigation plans need to move forward and it needs to be done now.

The storms are getting more frequent and more violent. Yes, there are a lot of differing opinions on the course of action. People don't want to see Old Ellicott City change, but the work on the stream convergence can't happen with the buildings in the way. The channel can't be improved upstream without a disruption in people's lives. Retention efforts won't happen without major change. One certain fact is...It will happen again, repeatedly, until this work is done.

You can't attract businesses or tourists if they don't know if they are safe. Old Ellicott City will continue to die at the hand of Mother Nature until this work is done and safeguards are written to protect its future from overdevelopment. The flood mitigation plan may not be what you want, but do you want a flood ravaged ghost town? Doesn't seem too appealing to me. Probably won't attract many people either.

Lives have been lost. People have put everything they have into a business only to have it destroyed. People have had their belongings and personal memories washed away or ruined. People live in fear every time rain is called for. Many of us, myself included, feel that Old Ellicott City just won't be the same as it used to be after these changes, but without these changes, it just won't exist...period. Pretty easy decision for me. I think one word can describe what is needed right now...REALITY. Unfortunately, emotions are not going to fix these problems. More deliberation only delays action. It also gives Mother Nature more time to do it all over again. Put some plaques with pictures in the proposed open air park that reflect the buildings of old and the damage done by the flood. People will still come, and they can enjoy a little history of this old town. But, you can bet they aren't going to come see a falling down town that used to be. Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: listan 1 <listan1@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 9:45 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: Re: The Old Ellicott City Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'd like to follow up by stating how dismayed I am that County Executive Kittleman is not partnering with and actively engaging Preservation Maryland. I ask that the County Council do better than Mr. Kittleman has done and correct that huge error by choosing as a Council to meaningfully engage Preservation Maryland. To not do so is disrespecting the historic nature of the gem that is Main Street/Old Ellicott City, when you are responsible to be its caretaker for many generations to come. Please listen to the below 30-minute podcast from the Daily Record, which is a very persuasive and sensible interview with the Executive Director of Preservation Maryland addressing the proposed plan.

<https://soundcloud.com/the-daily-record-md/groud-up-podcast-with-preservation-marylands-nicholas-redding-9-7-18-121-pm>

<http://www.preservationmaryland.org/preservation-maryland-featured-on-daily-record-podcast/>

On Sep 3, 2018, at 10:58 PM, listan 1 <listan1@msn.com> wrote:

Hello. I am writing as a resident of Ellicott City to share my grave concerns over the plan that County Executive Kittleman has proposed. I eagerly tuned in to the recent press conference announcement, with a hopeful/optimistic mindset (as OEC is a treasure to me and our County), but was stunned to hear that the plan being pushed included demolition of buildings at the end of Main Street. I listened carefully for the rationale as to why demolition was necessary, but I never heard it. Rather, it was sold as if this had to happen to save lives and as if this was the only way to act now. I wondered why the need to use this emotional ploy and to set up a false choice? (Feedback to Councilman Weinstein: It was so transparent and, even if not the actual case, it felt like a fast one was being pulled. Bad strategy.) Since that time, I have tried to read all I could about the plans and the studies. Demolishing the buildings just does not make sense (and I don't believe it was in any of the plans as a recommendation). It greatly jeopardizes the future of Main Street — we are stewards of this historic town for generations to come; not beholden to the wishes and needs (and understandable desperation) of business owners and residents who come and go — and not only does not guarantee preservation of life and safety, but there is no evidence that demolition saves more lives than many other options we have with regard to the lower Main buildings which come short of demolition.

My request of you. Approve all mitigation efforts now and separate out and put on hold the demolition of the lower Main historic buildings (which are so vital to the OEC experience and the streetscape). Then review the many options for those buildings and lower Main, and do a safety study to understand what actions will do the most to improve safety. We should not be destroying historic buildings and the gem of OEC on a hunch that it will save lives. Once those buildings are destroyed, we cannot unring that bell and I fear that we will look back on it in 50 years as an absolute crime. If you are motivated by the suffering business owners, go ahead and buy them out still. We need to remove that suffering from the equation, as it is not an appropriate driver to decide the fate of a 200+ year old town which, if we are good stewards, will be around for another 200+ years.

Lisa Orenstein
4341 Stonecrest Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: fracchia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adam Fracchia
<fracchia@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 7:14 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding historic Ellicott City.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty,

As professional archaeologist, I am writing to ask you to reconsider the current proposal to demolish large portions of the nationally significant historic structures without seriously considering all viable options, including those put forward by the 2016 McCormick Taylor Hydrology/Hydraulic Study.

I fully recognize the complexity and the challenges of this moment in Ellicott City's history and appreciate the hard work the staff and elected officials of Howard County have put into planning for the future of this community. I know the work ahead will not be easy.

Howard County Government does not have to face these challenges alone. Preservation Maryland, the statewide historic preservation organization, stands prepared to assist in the effort with the support of local and national partners. The organization is willing to pledge funds to support this effort – and the potential planning necessary to support alternatives to demolition. The organization will also continue to provide broad-based public outreach and legislative advocacy to assist the county in building the necessary political will to protect this historic resource.

Fortunately, there are many examples of historic communities and places similar to Ellicott City where innovation and creativity have balanced life safety and historic preservation. Existing studies have provided valuable insight into the work necessary to mitigate the most dire impacts of flooding – but more work is needed to understand the impact of the demolition of historic structures. There are legitimate and prudent alternatives to demolition which must be fully considered and studied before the bulldozer's blade is leveled at some of Maryland's most significant heritage. The economic, historic, and hydrologic impact must be fully understood before an irreversible demolition process begins.

Ellicott City is one of the State of Maryland's crown jewels. What you do here today will resonate for generations to come – and could, if done correctly, set a standard to which the rest of the nation strives to meet.

Therefore, I urge you to rise to meet this challenge and consider all options before permanently altering the historic fabric of such an important piece of Maryland's history and heritage. The future of Ellicott City depends on it.

Sincerely,
Adam Fracchia
1402 Avon Ct Halethorpe, MD 21227-3924
fracchia@umd.edu

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Waters Thompson <stephmwaters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 2:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: SUPPORT FOR CURRENT EC FLOOD PLAN

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

--

Stephanie Waters Thompson
240-463-7799 cell

Sayers, Margery

From: will@oelladesign.com
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 12:25 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon
Cc: Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Delorenzo, Carl
Subject: Demolition of Buildings in Old Town and forensic analysis of watershed SWM systems

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

I am writing to you regarding what I have recently learned about the plan to demolish multiple buildings in old town Ellicott City. I am a resident of Oella and though I am not your constituent, I patronize the downtown area often.

I am concerned about what I have heard and read about the flood mitigation study for old town. I am most concerned that ***flood issues within the watershed have not been sufficiently studied to support something as drastic as demolishing these historic resources*** as has been proposed. This option is largely based upon a theoretical model of flooding that has several major oversights.

1. ***The model (H and H study) does not utilize actual field collected flow data.*** The H and H model is entirely theoretical. It is fed using storm water inflow amounts that are based upon how upstream storm water management systems should operate- not how they actually operate. This does not take into consideration possible faulty design, construction, or maintenance of these systems to determine if they are actually performing as intended. On July 22 of 2018, I took an informal survey of several post 2000 constructed storm water ponds in the Tiber sub-water shed. All of the 4 visited sites were overflowed as a result of this rain storm- which was a relatively small, low intensity storm. I have strong concerns that many upstream swm systems are either not performing as intended or were not designed initially to mitigate 100 year events. To date, there has been no study or forensic audit of these systems to ensure that they are performing as intended.
2. The study used video data from the 2016 flood event to revise upwards inflow data on a pro-rated basis to match the observed flood event. This is not a problem in and of itself for a theoretical modeling exercise, except that ***the study did not include all of the SWM systems that contributed to the 2016 flood.*** Specifically the new SWM system serving the Burgess Mill/ Roger Carter Center/ Howard County Government was specifically excluded even though this SWM system was online and contributed during the 2016 flood event.
3. The new developments at Roger Carter/ Burgess Mill/ Government Center, like many developments post 2000, employ heavily the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) to meet their storm water design requirements. These systems, such as bio-swales, structured landscapes, rain gardens, and pervious paving- rely heavily on ground infiltration to function properly. They were developed primarily to address environmental and storm water quality issues- not quantity. ***BMP systems are untested in extreme flow conditions and may not perform adequately with regards to storm water quantity.*** Municipalities have been lax when it comes to reviewing and approving these systems during the planning phase and often overlook performance specs for semi-pervious surfaces, structured landscapes and sub-surface back fill in both design and construction. Developers and contractors are notorious for cutting corners when it comes to building these systems. In many ways, these BMP's have become the developer's magic bullet to get high density, urban scale projects like Burgess Mill/ Roger Carter approved when they would otherwise be stopped due to onerous traditional storm water management systems like ponds and retention structures. Lastly, these systems are routinely miss-managed after they come online. If they are not maintained properly- they can actually produce significantly more storm water than pre-development conditions. All BMP storm water systems need to be thoroughly

audited for design and performance, including maintenance records and coring/ excavation to verify substrate conditions prior to the destruction of our town.

I reached out to the planning department to find out if the watershed has indeed been audited for actual performance. I was told to file a FOIA request to receive the required information. ***I am writing to you to urge you to insist upon a detailed forensic audit based upon actual flow data of all water flowing into this system prior to tearing down any buildings in the historic district.*** This audit needs to be conducted independently and outside of the county planning department. This audit needs to include actual field collected data of water flow amounts within the watershed.

The buildings in Ellicott City have been in existence for almost 200 years. Yes there are flood problems here- but many historic districts have flood problems. Alexandria Virginia is flooding as I write this email. It will flood again. I understand the incredible life safety issue must be addressed and occupancy cannot happen this occurs. However, it is incredibly disingenuous to assume, now that upstream development has exacerbated and made untenable this situation- which was previously manageable- that these buildings should be razed. The development upstream should be razed first- or at least be examined to determine if they are performing as intended and if not- remediated to function properly. ***Nothing in the planning process has evaluated actual field conditions with respect to storm water management.*** The planning process is predicated on a hydrology model that is entirely theoretical of how the system should perform if it is designed, constructed and maintained correctly. We are on the verge of destroying perhaps the greatest historic resource in central Maryland. I hope that you will consider a more diligent study of this system before you make such an important decision. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Will Cleaveland, AIA NCARB LEED AP

September 16,2018

Chairperson Sigaty and members of the County Council:

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway is forwarding our testimony presented to the Howard County Preservation Commission on September 7,2018. We send this to you as you receive comments on CB 61and CB62-20118 as well as TAO1-20118. Our Preservation Commission testimony was in response to the Commission's agenda item related to an Advisory opinion on the demolition of 10 structures located on Main Street, the lower end of the Ellicott City Historic District.

Our Board did not discuss the specifics of the County Council legislation mentioned above but did review and discuss the August 23,2018, The Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan.

The first priority for our organization is public safety.

The second priority is water retention and conveyance. Projects are immediately needed. We know they were needed in 2011, in 2016, 2017 and now in 2018. The water retention and conveyance work has to start now. The funds are needed so these projects are worked 24/7 to completion. These projects are located above lower Main Street, Ellicott City.

Our third priority is for the County to purchase the buildings identified in the Plan if the owner wishes to sell. During the acquisition time frame the County needs to consider alternatives for lower Main Street in addition to the one proposed on August 23,2018.

There are unanswered questions and possible better or more effective solutions to lower Main Street water issues and solutions related to some if not all of the buildings propose for demolition. The County must invite many different experts to the table along with the community.

A very unsettling fact is, is the assertion that between 4-6' of moving water on Maryland Avenue and lower Main Street will occur in similar rain events even with the proposals presented in The Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan. The impact to Ellicott City's National Historic Landmark the B&O Rail Road Station is of grave concern.

Our organization is committed to lending our expertise as we move forward to find solutions.

Grace Kubofcik
Board President

Sayers, Margery

From: Randy Marriner <Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Mitigation Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

All,

I have tried NOT to be in the forefront of this discussion, but that now appears to be impossible. As you well know, I support the Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Mitigation Plan.

Can Historic Ellicott City (OEC) survive? It's up to you. You must not kick this can down the road. The time for action is now. Your failure to support and fund this plan just could be the death knell of OEC by driving all our businesses elsewhere.

As some of you know, I am a direct descendant of the founding families of Howard County. I am a Warfield, a Dorsey, a Gaither, a Ridgely, and more. My grandmother was a very proud member of The Daughters of the American Revolution. I have raised my children here. I have had multiple businesses here and currently employ 250 in our three restaurants and brewery.

I am a preservationist in spirit and in doing. We saved two historic barns on College Avenue from being bulldozed, taking them down board by board so that they could be reclaimed and repurposed. We have now taken a total of five old barns down saving them from destruction. When we bought what is now Manor Hill Tavern, 30-days prior to the 2016 flood, we had no idea in what bad shape those 1830s buildings really were. We invested over \$500,000 saving them, taking our total investment to more than \$2,000,000.

I am concerned that a group of well-intentioned but ill-informed 'preservationist' are becoming a very vocal minority screaming for more delay in what has become an extremely time sensitive matter to save lives and save OEC. OEC is more than centuries old granite buildings: its life comes from those who live, work and shop here.

In case you haven't seen this yet, I am attaching the following statement from 37 of us OEC business owners:

A Statement Regarding the Proposed Flood Mitigation Plan in Howard County

Greetings and salutations from a collective of business owners on Main Street in Ellicott City. We thought it appropriate that we share our thoughts with you, given the contentious and extremely divisive environment we find ourselves faced with at this monumental point in the history of our little town. We want to begin by expressing our love and eternal gratitude to those who have survived with us, mucked out with us, struggled to rebuild with us, and supported us. Those who have put their bodies where their mouths are, will be forever in our debt. Those who have lost their lives in this town, will forever be in our hearts.

Two shocking, catastrophic, and deadly floods in the space of 22 months. That's what we've been up against. Events that, alone, we wouldn't wish upon our worst enemies. Events that have destroyed everything we know and love. We need you to please take a moment and let that sink in. Digest the idea of losing everything you have, everything you have built, and potentially everything and everyone you love, in a matter of minutes. Set a timer for four minutes. What can you do in that time? Do you think you could gather all of your crucial belongings? Do you think you could organize a bunch of employees? Do you think you could find your keys and get to your car? Because on May 27, 2018, all it took was four minutes to go from cars and people on the street like any given Sunday, to utter destruction. We no longer have the luxury of time. We can no longer wait. There is no choice.

To be a part of the unique community that comprises Main Street is to be bestowed one of the great honors in life. And we don't take that honor lightly. We carry on our backs the history of those who came before us, and we strive to continue that legacy. We love this town. We love the community. We love all that it represents. But in order to continue to thrive, to continue all that we want to be a part of, there must be a change. That change must be drastic. And that change must happen now. There is no more time for studying. There is no more time for debate. Yes, our hearts break with yours at the idea of removing part of the history that comprises our town, but we also recognize that without this change, there will be no future. Without the current plan, there will be no Main Street to protect. Without the current plan, businesses will fail. Without the plan, more lives will be lost. We will not, and cannot, allow that to happen. Ellicott City, and all that it encompasses, means too much.

There is a time to build up, and a time to break down. A time to gain, a time to lose. Let us act now, before it is too late. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia and Donna Sanger, Park Ridge Trading Company

Pam Long, Pam Long Photography

Stacey and Nick Ventura, be blends

Kelli Fitzsimmons-Myers, Junk Girl/Journey From Junk

Rachel MacNeill Rawlings, Salon Marielle

Tammy Beideman, Sweet Elizabeth Jane

Joan Eve Shea-Cohen, Joan Eve Antiques and Collectibles

Shelley Sharkey, MissFIT

Angie and Michel Tersiguel, Tersiguel's

Jason Barnes, All Time Toys

Megan Clark, Curious Minds Toys

Kate Bowman, Clipper's Canine Cafe

Len and Sherry Fackler-Berkowitz, Great Panes

Jeni Porter, Little Market Cafe

Wendy Baird, insight180 Branding & Design

Cindi Ryland, Retropolitan and Taylor's Collective: Antiques, Art, Artisans

The Marriner Family, Manor Hill Tavern

Christa Mastrogianis, Wind River

Jon and Kay Sandler, Lawyers Advantage Title Group, Inc

Hatsumi Watanabe-Smith, Matcha Time Cafe

David Ennis, Connie Ennis, and Lee Ennis, Envy Salon

Timothy Kendzierski and Richard Winter, Talbot House LLC and Ellicott Mills Brewing LLC

Deanne Lenehan, Lenehan Studios

Paula Dwyer, Georgia Grace Cafe

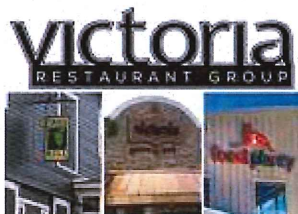
Charlene Townsend, Maxine's Antiques

Kelly Secret, Made on Main
Amie and Chris McCaslin, A La Mode Boutique
Mi Schill Kim, Oriental Art Collection
The Koplow Family, The ClayGround Studio & Gallery
Simon Cortes, LaPalapa Grill & Cantina
Linda Jones, Tea on the Tiber
David Carney, The Wine Bin
Donna Pidel, Ballet Conservatoire XIV
Jenn Skarda, Sayre's Eden
Susan Whary, Sweet Cascades
Melissa Hutchison, Gloss Hair Studio
Autumn Lewis, Sweet Suds

Best Regards,

Randy

E. Randolph Marriner
President & CEO
Victoria Restaurant Group
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042



410-215-4001 (cell)

Sayers, Margery

From: Randy Marriner <Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 2:57 PM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg
Subject: Re: Kittleman/Weinstein 5-Year Mitigation Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add:

Bert Wilson, CFA

Managing Director

EFW, Inc.

[8060 Main Street](#)

Ellicott City, MD 21043

E. Randolph Marriner
President & CEO
Victoria Restaurant Group
Manor Hill Brewing
MHF Productions
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Cell 410-215-4001

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 17, 2018, at 1:57 PM, Randy Marriner <Randy@victoriarestaurantgroup.com> wrote:

All,

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I am a preservationist in spirit and in doing. We saved two historic barns on College Avenue from being bull dozed, taking them down board by board so that they could be reclaimed and repurposed. We have now taken a total of five old barns down saving them from destruction. When we bought what is now Manor Hill Tavern, 30-days prior to the 2016 flood, we had no idea in what bad shape those 1830s buildings really were. We invested over \$500,000 saving them, taking our total investment to more than \$2,000,000.

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There is a time to build up, and a time to break down. A time to gain, a time to lose. Let us act now, before it is too late. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia and Donna Sanger, Park Ridge Trading Company

Pam Long, Pam Long Photography

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Rachel MacNeill Rawlings, Salon Marielle

Tammy Beideman, Sweet Elizabeth Jane

Joan Eve Shea-Cohen, Joan Eve Antiques and Collectibles

Shelley Sharkey, MissFIT

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Jason Barnes, All Time Toys

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Kate Bowman, Clipper's Canine Cafe

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Deanne Lenehan, Lenehan Studios

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Charlene Townsend, Maxine's Antiques

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Amie and Chris McCaslin, A La Mode Boutique

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The Koplow Family, The ClayGround Studio & Gallery

Simon Cortes, LaPalapa Grill & Cantina

Linda Jones, Tea on the Tiber

David Carney, The Wine Bin

Donna Pidel, Ballet Conservatoire XIV

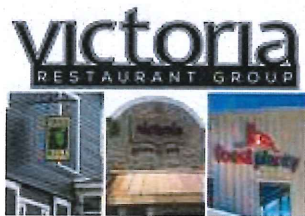
Jenn Skarda, Sayre's Eden

Susan Whary, Sweet Cascades
Melissa Hutchison, Gloss Hair Studio
Autumn Lewis, Sweet Suds

Best Regards,

Randy

E. Randolph Marriner
President & CEO
Victoria Restaurant Group
4411 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042



410-215-4001 (cell)

Testimonial in support of bill HPC-18-46

My name is Sherry Fackler-Berkowitz, my business and property are located at 8069 Main Street, Historic Ellicott City Maryland, the historic stucco building at the bottom of the hill.

In 2014, I formed a group within the Ellicott City Arts Collation to do a mural on the wall of The Little Theater on the Corner. The theme had already been chosen by The Rotary Club. It was to be of the old gas station that belonged to the Yates family sometime in the 1930's - 1940. The Rotary Club had a lot of information on the gas station. They had everything planed out to replicate the structure as close as possible. They were ever going to have an old gas pump. One time when I walked up to the wall with a contractor I realized that some of the markings of the gas station were still there. If you look close you can see where the structure of the station had been removed. Although I wasn't around at the time, the history of the gas station has lived on, even without the physical building.

Being one of the property / business owners who has chosen to have their building removed from over the Tiber River, I hope that the legacy of my building and business will one day be part of the history of Ellicott City, as the gas station has.

My point is that the buildings do not change or deny Historic Ellicott City it's history. We are so lucky in Historic Ellicott City to have all this history and I sure want to see it continue, but not the way I see it today.

I don't want the town to be remembered as the town where many people have lost their lives because the community feels the buildings are more important than the residents, business owners and the property owners. Yes, Ellicott City is changing, but when you think about it, it has always been changing. There are no longer Mills along the river, even though it's known as a mill town. We no longer have races on the train tracks between a steam engine and a horse. In fact, we no longer even have steam engines running on the tracks, but the history of the event remains.

As history continues, Ellicott City's future must change. The future is what makes tomorrows history.

We can't wait any longer. The next flood may just be the one that changes Ellicott City to a town none of us recognize, and we can't let that happen.

Allan and Jon have come up with a plan, and although many think it was rushed it's because it hasn't been on those people's minds. Allan and Jon have lived the nightmare along with all the residents, business owners and property owners. Never does a rain storm come that the residents, business owners and property owners, wonder if this will be the next flood. What about the children who have experienced these storms they too must be frightened, to be in town when it rains

In 2016 I had a tenant in my back apartment, after seeing a photo of the water from the Tiber River coming towards my building I was scared for my tenant, because I really didn't know what would happen. Lucky for both of us the structure was strong and held up.

In 2018 Joan Eve luckily escaped from my building. In fact, after talking to Joan on the phone when the rain started and then seeing the video of her escape I thought she waited to long before she left the building. When I saw the videos from the cameras on Portalli's building both on Main Street and the Tiber River I saw for the first time that within 30 mins Main Street went from rain on the road to a raging river. That could be one sale!!! The customer has their back to the street while talking to the business owner and turns around to leave only to find out that you are trapped.

As a business / property owner I never want to go through this again.

January 1st, 2019 will be 40 years my business has been in Historic Ellicott City.

The time to change the future history of Historic Ellicott City is NOW!!!

Sayers, Margery

From: Clarks ElioakFarm <clarkselioakfarm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 8:31 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen; Ball, Calvin B; Weinstein, Jon
Subject: Opposed to CB-61 and TAO-1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

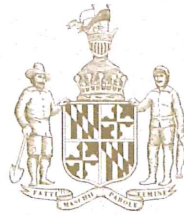
I support funding for the flood mitigation projects but I am opposed to the demolition of the Lower Main Street buildings and the speeded-up process that is currently being experienced. I feel that further consideration of other plans that do not require demolition of those buildings and that may better address the need for flood mitigation is necessary. I am not convinced that the proposed plan makes Main Street significantly safer. As the rain continues to come down, I understand the sense of urgency we all feel to put something in place to "fix" Ellicott City. Please let's step back for a moment and consider all proposed plans carefully and make a well-researched decision. There is still time to do this right without rushing through the process.

Thank you very much.

Martha Clark
10380 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

GAIL H. BATES
Legislative District 9
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 401
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3671 • 301-858-3671
800-492-7122 Ext. 3671
Fax 410-841-3395 • 301-858-3395
Gail.Bates@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 18, 2018

Dear Council Chairperson Sigaty and Members of the County Council,

I am writing to express my support for the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan as proposed by County Executive Kittleman and Council Member Weinstein.

This plan puts an emphasis on public safety, which should be our highest priority in rebuilding Historic Ellicott City. No one should feel that their personal safety is in danger while on Main Street, and being able to show that steps have been taken to mitigate the risk to life and property will be vital in ensuring that the historic district remains both vibrant and economically viable. Nobody wants to see such a major alteration made to the historic charm of Ellicott City. To give just one personal example, I have happy memories of time spent in Tea on the Tiber with my mother. I know so many of us have similar memories that we cherish that took place on Lower Main Street. This is a very difficult decision, but one that is necessary to prioritize the safety of the residents and merchants of Main Street. From what I have heard of this plan so far, I trust that steps will be taken to preserve as much of these historic buildings as possible while implementing this plan.

While much of the discussion has been understandably focused on the removal of buildings, I think it is also important to note that this plan, when implemented, will expand the capacity of the streams running through Ellicott City and provide for more water retention facilities upstream. These are projects that will meaningfully help mitigate future flooding in Ellicott City and should be supported.

After attending the briefing given to the County Council and the public information meeting on the Master Plan, I can see that the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan has clearly been carefully considered through years of study and that this is the most effective and efficient option available to mitigate future flooding in Historic Ellicott City. I would like to thank County Executive Kittleman and Council Member Weinstein for their work, not only in making this proposal but also on their efforts to educate the public on why this is the best option going forward. I know they share the admiration I have for Historic Ellicott City and the people who live, work, and own businesses in it.

Additionally, I hope you will support these bills because of the funding earmarked for flood mitigation in the Valley Mede area. Like Historic Ellicott City, the residents of Valley Mede have faced flooding far too frequently in recent years.

It is an honor to represent the residents of Ellicott City and Valley Mede in the Senate of Maryland. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist the County Government with pursuing state resources or legislation to address flood mitigation in these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gail H. Bates".

Gail Bates

Sayers, Margery

From: Ned Tillman <ned@sustainable.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 4:56 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: EC Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mary Kay – If you vote for the EC Plan you need to get something out of it – You need to make it much better than it is. I would suggest we commit 5 to 10 million to implement a serious climate action plan. Without this we are misleading the citizens of EC and the county and dooming our most vulnerable places. The solution is not all to be found in engineering designs. Prevention is the key.

Ned Tillman
443-472-3681
ned@sustainable.us
www.SavingThePlaces.com

Author of:
The Chesapeake Watershed, and
Saving The Places We Love
Coming Soon! The Big Melt

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Jones <annholmesjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Weinstein, Jon
Cc: Ball, Calvin B; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: Question - CB 61-2018, Flood Mitigation Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councilman Weinstein,

Throughout the hearing last night you made consistent reference to the openness of the planning process. The element that took me by surprise was the proposal to demolish the buildings on the lower portion of Main Street. Could you please specify the first time the demolition was mentioned in a public meeting.

Thank You,
Ann H. Jones

--

Ann H. Jones
2921 Greenway Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
443-690-8420 (cell)
410-461-6869 (home)

Sayers, Margery

From: Tiffany Murphey <murpheyta@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 7:34 AM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen
Subject: Obviously Old Town EC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Howard County City Council Team,

Question: will we still make these lists after Old Town Elliott City is literally half of what it is now? Is there a plan to keep the liveliness and culture of Old Town that we all love? And to keep the economy afloat? Or do we just replace it with character-less, "downtown" Columbia, which is being developed like crazy...does that development impact the watershed??

Thank you,
Tiffany Murphey
Ellicott City Resident.



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No. 4

Ellicott City, Md.



Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 4:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FW: Copy of testimony from 9/12/18
Attachments: attachment 1.docx

Colleagues,

I'm sharing testimony from Charles Kyler.

MK

--

Mary Kay Sigaty
Councilperson
Howard County Council, District 4

3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-2001

From: Kyler Home <kyler.iv@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 4:34 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Copy of testimony from 9/12/18

Dear Mary Kay,

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I have included my testimony along with relevant links for you or your staff regarding the Missing H&H two tunnel option, swift water standards, a simple presentation from NOAA about flood physics, and the Chicago Flood relief tunnel with cost and time lines.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Charles Kyler
[410-925-2410](tel:410-925-2410)

Sent from my iPad

September 17, 2018

I have heard the heart wrenching stories from many in our community. Owners, Employees, Residents, Visitors and Emergency Responders must be kept safe, no more lives should be put at risk to flood waters, but this plan does not do that.

When safer is not safe.

The August 23, 2018 Ellicott City Flood mitigation Plan, page 4, sighting the 2016 H&H Study states that during the 2016 flood, Lower Main Street saw over 8' of water with a velocity of approx 11.1fps. while upper Main Street, near the Brewery, saw levels of 4'-8' at velocities of approx 8 fps.

The proposed Stream Expansion Model, page 8, shows water depth reduced to 4'-8' and states a velocity drop to 4.5 fps along lower Main and a drop on upper main to 2'-6' around the brewery.

The Dept. of Interior, National Park Services Swiftwater Rescue Manual in an outlined box, page 8, states:

“Swiftwater involves water over two feet deep that is flowing at a rate greater than one knot (1.15 mph)* and occurring in a natural water course, flood control channel, or a flood-related environment.”*1.15 mph is equal to 1.7fps

Simply stated, while reducing water levels and flow rates, most of Main Street would be left far above the minimum limits of swiftwater, still capable of washing cars and pedestrians away. Leaving everyone, including first responders in harms way. Safer is not Safe. See Flood Physics attachment. (Linked)

In the H&H Study page 40, sec 4.7.5 Tunnel Bore Improvements, it states

“The tunnel bores were sized to convey adequate flood flows such that the channel that runs under the buildings on the south side of Main St. would not overflow and flood the adjacent buildings and roadway. The resulting change in the 100-year flooding from channel capacity can be seen for Areas 3 and 4, in Figure 4.12. (Attached)

The diagram clearly show NO flooding on Main Street. Yet this is the ONLY place this option is mentioned. We have been told repeatedly that “There is no option that stops flooding.” This looks like one to me.

There is also no data shown as to what the reduction would be if the proposed 2 (plus) culverts under Maryland Avenue would have if completed BEFORE building removal, or consideration of a single bore tunnel south of Main Street starting near West End Services and exiting into the Patapsco south of Lot C, such as the one completed in Chicago.

“The \$70 million tunnel was announced in 2013 following flooding that saw **residents evacuated by boat**. Construction began in 2016”. It was opened May 3, 2018.

This is not a pipe dream.(Attached).

This plan also fails to show time lines for proposed projects and what each will do to effect flood water levels along all of Federico road and Main Street.

Our town and all that work, live, visit and protect it deserve a plan that keeps us all safe. Jumping from the 45th floor may be SAFER than jumping from the 111th, but it is still not safe.

We would like to see the Maryland Ave culvert and tunnel bore options priced and modeled without building removal to be able to truly allow you to make a comparative cost analysis.

Thank you for your time and public service,

Charles Kyler
3570 Sylvan Lane
Historic Ellicott City, MD 21043

I am also attaching information regarding government Liability for Flood Hazard Mitigation.

Link to McCormick Taylor Project No. 5519-93 June 16, 2017

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=t3mtiyi2qIg%3d&portalid=0>

Link to the Department of Interiors NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SWIFTWATER RESCUE MANUAL

<http://mra.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/nps-swiftwater-rescue-manual-rev09-23-2012-SMALL.pdf>

Link to Flood Physics,

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/pdfs/WaterPhysics.pdf>

Link to Chicago tunnel article and videos.

<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170901/albany-park/exciting-boring-news-mile-long-albany-park-tunnel-drilling-complete/>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-albany-park-tunnel-htlstory.html>

https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdot/supp_info/albany-park-stormwater-diverson-tunnel.html

<https://www.pbs.org/video/70-million-albany-floodwater-tunnel-goes-online-ysndz8/>

A COMPARATIVE LOOK AT PUBLIC LIABILITY FOR FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION

ByDr. Jon A. Kusler, Esq.

Prepared for the Association of State Floodplain Managers Foundation,

Page 41,

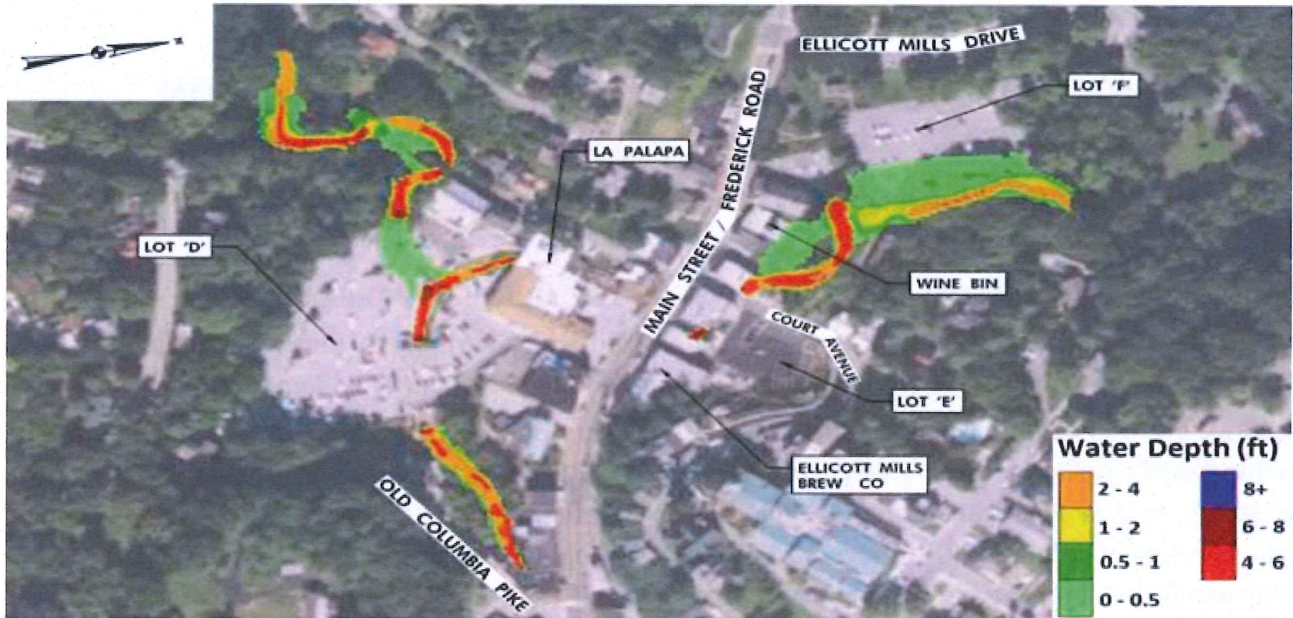
TORT LIABILITY FOR FAILING TO ADEQUATELY REGULATE FLOOD PRONE AREAS

Landowners damaged by natural hazards caused by the failure of governmental units to adequately administer or enforce regulations sometimes sue governmental units for such inadequacies.

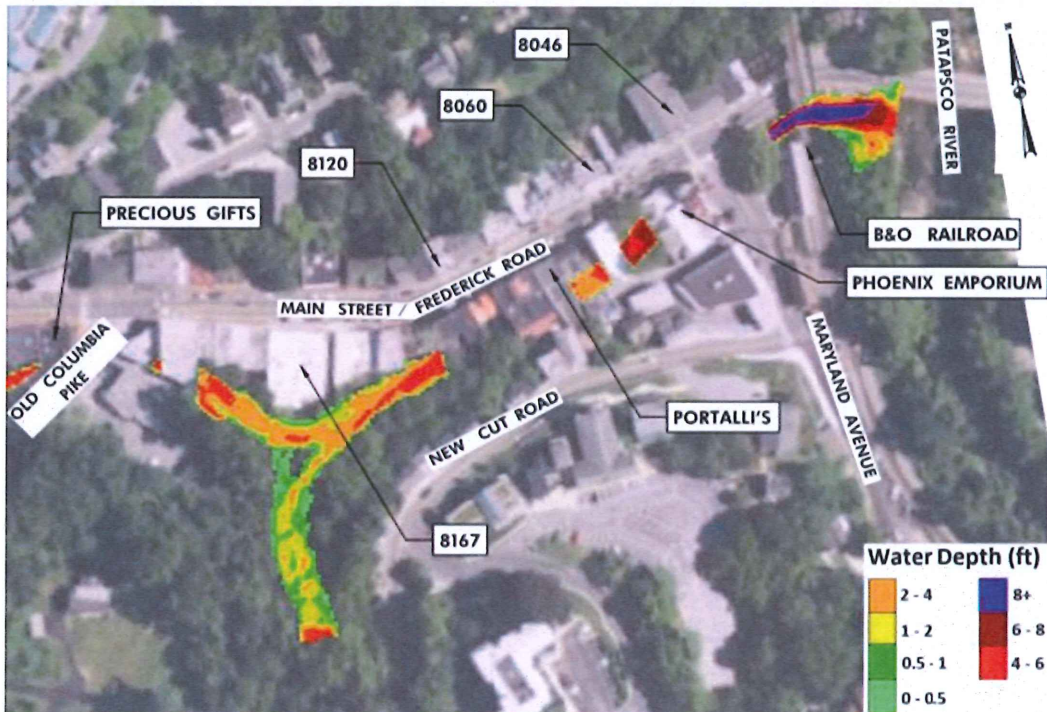
'... a Georgia Court in Columbus, Ga. v. Smith, 134 held that the Columbus was liable for failing to put limits on the increased amount of water which developers were allowed to run off into Bull Creek after complaints from landowners about periodic flooding and erosion of their properties. In addition, in another Georgia case, City of Columbus, Ga. v. Myszka 135 the court held the city of Columbus was liable for allowing uphill development approved and accepted by the city to increase the volume of water flowing through a stream and ditch with resulting flooding. This water included sewage. The court allowed punitive damages.'

Recent cases are finding principalities liable for damages incurred to properties biased on negligent planning and or enforcement. As the Counties Executive, County council, the offices of Law, Planning and Zoning, Engineering and Environment are all aware of the flooding hazards, including loss of life, proceeding with a plan that does not reduce the problem to the greatest extent would leave the county open to multiple future law suites.

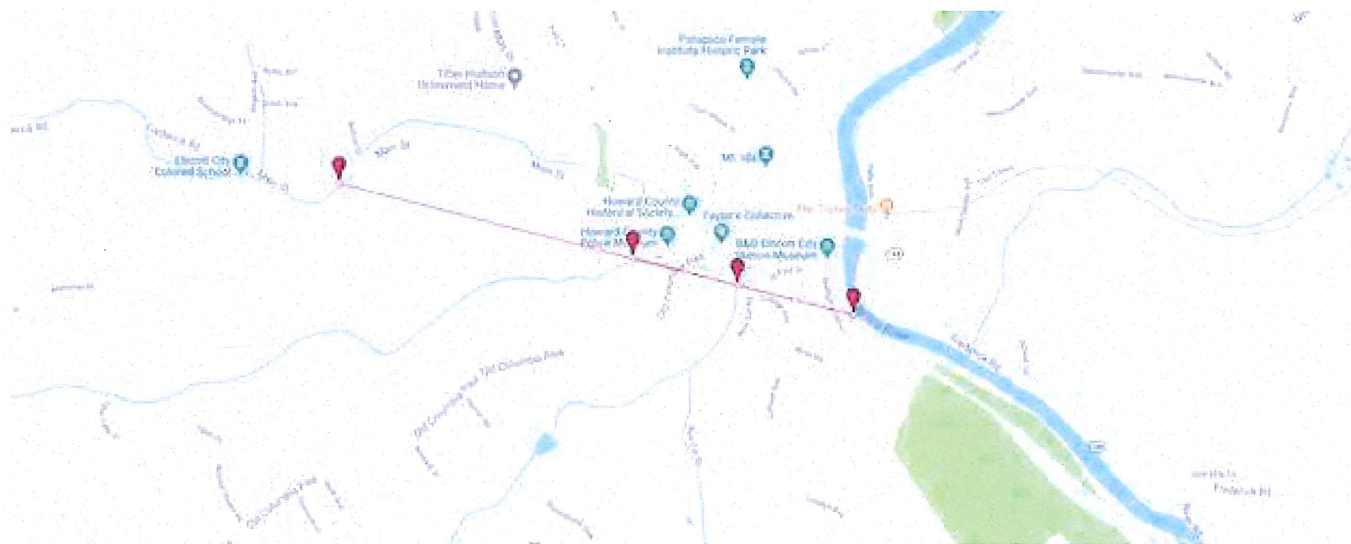
Figure 4.12: Flood Area Maps of Area 3 (below) and 4 (next page) w/ Tunnel Bores



2016 - Ellicott City Hydrology / Hydraulic Study and Concept Mitigation Analysis



Southern single bore concept tunnel with pick ups at Lot D and at New Cut.



Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:17 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Testimony of Sally Fox Tennant CB61-2018 and TA01-FY2019

From: Sally Tennant <sallyfoxt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:13 AM
To: Weinstein, Jon <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>; Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>; Fox, Greg <gfox@howardcountymd.gov>; Wilson, B Diane <BDWilson@howardcountymd.gov>; Sally Tennant <sallyfoxt@gmail.com>
Subject: Testimony of Sally Fox Tennant CB61-2018 and TA01-FY2019

Testimony of Sally Fox Tennant CB61-2018 and TA01-FY2019

I have been the owner of Discoveries Gallery for the past 38 years. I am also a displaced resident and the property owner, all at the same address at 8055 Main St in the historic district of Ellicott City. My property is the subject of these bills regarding purchase by the county, along with 9 others.

Over the past decade, long time business and property owners have noticed a major new problem develop of increasing runoff, which has threatened our town. This new, significant runoff now occurs even during normal rains. Floods in 2011, 2016 and 2018 have been the cause of incredible losses and hardship to me. The new trend of flash floods have cost me a fortune to rebuild both the business and the property. They have left me homeless for long periods of time on multiple occasions. After the 2018 flood, I knew that the proposed Master Plan still projected high levels of rushing water of 4-6 feet on lower Main St., which is presently too dangerous to rebuild right now, to potentially threaten my life and the lives of employees and customers. I also became aware of the county's interest in purchasing the property, another reason I have not proceeded with repairs and rebuilding. To set the record straight from misinformation being bantered about, my property is not irreparable or condemned. Certainly, county officials would have informed me and provided a written letter and report of structural findings of this nature. To the contrary, the steel beams and structure look quite sound per professionals I had in to take a preliminary look when exploring my options. Additionally, to present factual background, the area of missing flooring is about 15% of the total first floor square footage (50% of the portion directly over the river), not the entire floor is gone. However, repairs would be more expensive than the 2016 flood.

Over the past 2 years, I have attended almost every one of the many public meetings offered by the county. Allan Kittleman is not responsible for many of the problems we are facing today but he has the unfortunate responsibility to fix problems that were decades in the making. So here we are. The man made factors over many years which add to the devastation of these floods is staggering. Those controllable extra feet of volume and the increased velocity are the tipping point of why these 10 buildings are now up for proposed purchase and possible demolition. Way above the climate change factor, the extreme damage from flooding is also very likely a combination of the overdevelopment runoff, a lack of strict adherence to regulation, inadequate regulation and oversight, inadequate infrastructure, failure to initiate meaningful mitigation in prior years after the 2011 wake up call, etc which lay the groundwork for the extraordinary measures proposed today. The reality is, we are out of time and have been out of time for years.

I am the only 1 of the 10 to be in the unenviable position of being the property owner, business owner and a resident. I am also losing my fully paid for home. I have lost everything I have spent my life working towards. I had a home, mortgage free, a successful business in a prime location, rent free and a solid real estate investment property with income for my eventual retirement. My store was a very sought after location with over 2,000 square feet on the first floor and 2 rental apartments. However, Ellicott City is in an emergency situation and action needs to be taken now. If just compensation can be reached, I will take a serious offer in to consideration for sale of my property to the county. If

there is the necessity to separate the county purchasing the buildings from whether to proceed with demolition, the outcome for the 10 buildings will be easier to determine collectively if purchased and owned by the county. My opinion is that Ellicott City is at a huge risk, a risk which only increases dramatically with delay. Also, 4-6 feet on lower Main St is not an acceptable ultimate resolution so I hope that other major mitigation efforts will follow this emergency measure. Inaction will destroy the town I spent a lifetime, devoting many decades of my life and entire career to help EC evolve in to the great destination it has become. Action is needed now to protect Ellicott City's future viability.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:17 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Save Main Street in Ellicott City

From: Frank Sheehan <francisshsheehan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 10:24 AM
To: info@presmd.org; Weinstein, Jon <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>; Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>; Fox, Greg <gfox@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Please Save Main Street in Ellicott City

It's also worth noting Annapolis floods regularly. But they've never once considered tearing down their historic district. They understand it's importance.

Frank Sheehan

240-381-9662

francisshsheehan@yahoo.com

On Monday, September 24, 2018, 10:21:26 AM EDT, Frank Sheehan <francisshsheehan@yahoo.com> wrote:

Was in Annapolis this past weekend. Main Street was so lively... filled with hundreds of people going to and from restaurants and shops and even buskers playing their instruments. After Annapolis buried the power lines and laid brick down on Main Street in the 90s, I thought maybe Ellicott City will do the same with their main street. But no... that never happened. And instead we're now talking about bulldozing nearly 20 historic buildings along it.

Please do everything you can to save Main Street. There are so few places like it in Maryland.

Frank Sheehan

240-381-9662

francisshsheehan@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:18 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: 500 more people signed "Allan H. Kittleman: Oppose the Demolition of the South End of Historic Ellicott City"

From: mail@changemail.org <mail@changemail.org>
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 1:29 AM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 500 more people signed "Allan H. Kittleman: Oppose the Demolition of the South End of Historic Ellicott City"

change.org New signatures

The Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

Allan H. Kittleman: Oppose the Demolition of the South End of Historic Ellicott City

Petition by Preservation Maryland · 500 supporters



500 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Elizabeth Novak

Chelsea, MA · Sep 24, 2018

I'm signing because Main Street has gotten a bum deal for so many years. That area is so important to us home town folk, and to the economy of the city and the county. Tear down the new builds instead and figure out how to save the historic district!



Patricia Crittenden

Ellicott City, MD · Sep 24, 2018

I think this has been rushed and other options should be considered.



Jane Tremble

Boston, MA · Sep 24, 2018

I do not think those proposing the demolition of the properties on lower Main Street have adequately pursued measures to stop the causes of the flooding upstream.



Leslie Gray

El Cajon, CA · Sep 24, 2018

It's my hometown



Frank Ayers

Dundalk, MD · Sep 24, 2018

The demolition of historical buildings won't stop the flooding. Although the destruction of Bloede Dam is a start, to free up the Patapsco River, what's more important is that the people and politicians stop letting the development companies rape and destroy every last forest and hilltops in the E.C/Elkridge area.,

[View all 500 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov, the address listed as the decision maker contact by the petition starter. If this is incorrect, please [post a response](#) to let the petition starter know.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:19 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Work Session 9/24

From: Tony McGuffin <tonyjmcguffin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 10:35 PM
To: marykay@marykaysigaty.com; Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Work Session 9/24

Hi Mary Kay,

Good luck tomorrow with your work session. I'm hoping that you will explore alternatives to the Kittleman/Weinstein plan as well as looking at that plan. The potential alternatives have been studied, analyzed and vetted so much more than the K/W plan, an important distinction. My house overlooks the flood. I can see where the water hits the street and then rushes on its way to lower Main Street. It's devastatingly powerful. This deluge should not be released on the town uncritically, without careful analysis, or without extreme caution. And it will be released with the K/W plan. They want to deal with the water once it gets downtown, rather than try to stop it from getting there, an easier, more practical prospect in many ways. In fact, some potential alternatives end up with no flooding water on the street.

The current plan was hatched just recently, and is encumbered by so many uncertainties. In fact, I must urge you, with all respect, to look at all possible alternatives. Jon has said over and over that he went with this plan after the May 27th flood when the property owners asked him for aide with their financial trauma. I don't blame him for wanting to help them, but this plan is so extreme, and dangerous in its lack of study and modelling. It does not make the town safer, and for a multi-year period makes it bizarrely dangerous, with myriad unknown factors, without data depicting scenarios of increased currents catching people and cars, and then depositing them in a huge unfinished construction site. Neither does it perform as well in mitigation as the alternative plans available from already completed studies. And please understand that no new studies need to be initiated, I know that is a common complaint from the vocal EC K/W supporters, but a bit of a straw man. The necessary studies are done and paid for; they are resources to use.

I'm not saying that some of the K/W plan shouldn't move forward the end, I don't know. We should look at it, but not rush into it. It just has too many predictable and unpredictable dangers and no certain solutions. It's predictable to imagine increased drownings and the total destruction of the Train Station without those buildings in place. What's unpredictable are questions like, what if we leave the buildings and they fall, or what happens when the River rises higher than the channel? Could be the worst scenario ever, with the whole thing backing up. Especially if we haven't sufficiently mitigated flood waters from the West. Double whammy. Meantime, I do recommend that the Council order those ten lower Main Street buildings to be inspected as quickly as possible to inform the decision-making process.

We have efforts already going forward, some of which are a part of the K/W plan, and also part of the 2016 H&H study. I would ask the Council to apply funds to initiate more of those projects which will, each of them, make improvements in the actual amount of water flowing down the street as each are completed. So, if a

flood comes midway through the plan, we have made improvements. If the flood comes mid-demolition/construction, a period of many months, up to a couple years likely, that could be catastrophic, even pushing EC to the point of no return, like Daniels. Well, probably not as bad as Daniels, here in EC, the developers could come and make a mall of some sort, I suppose.

Good luck, Mary Kay. I trust you will tax your analytical skills and energy to the maximum to find the best solution in this very difficult task. I also hope you have a pleasant day tomorrow doing that!

Tony

Tony McGuffin
8672 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD. 21043
443-538-3609

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FW: Testimony CB 61-Cb62 and TAO 1-2018

Colleagues,

Grace has resent the attachment to her previous email.

Thanks.....MK

--

Mary Kay Sigaty
Councilperson
Howard County Council, District 4

3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-2001

From: grace kubofcik <gracek8@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Testimony CB 61-Cb62 and TAO 1-2018

Mary Clay: Here it is the old fashion way.
Grace K

September 6,2018

Re: HPC 18-46 Advisory comments-

Multiple Properties in the Ellicott City

Historic District

Chairperson Shad and members of the Historic Preservation Commission:

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway's (PHG's) mission is to preserve, protect, interpret and restore the environment, history and culture of the Patapsco Valley. Our organization is the managing entity for the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

We appreciate the opportunity to present some comments for the Commission's consideration as it weighs decisions relative to the future of historic Ellicott City. We recognize the role of the Commission and staff, who have been directly involved with the buildings and structures in the Historic District of Ellicott City over the years and appreciate your commitment to historic preservation.

First and foremost, PHG recognizes and supports the urgent, compelling need to take measures to provide for the safety of those who live in, work and visit the Historic District.

The ongoing challenge of water retention and conveyance lies in the fabric of the history of the town. It still is a challenge today and will be into the future. Major projects for water retention and infiltration are immediately needed, some correctly state they needed to be started many years ago. The Historic District faces both the impacts from Patapsco River flooding and upper level run-off into the river tributaries and Main Street.

The authentic streetscape found in the Historic District, which features buildings immediately adjacent to- the National Road, Main Street is rare and evokes much of the town's charm and attracts visitors from around the world. PHG recognizes and empathizes with those who are making difficult decisions about their ability to continue to sustain themselves in these buildings, given the flash flooding threat and reality that we are living with today. Therefore, PHG supports the County in its efforts to acquire these 10 buildings on lower Main Street, as identified in The Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan, August 23, 2018. We recognize the importance of these 10 buildings built in the 1830-1930 time frame. That century represents approximately half the Period of Significance for the Historic District, and nine of the buildings contribute to the historic character of the District. .

It is our hope and desire that this acquisition process will provide critical time for questions to be answered, as well as an opportunity to further ensure that consideration has been given to possible alternatives that may minimize the scope of the demolition proposal. Of utmost importance and concern to PHG is the protection of the site of the 1830 Ellicott City Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station (a designated National Historic Landmark), which also includes its historically significant roundtable and freight house.

PHG is confident that the Commission will carefully research the buildings proposed for demolition, their history, significance and visual impact on the historic district streetscape.

PHG is ready, and welcomes the opportunity to explore options with the Administration, its consultants and other partners.

We recognize that further discussion and opportunities for modifications to the proposed flood mitigation solution will become available during the on-going Ellicott City Master Planning process. As we move toward that process, we hope

to have the benefit of greater insight into the decisions surrounding the proposed Flood Mitigation Plan for Ellicott City. It is incumbent upon everyone involved in helping to make these important decisions to weigh both the historical implications as well as the overarching public safety concern. What is in front of us now is to engage in ways that best help the County to develop a strategic, long term plan that provides for the continuing economic vitality of the Historic District's Main Street residents, retail and visitors and recognizes its historic features.

Grace Kubofcik

President

On Sep 21, 2018, at 4:45 PM, Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Grace,

Would you resend your attachment entitled PHG Commission? For some strange reason, we cannot open it.

Thanks!

Mary

--

Mary T. Clay
Special Assistant to Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council, District 4

3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-2001

From: grace kubofcik <gracek8@verizon.net>

Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 10:25 PM

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>;

Weinstein, Jon <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov>; Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>;

Fox, Greg <gfox@howardcountymd.gov>

Cc: james kubofcik <gracek8@verizon.net>; Lindsey Baker <director@patapsco.org>

Subject: Testimony CB 61-Cb62 and TAO 1-2018

Sayers, Margery

From: wendy@insight180.com
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 8:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony in support of County's Flood Mitigation Plan

Copy of Wendy Baird's testimony from 9-17-28 in support of the County's Flood Mitigation Plan (TA01-FY2019 and Council Bills 61-2018, 62-2018)

Good evening.

My name is Wendy Baird, I'm the owner of insight 180 brand consulting and design. My business has been located on Main Street, Old Ellicott City for 18 years. I love Ellicott City. It's charming and quaint and quirky. It's the perfect town for my creative business and a wonderful place to share with clients and friends and family. I've started many great business relationships over coffee at Bean Hollow or a beer at the Brew Pub.

When my office was at 8307, underneath La Palapa and Su Casa, we had a flood in 2006 caused by trees and debris that backed up at the footbridge that connected one side of Parking Lot D to the other.

It was because of that and many subsequent rain events that we learned to take note of river flow and height. We knew, by watching one particular boulder, when it was time to pack up laptops and get out of town -- our first emergency preparedness plan.

In 2016 that all changed. It was no longer lots of rain and the Patapsco rising, it was about velocity and incredibly dangerous conditions. ----- It was about furniture, planters and cars floating down the street causing massive damage to fronts of buildings, and floors being blown out of buildings over the Tiber.

We were heartbroken for our neighbors, and yet we all rallied, because that is what the resilient people who live and work here do.

My company came back to Main Street, higher up the street (above the river). We love Ellicott City.

And then, we watched in disbelief again -- horrified and holding our breath -- this May. Ellicott Mills **Road** was washed away, and further down Main Street, the damage was unimaginable -- and the stories harrowing.

Forget every 1000 or 100 years. . . We didn't even get two.

It will happen again. Hopefully not tonight. We don't have time to wait. This plan should go into effect immediately, and honestly, even more needs to be done.

I understand this is difficult for so many...SO many people are passionate about this town. . . but can we please shift this conversation for a moment to WHAT IF?. What if the area that is calling for building removal could actually honor the history of Ellicott City in a beautiful way, while also preserving life. What if that area of the Tiber became an engaging, welcoming addition. We have some amazingly talented people who have been working in the flood groups and who love this town and its history, AND I believe could come up with some innovative results. But we can't wait.

We cannot risk one more person having to describe what it feels like as they begin to get carried down the street **or when** the building they are in shakes because a car, concrete slab or bridge from upstream comes crashing into a support beam under their floor.

I urge you to support this plan. Don't wait. We can honor the history AND protect the people who live, work and visit here every day--creatively, safely, respectfully. Thank you.

In addition:

Thank you for the work you do. I know this isn't easy. Thank you to those who have been on the tours with Lori Lilly and Ron Peters -- it brings a whole new understanding to the problem. Please continue the development moratorium. Please do not allow any more building take place in or near these crucial Watershed areas without responsible, appropriate, even additional and/or corrective flood mitigation actions.

Wendy Baird, president, Insight 180
And Howard County (Columbia) resident in District 2

Wendy Baird, President

insight180

brand consulting and design

tel 410-203-0777 | cel 410-707-6270

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: insight180.com



September 24, 2018

Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty
Chair, Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: Future Plans for Ellicott City

Dear Councilwoman Sigaty:

The Howard County community was devastated in 2016 when flooding wreaked havoc in the historic district of Ellicott City. Resiliency and a resounding human spirit led business and property owners to rebuild with hopes for an even better future. Quite naturally, all were heartbroken when just two years later, flooding ravaged the city once again. This latest occurrence has forced us all to re-evaluate how we move forward in the best interest of economic prosperity and public safety.

Recently, County Councilman Jon Weinstein and County Executive Allan Kittleman introduced a plan and corresponding legislation that if approved would begin to remedy many of the issues that cause significant damage when torrential rains come. While many question whether tactics such as demolition as the way to go, what cannot be argued is that Old Ellicott City's infrastructure deficiencies must be addressed in a manner that is different than previously thought.

As a business organization charged with fostering economic and community development, the Howard County Chamber is not positioned to comment on the engineering and technical elements of the proposed plan. We are, however positioned to state that if significant plans are not put in place to minimize future flooding, future economic vitality will be significantly stymied. Business growth and job creation is predicated on financing, sound infrastructure, public safety, and positive public imagery. These things and more create a sense of security for those that finance and insure businesses. They also create a positive customer experience for consumers. Since June of this year, Old Ellicott City merchants do not have these things. As such, planning must be done now to sure the future economic viability of this beloved historic district. Failure to do so could quite substantially result in lost economic and employment

activity, as well further risk to the health and well-being of the community's residence and proprietors.

The Chamber thanks you in advance for your consideration of our position and concerns. For questions and comments, I can be reached directly at 443-878-1234.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President, Howard County Chamber

CC: Howard County Council
The Honorable Allan Kittleman, Howard County Executive
Howard County Chamber Board of Directors

Sayers, Margery

From: craig stewart <craig_stewart@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 5:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bill61-2018

Dear council members,

Please vote against the subject bill that would make the Flood Mitigation Plan an emergency act. There is a better flood mitigation plan that has been developed by a local group of people that requires your attention before proceeding with any mitigation actions.

Yours truly,
Craig Stewart

Sayers, Margery

From: John Walter <serviodeo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 3:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Historic Ellicott City

Dear Howard County Council:

In regard to TAO1-FY2019 and council bills 61-2018 and 62-2018, Historic Ellicott City deserves a better plan to protect its citizens, visitors and businesses. Please push pause on the portion of the plan that seeks to demolish buildings right away. There are alternative proposals that need to be studied in greater detail. 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. Simply demolishing historic buildings and redeveloping the area will not make the town any safer. Demolition and re-development will only accomplish the destruction of a historic town. Once the historic town loses some buildings, the town will also lose the charm and drive people away. I urge you to vote against the destruction of the buildings, in order to preserve the historic area while simultaneously exploring alternative plans. It is not the buildings which are flooding the town, but the water. Stop the water and save the buildings.

Sincerely,

John Walter

Sayers, Margery

From: molliebean@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 9:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Ellicott City

Dear Howard County Council:

In regard to TAO1-FY2019 and council bills 61-2018 and 62-2018, Historic Ellicott City deserves a better plan to protect its citizens, visitors and businesses. Please push pause on the portion of the plan that seeks to demolish buildings right away. There are alternative proposals that need to be studied in greater detail. 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. Please. You just can't demolish Ellicott City it would be a monstrous disaster for history. I will do anything to save it. It has my heart. Once it is gone it will be gone forever.

Sincerely,

Lisa Napier

Life could be wonderful if people would leave you alone..

~Charlie Chaplin~

Sayers, Margery

From: JHU <cwalter@cs.jhu.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 6:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Save the buildings in Historic Ellicott City

Dear Council Members,

Please re-address the advice given by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and other water-control management experts who have submitted proposals and/or advice on how to control the flood water; and then, keep the historic buildings from demolition.

No tourist or local resident will be interested in visiting old Ellicott City once the character and charm of the town is destroyed. Certainly a large void or even park-like land will distract from the ambiance visitors sense today...the shadows cast by a narrow Main Street, the granite stone, and wood frame antique buildings, the feeling that this place is historical, and unique. No wide, open void of space, or newly constructed building will be of interest to anyone, especially tourists. People come to historic Ellicott City for its feel of history not open space.

Most importantly the rather recent phenomena of flood brought on by heavy rains...flowing downhill...will not be prevented with the destruction of the old buildings. At this point, it would be best to follow the advice of the US Army Corps of Engineers and experts and divert or tunnel the water away keeping the residents, shop owners and patrons safe. I am under the impression that volunteers have stepped forward, as well, in helping to secure outside funding to help the community tackle this important task.

When you convene to vote please cast your vote to preserve all of the historic district and not destroy this Howard County gem.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary Walter

Sayers, Margery

From: Gerry Frank <gfrank@frankbiz.com>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 1:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony on Proposed EC Flood Mitigation Plan

Written Testimony

Submitted by:

Charles Gerald (Gerry) Frank

5367 Five Fingers Way

Columbia, MD 21045

I am against the County Plan to demolish 10 historic buildings on Main Street.

I am for the preservation of life.

After witnessing testimony from the business owners, residents and concerned citizens that are in support of the current plan, it is heartbreaking to hear of personal accounts of panic, sacrifice and resilience from the recent flood events.

There is not one person from either side of the issue that I know of that does not put human life first and foremost in whatever solution is ultimately voted on.

I have been a resident of Ellicott City, have located my business at three different addresses in OEC over the course of 20+ years. I love this town and believe there is a better way.

My understanding is that the plan developed after the 2016 flood included tunnel bore solutions. The current plan does not. The current plan, after fully implemented allows for 4 to 6 feet of floodwater at the foot of Main Street. Enough to float SUV's. Enough to kill.

Why wouldn't we take an approach that removes the threat of floodwater from the top of Main Street -- diverting the water at the source under the town to channel to the Patapsco? Why was the original plan scrapped?

Clearly over the past decade there have been numerous new developments above Main Street. Many have suggested this overdevelopment has directly contributed to the massive flooding. If we look at the root of the problem, we could conclude that the wrecking ball should start with the newer developments. This of course will never happen for it is far easier to remove "condemned" buildings and rally support in the name of saving human life.

I believe the right solution will be difficult. And complex. To include immediate measures to provide for emergency alerts, better egress, temporary relocation of highest risk businesses and residents during construction and mitigation efforts. A multi-tiered solution that could be a national model for other flood-prone historic districts to study and learn from.

This of course will be costly. And not a "quick fix". Should the buildings be demolished, the fabric of a town that has withstood centuries and generations will forever be gone.

As was written in a *New York Times* 1963 editorial "*Farewell to Penn Station*", "We will probably be judged not by the monuments we build but by those we have destroyed."

Thank you,

Gerry Frank

Testimony Against Council Bill 61-2018
September 21, 2018

Marjorie Valin
5367 Five Fingers Way
Columbia, MD 21045
443.691.0289
marjorievalin@gmail.com

My husband and I have a small marketing firm, Frank Strategic Marketing, that has been located both in Oella and on Main Street over the years. We were forced out, not by floods, but by the 2009 recession which put us under a mountain of debt to survive.

I have not endured the terrifying ordeal of running from floodwaters, but I know the feeling of financial desperation. Those fear factors combined make me sure that the stakeholders along Main Street are grasping at the county's flood mitigation plan, as the only viable solution that can give them a way out.

What if it's not? What if there is an alternative that can be implemented in the same amount of time, for the same amount of money, remove the floodwaters from Main Street and leave the historic streetscape intact? Would the council even consider a better alternative?

It is clear there is a camp within the county/business community that is so wedded to the Kittleman Weinstein plan that nothing else will get due consideration, and that would be doing a grave disservice to the stakeholders along Main Street.

It also would be a disservice to the rest of the county who shop, dine and bring friends to the historic district. It was clear at the public hearing that the testimony of anyone not directly affected by the floods was regarded as less legitimate or informed than that of supporters. As a taxpayer, business owner (so doubly taxed), county resident, diner, shopper and neighbor—I find that logic flawed, and irrelevant. The issue is, what is the best way to prevent flooding, bring business and residents back to Main Street, and restore historic Ellicott City? It should be future facing.

I believe that the 2018 flood plan ignores better alternatives that were presented after 2016, including boring tunnels. A lot of darts have been thrown at this concept, but the underlying models suggest the time and cost to construct the tunnels would be about equal—or less—than

the current county plan. It has the distinct advantage of redirecting floodwaters away from Main Street and preserving the historic commercial core.

Removing the buildings on lower Main Street could create more problems than the void they leave behind. It leaves the depth and velocity of water at the bottom of Main Street unmitigated and headed straight to buildings on the North side of the street and the B&O Railroad station..

While I appreciate just how much work has gone into the county's plan, it fails the 'good enough' test. The current plan reduces flooding but not enough to save lives. At 4-6 feet, water moving at 4-5 feet per second leaves people in harm's way.

We need a plan that gets rid of water, not buildings.

We need a plan that preserves life, hope, community and heritage.

We need a plan that turns off the spigot, not one that enlarges the basin.

We need a plan that repairs the fissure splitting our community. Relationships can be as irreparable as buildings. We need an olive branch.

Winston Churchill said "We shape our buildings and afterwards, our buildings shape us.

OEC is the wonderful place it is today because of the fabric of its built environment. I ask the council to consider a better solution in place of the current county plan.

Testimony re: CB61-2018

Bill Wither
Fels Lane
Ellicott City

I am active in several local groups, but please note that this testimony is my personal opinion.

There is an advantage in sending in a late comment. I have benefitted from hearing friends and neighbors testify, and am inspired by their generous sharing of experiences and expertise. My conditional support for this bill is informed by what I am learning from community leaders with a range of opinions.

While your vote on the bill is up/down, please understand that this solution can only work as one part of a much more systemic approach.

Please acknowledge the realities:

1. The river needs a floodplain. The water needs a place to go, and trying to catch it behind dams is a high-risk proposition. The current bill provides an important piece of a possible solution.
2. It will happen again. Whether or not it is politically expedient for you to acknowledge climate change or the impact of upstream development, the conditions in our town are changed forever. We need to be ready to make the sacrifices that allow us to live with this ongoing change. These sacrifices will extend beyond the current bill.
3. There is no "one and done". Please consider the need for more than just the solution that is presented by the bill, and continue to investigate and implement solutions. The watershed is a system that requires attention throughout its entire course. The Council recently put a moratorium in place on new development in the watershed. Please use that timeout well, and consider not only huge projects, but also the administration and strengthening of current rules about building on or near steep slopes. Please also consider improving runoff mitigation requirements to reflect future needs and the contribution to the entire watershed. If the moratorium ends and we resume business as usual, we will have failed.
4. We can't do this alone. The conversation about drastic action in response to climate change is happening in cities and towns across America. We need to learn from other jurisdictions. We also need to think big when it comes to solutions and rely on funding sources beyond Howard County, including public/private partnerships, State funds, and Federal funds.
5. Community ≠ Consensus. I have facilitated and mediated in large town hall type settings, including at the local government and state policy level. The best goal for this type of interaction is not consensus, but engaging as many stakeholder ideas as possible. Please remain open to the idea that there are no outsiders here. If they care enough to speak up, then their voices should be respected. Just as we don't reject flood relief donations from around the world because they are not "local", we must welcome other interpretations of what is needed, and not shut down testimony because of the

speaker's zip code or party affiliation. A receptive attitude will serve us well as we proceed in the invention and implementation of a more complete solution.

Thank you.

Testimony on TAO1-FY2019, Council Bill 61-2018, and Council Bill 62-2018

Dear Members of the County Council,

My name is Melissa Metz and I live at 3101 Chatham Rd. in Ellicott City. I wanted to provide this testimony in person, but due to unforeseen circumstances I could not attend the hearing. My husband Dan Metz also supports this testimony. We support the three bills before you to enable the proposed 5-year plan for flood mitigation in Ellicott City to be implemented.

I grew up in Ellicott City, and have been visiting and enjoying Old Ellicott City since I was in middle school or earlier, beginning with taking dance lessons at Caryl Maxwell Classical Ballet. I have fond memories of visiting Discoveries, Riverside (coffee shop that preceded Bean Hollow), Forget-me-not Factory, among others back then, and Discoveries, Bean Hollow, and others more recently. Because of the importance of Old Ellicott City in our lives, we got married there – at Emory United Methodist Church on Church Rd.

My husband and I moved back to Ellicott City two weeks before the July 30, 2016 flood. We suffered for our friends' losses and the devastation of that flood, and supported the community in its recovery. We cheered the return of businesses to Main Street and were crushed when the town flooded again. (I was so upset that my 2 month-old baby must have felt it too and took 6 hours to get to sleep that night!) We have been supporting the community in recovery efforts as much as we can.

I am in support of the County's five-year plan for flood mitigation and the three bills before you (TAO1-FY2019, Council Bill 61-2018, and Council Bill 62-2018). You have heard many reasons why this plan is a good one, and why dozens of businesses and many people with close ties to Old Ellicott City support the plan and the bills. Unfortunately, a group of individuals that consists mostly of people who do not live or work in Old Ellicott City, and were not directly impacted by the flooding, have been vocally opposed to the five-year plan. I would like to address a few misconceptions that you might hear in the testimony of people who oppose this plan/these bills.

- *Transparency:* You might hear testimony that the process of coming to the current proposal was not transparent enough. The County has done a tremendous job of holding public meetings and gathering community input. There have been countless public meetings, starting with the Flood

Workgroup in mid-2015, the Community Advisory Group after the 2016 flood, and the Master Plan workshops after the CAG was finalized. I say, if dozens and dozens of meetings were held over years, and people didn't attend them, that doesn't mean the meetings didn't happen. [Lisa Markovitz may have gotten that line from me 😊] Although the possibility of acquiring these buildings and demolishing them in order to widen and deepen the stream channel was not discussed publicly before it was announced, these meetings pored over countless ideas and scenarios, and did not come up with anything that would protect the town to this extent.

- *Evidence:* You might hear that there is not enough evidence in support of the proposed 5-year plan. There was a study after the 2011 flood, the Flood Workgroup's study, stream corridor assessments, and the Hydrology and Hydraulic study by McCormick-Taylor. This last study provides a best-practice model used to test multiple iterations and scenarios, and get to real solutions that will protect the community. No sound reason to not trust the McCormick-Taylor study or model has been put forth.
- *Options:* You might hear additional ideas for flood mitigation, that people in the general public believe the County has not thought of or thought through alternatives sufficiently. The multiple studies and meetings (Flood Workgroup, CAG) mentioned above examined flood issues in great detail, examined myriad options, and were done by experts in their field and community members with great knowledge and dedication. Social media has been full of "armchair hydrologists" with "great ideas". But where were these people when hundreds of project ideas were systematically considered and modeled?
- *Sufficiency:* You might hear that the five-year plan does not do enough. I believe that it does the best that can possibly be done in a five-year period, and with all of the various trade-offs (maximizing time the road is kept open so that businesses can remain in business, etc.) to protect lives, property, and the community in the short to medium term. I also believe that this plan is the first step in a longer-term solution – which the County has said will come as part of the master plan.

I also fully support flood mitigation efforts for Valley Mede/Chatham. As you heard in my testimony on the building moratorium, at least five people had to be rescued from swift water in 2016 and 2018 floods. The community was also hit by flooding in 2011 and 2014. However, the \$1 million for property acquisition in this (my)

neighborhood does not go far enough. We need real flood mitigation solutions in the form of infrastructure, picking up from the H&H study done for our neighborhood. We very much would like to meet with the County government to discuss its plans in more detail. I am aware that there are some plans to schedule a meeting with a small group of Valley Mede/Chatham neighbors in October. I hope this is the start of fruitful discussions.

Now that my support for this legislation and further work (longer-term plan for Old Ellicott City; specific plan for Valley Mede/Chatham), I would like to recommend some things that could improve the implementation of the five-year plan and continue the strong community and expert engagement that has happened to date.

1. **Implement results-based monitoring with community input.** We know that the county government is working on several flood-related projects, but at times community members are frustrated that we don't know enough about the status or timing. Including these projects on the county's flood website is a good start (<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1ZQmdeZRQTA%3d&portalid=0>); however, it would be best to have even more detail and be able to monitor progress. I would recommend that the County: 1) use a more detailed table, such as the example below, and 2) have update meetings – either through a continuation of the Flood Workgroup (which meets monthly and is public) and/or by holding quarterly public meetings led by DPZ.

Sample table (with indicative steps)

	Design Finalized	Engineering Finalized	Construction Start	Construction End
Project 1 Name				
- <i>Planned</i>	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]
- <i>Actual</i>	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]
Project 2 Name				
- <i>Planned</i>	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]
- <i>Actual</i>	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]

2. **Ensure that a longer-term plan is enacted.** The County has stated that this is the first step in a longer effort to protect Old Ellicott City from flooding, and that more longer-term plans will be developed as part of the master plan process. The County needs to be held to this. The five-year plan gets us going in the right direction but is not the full solution. There especially needs to be more of a solution for the New Cut branch, and the 18 projects recommended

by the McCormick-Taylor H&H study should be examined, and likely implemented. As stated above, solutions for Valley Mede/Chatham need to be identified and implemented. This will require continued dedication from County government staff (DPZ), from the County Executive in setting out budgeting priorities, and from the County Council in approving budgetary resources. I know that none of you will be on the future Council. Please, I ask you, speak with the colleagues who will take your seats and reiterate to them the importance of longer-term support for Ellicott City flood mitigation.

3. **Follow through with important** zoning changes, retrofitting stormwater management, and other **recommendations that will come out of the studies currently being done under the building moratorium.** Development is a major – if not *the* major – contributing factor to the floods in Ellicott City. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The opportunity to opportunities to prevent the 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2018 floods by ensuring that development was “smart” and adequate infrastructure was in place, was squandered. You and the incoming Council now have an opportunity to protect us for the future. Please, again, speak with the colleagues who will take your seats and reiterate to them the importance of these actions, as well as support to the adjustment in development regulations that is ongoing in the county. Please also ensure that recommendations from the studies currently being done under the moratorium and the zoning changes are communicated to the public and that we have ample notice in order to consider and testify regarding them.

This is likely my last testimony before you step down as Council members. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on important issues, and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Melissa Metz
3101 Chatham Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Deone Heckert <deoneheckert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Ellicott City...Attention !

Dear Howard County Council:

In regard to TAO1-FY2019 and council bills 61-2018 and 62-2018, Historic Ellicott City deserves a better plan to protect its citizens, visitors and businesses. Please push pause on the portion of the plan that seeks to demolish buildings right away. There are alternative proposals that need to be studied in greater detail. 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,
your name*

Sayers, Margery

From: Winnie Carpenter <winnie.carpenter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan 8-23-18

Good Morning, again,

Please see my edited comment below.

Thank you.

Winnie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Winnie Carpenter <winnie.carpenter@hotmail.com>
Date: September 21, 2018 at 10:08:04 AM EDT
To: "councilmail@howardcountymd.gov" <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan 8-23-18

Good Morning,

I signed up for public comment on the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan on Monday but was unable to stay until my name was called.

I had contacted FEMA about the plan and received the response below. At their suggestion, I am contacting you. I was wondering if you would be submitting the plan to MEMA for review?

Thank you.

Winnie Carpenter
713 Pleasant Hill Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"This inquiry touches on several aspects of both Hazard Mitigation and Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) under the jurisdiction of FEMA Region III. FEMA's oversight in state and local planning is generally limited to instances where FEMA funds are being used to organize and execute plans and projects.

FEMA has not reviewed or approved the Ellicott City FMP. FEMA only reviews an FMP when the plan is FEMA-funded or when requested by the county. Howard County submitted an FMP to FEMA for review during the 2012-13 timeframe, but FEMA has not received an updated one since that time. While Howard County is not obligated to submit the Ellicott City FMP to FEMA, Howard County could submit the Ellicott City FMP to FEMA for review as part of an overall updated county plan.

Even when FEMA reviews a plan, we do not make site-specific recommendation for risk reduction measures. If you have questions on how the projects in the plan were developed, concerns about removing historic structures or diverting water, or the planning process in general it is best to reach out to officials in Howard County.

Should the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, on behalf of Howard County, submit any of the projects outlined in the Ellicott City FMP to FEMA, the projects will undergo an EHP review process by our EHP Branch. One of the laws reviewed by the EHP Branch during this process is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), specifically Section 106 of this law. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of the undertaking (demolition) on historic properties, which are typically defined as properties over 50 years old. FEMA would initiate consultation with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office as well as other interested parties, to identify, resolve, and mitigate any effects the demolition would have on historic properties.

If you have additional questions about the process, again it is best to reach out to Howard County officials.”

Sayers, Margery

From: Winnie Carpenter <winnie.carpenter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan 8-23-18

Good Morning,

I signed up for public comment on the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan on Monday but was unable to stay until my name was called.

I had contacted FEMA about the plan and received the response below. At their suggestion, I was wondering if you would be submitting the plan to MEMA for review?

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Winnie Carpenter
713 Pleasant Hill Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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If you have additional questions about the process, again it is best to reach out to Howard County officials.”

Sayers, Margery

From: BRIAN <beengland@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 61 2018

The CB 61 2018 bill says "to implement the Ellicott City flood mitigation plan" I suggest added an "s" (Plans) so that the plan includes more than the updating of the stormwater "conveyance system" and stabilizing and replacing buildings. There has been many Ellicott City "flood mitigation plans" and their recommendations are in the Ellicott City watershed, unfortunately very little has been implemented.

After the 2011 EC flood there was a 2012 study and many recommendations for the Tiber, Hudson Watershed.

In 2012 Versar performed a study and came up with 32 recommendations for downtown Ellicott City and in the Ellicott City Watershed.

In April 2013 the Center for Watershed Protection performed an assessment of Tiber, Hudson, Plumtree Watersheds and had many Watershed mitigation ideas.

In 2015 The Historic Ellicott City Flood work group had many recommendations for mitigation of rain fall in the watershed.

All these plans concentrate on the Tiber Hudson Watershed first, this is good because the more you restore the watershed to "emulate the forest" (that is to "Soak up rain", "Retain the rain" and "Slow the flow") the less the downtown "Conveyance Plan" will cost.

The movie showing the water flow at the confluence of the New Cut and Tiber was dramatic!

The testimony by the property owner off New Cut supports the need for work in the watershed now to reduce the flow.

The testimony by Lori Lilly pleading for funding for a project she was involved in was disturbing.

I requested an inventory from Mark Richmond and Jim Caldwell of the projects performed in the Ellicott City Watershed I am still waiting for an answer. I asked if there was an Ellicott City Watershed Plan, I am still waiting for an answer.

75% of the Ellicott City Watershed has been Developed so there are many opportunities, the hotspots have been pointed out in the studies.

Brian England. 11915 Gold Needle Way, Columbia 21044

(Former member and chair of the CA Watershed Advisory Committee, H2O member, MPEA stormwater outfall Committee, MPEA Rapid Neighborhood Assessment coordinator).

Sent from XFINITY Connect App

Sayers, Margery

From: Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:07 PM
To: Smith, Gary; jkeller@howardcountymd.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; Heather McClung; s mcclung
Subject: Re: Flood Mitigation on Merryman Street

Hi.

I'm emailing again to try to get information from you about the flood mitigation and what is planned or in the works for Merryman St, in particular the "S" curve of the Tiber next to #8411 Merryman St.

I'm emailing you on behalf of my father, Sam McClung, of 8411 Merryman St. He does not know how to use a computer so I maintain this email for him. He is a 100% disabled Vietnam Vet who has lived in Historic Ellicott City since 1999. He has lived at 8411 Merryman since 2004.

He is concerned that the 5 year mitigation plan does not address the flooding that occurs on his particular section of Merryman St. We have tried to find info on the Tiber Flood Retention facility but haven't been able to find much about the project and how it will help with the flooding on Merryman St.

Please direct us to where the 5 year flood mitigation addresses the flooding on Merryman St or to the section of the Tiber Flood Retention facility and how it helps improve the flooding situation on my dad's street.

If neither project/plan addresses the flooding issue of the "S" curve on Merryman next to 8411 please let us know that too. My dad, Sam, needs to know what is being done to help the flooding of his property so that he can better move forward in the future and know what to do with his property.

We look forward to hearing from you VERY soon.

Heather McClung, on behalf of Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St

On Tue, Sep 18, 2018 at 7:44 PM Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi. I'm emailing again on behalf of my dad, Sam McClung, of 8411 Merryman St. We would like to be directed to where we can find information on how the flood mitigation plan or the Tiber Flood Retention Facility project will be mitigating the flooding on Merryman St, particularly at the "S" curve next to #8411. We don't see where in the flood plan or the Tiber Flood project that the flooding will be helped at this particular spot. Please spell it out for us.

Please respond to our 4th email. We very much want to get this information. Or if you can please spell out for us that there is NO flood mitigation for this specific "S" curve next to 8411 Merryman St, that would be helpful for us too.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Heather McClung, on behalf of Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St.

On Sun, Sep 16, 2018 at 4:25 PM Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Gary Smith and Jesse Keller,

I'm forwarding my email to you in the hopes that you may be able to help me, actually my dad, Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St.

Please read the email below that I sent on my dad's behalf to Weinstein and Kittleman. I hope you can direct me to the information that my dad needs or at least give us some answers about what flood mitigation is planned for Merryman St.

Thank you so much.

Cheers,
Heather McClung

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sam McClung** <twintwix1978@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Sep 16, 2018 at 6:53 AM

Subject: Re: Flood Mitigation on Merryman Street

To: <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>, <akittleman@howardcountymd.gov>

Hi Mr. Kittleman and Mr. Weinstein,

I'm emailing again. I and my father, Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St, attended the 9/12 Ellicott City Meeting about the flood plans. Again, we noticed that in the plan there is no direct flood mitigation for Merryman Street where the "S" curve, in particular, comes around which is the exact spot of #8411. At the meeting we learned of the Tiber Flood Retention Facility but when we got home, we could not find much information on it and what it is or will actually do to reduce the flooding at the "S" curve.

Please direct us to where the information is about flood mitigation that is currently happening (from the 2016 flood) or that is currently planned for Merryman St, in particular the "S" curve that receives 8+ feet of flood water that has damaged #8411 horribly, not once but twice.

We want to be informed for the public hearing tomorrow evening on 9/17.

Please respond with information tomorrow, Monday daytime.

Thank you so much for your assistance as my dad deals with this second devastating flood of his home. He has lost everything again and really needs your help to retain value in his property and get back on his feet again quickly. (Hopefully much quicker than the 2016 flood as he had only been back in his house for 6 months before the May 2018 flood.)

Best regards,

Heather McClung, on behalf of Sam McClung my father of 8411 Merryman St

On Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 9:22 PM Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com> wrote:

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

From: Ted Cochran <tedcochran55409@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 2:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written testimony files online

Greetings,

May I humbly suggest that online written document testimony files regarding current legislation be kept to a reasonable size (10 MB, perhaps), and that longer submissions be saved as separate files? There is an online file containing written submissions on the flood plan that is over 220 MB, almost all of which is a single, 207 page boiler plate submission. I realize you can't filter public input, but files like that are also an obstacle to sharing the input you do get.

Respectfully,

Ted Cochran
Columbia, Md.

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Kohout <pauljkohout@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony for TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018

Council Members,

My name is Paul Kohout. I have been a resident at 8533 High Timber Court, Ellicott City, since 2010. That sits between the Autumn Hill and New Cut branches of the watershed. Prior to that I lived in Columbia. I have attended several public meeting since the 2016 flood. I'd like to provide answers to some frequently asked questions.

But how can we possibly consider destroying historic buildings? Because this plan is all about saving lives. This is not just a quaint destination, people live and work here. For them, this is life and death. Please save the lives of my neighbors. The #1 responsibility of government should be to protect the lives of its residents.

But what about the big tunnel option? The tunnel bores were a popular option being discussed by the public at one time, but they were determined to be too expensive, take too much time to build, and they might not even work as planned. So it could have been \$80 million with nothing to show for it.

But won't this plan still leave 4-6 feet of water in Lower Main with similar storms? Yes, it probably will. But the goal of this plan is to save lives. And when it comes to saving lives, the metric that matters more is water velocity. This plan will reduce the velocity by approximately 60% (from 11.1 to 4.5 feet per second).

But is this plan all we can do? No, the plan is just a start. The revised Master Plan should do much more, including adding more stormwater management solutions.

But why did the plan change after the 2018 storm? After attending the H&H Study presentation in June of 2017, I was shocked by the lack of a recommended solution for Lower Main Street - not even with all the upstream stormwater management options implemented. One change is that the business and property owners of those ten buildings on the south side of Lower Main asked the County to purchase their properties so they can leave. So now another option is under consideration that wasn't previously discussed with the public.

But why can't we save the historic buildings? Four of the ten are already beyond repair. Two of the buildings have little historic value - having been mostly built in 2000 after a fire destroyed them. At least one of the ten (Tea on the Tiber) is actually being proposed to be moved. That leaves three buildings. If the County and/or the public feels they have enough historic value, perhaps we can move them too. I'm assuming the historic value is in the buildings, not their location. Either way, they can't stay where they are. It was dangerous to build them there when they were first built and it is dangerous now.

But why the rush? Another thing that changed is that we all realized that storms like this are not a fluke. This is the new normal. Some say we should slow down and take more time to study the options. But we've already done the studies and we can't wait. This is urgent. People are dying. Another "1000 storm" could happen again at any time. NOAA predicts storms will be stronger and more unpredictable. How many people need to die before we take action? How do you compare the value of historic buildings to human lives?

But isn't this caused by development? Yes, about 45% of the water depth is from development (compared to completely undeveloped forest). There is currently a development moratorium in place. While development is halted, this should allow time to address the immediate danger and protect the lives of those who live and work

on Main Street. I anticipate that the next council will pass tighter regulations on development before the moratorium expires.

But why wasn't this other new idea considered in the plan? For years now there have been plenty of opportunities for the public to share ideas with County officials. Also, some ideas that were considered in the H&H Study or Army Corps of Engineers reports weren't included in the 5-year plan, so they may be covered there.

But what if we restore the buildings in their current locations, despite the risk? More people will probably die. And if the property owners don't want to stay, they would probably just stay vacant and boarded. Also, several other nearby residents and business owners have stated that the risk would force them to leave too. What is the point of preserving the history if it becomes a ghost town?

But won't this permanently change Ellicott City? It already has changed.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Kohout

September 17, 2018

Lisa Markovitz for The People's Voice / Ellicott City

– Support of Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan Bills

I am blessed to have lived about a half mile, directly uphill from Main Street, for almost 30 years.

I have spent a lot of time in the last weeks analyzing available studies, and the County plan, and discussing many concerns. I believe the biggest threat to being able to mitigate flooding in downtown Ellicott City, is delay. We need projects to start immediately, before we get even one more deadly storm. The County recently indicated that the help proposed from The Army Corps of Engineers would take years to complete.

I had previously requested that removal be put on hold while more questions were answered about more possible alternatives. My concern weeks ago, was that projects not be held up on which much consensus existed due to the disagreement about whether we can or how to save buildings. Most also agree, that the time is now to go ahead with the County purchasing these buildings. I believe the County has provided a stronger argument at this time for choosing its recommendations.

At the most recent Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan meeting, the County provided more information on why the tunnel boring projects are not recommended. These projects are desired by many as an alternative to building demolition on lower Main because of water left on Main Street by the County Plan. Previously, the extremely high cost to the County, and disruption to the area was noted in general, on the tunnel alternative, but presentations have now been made regarding structural building issues, utility obstruction, and shut down time, that would endanger the area, physically and economically. The thought that these tunnels could be done without risk to other buildings, and without closing down the streets for a year or more, clearly is not the County's conclusion.

A remaining concern I have heard is with regard to the safety of the B&O Museum. Addressing how the flow is controlled in that area without the buildings, and timing of park completion, would allay those concerns.

I was happy to hear more specific information about each of the ten buildings on lower Main recently. Four of the ten were said to be in a state of being able to be declared condemned. Massive work done to save some in 2016, was for naught, especially in the Caplan building which was thought to not be able to be lost again, but alas, it was. Several other buildings have been rebuilt over time. The historic Tea on the Tiber was noted as planned to be relocated. My heart breaks to lose these structures, or businesses, but I believe we can continue to pay homage to this area, by safeguarding it quickly, and not cheaply, but properly, without endangering other buildings, and shutting all the businesses and residences either, that's not right. I look forward to being able to see that area be a place where we can shop, dine and engage as a community safely, and use a park area there to pay homage to the Mill town's history.

A notion has been put forth that tearing down this history to sample it in a museum setting is wrong. I look at that differently. Leaving buildings up, with historic aspects, foregoing safeguarding that area, instead of retaining its historic properties nearby? That's wrong. Risking MANY other buildings and ALL other businesses to take more water off only the end of lower Main, on one side, by the river, is also not a good alternative.

Regarding funding, I am sure it is quite difficult to be weighing options when any project put on hold from funding this one, will have its downsides. I believe that danger of flooding in a large historical area of the County, with specific deaths over these short years, is okay to prioritize. We all want to see expansions of other county services, to improve even other safety issues, but this plan is about stopping specific, known extreme risk of death, and massive property loss.

As for the developer conspiracy theories here. I had my own here, years ago, and am of a mind to point out concern there in a heartbeat. I don't see that in the County's plan. It's not like they want to tear down buildings and put in waterview condos there.

I do wish the moratorium could be longer though.

My daughter almost drowned in the 2016 flood, having had to swim out a car window, that then went into the river. So, I could not embrace a plan that does not mitigate the most flood water volume and velocity, or does not produce the maximum amount of safety overall, and not just on Main Street. I believe the County's plan does that.

Lastly, if public meetings take place, over several years, and one does not attend them, that doesn't mean they didn't happen. This is not a quick fix proposal. Good luck with your difficult decisions.

Gelwicks, Colette

From: Hayes, Wynne
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 11:16 AM
To: Terrasa, Jen; Affolter, Melissa
Cc: Krams, Diana
Subject: RE: File saving

Here are some dates / times – let me know if any of these are convenient.

Tomorrow (Tuesday) 1:30
Wednesday 4:30-5:30
Friday afternoon

From: Terrasa, Jen
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 10:10 AM
To: Hayes, Wynne <whayes@howardcountymd.gov>; Affolter, Melissa <maffolter@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>; Krams, Diana <dkrams@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: File saving

Hi Wynne,

Thanks for your quick response and willingness to meet right away! I spoke to Jen and, as you suspected, with the work session today, it would be difficult to work a meeting into the schedule. When will you be at GHB again?

Thanks!

Colette Gelwicks

District Aide

District 3, Councilwoman Jen Terrasa
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
cgelwicks@howardcountymd.gov
Phone: (410) 313-2421 Fax: (410) 313-3297

Like Councilwoman Terrasa's page on [Facebook](#) and follow her on [Twitter](#), or sign up for [Jen's newsletter!](#)

From: Hayes, Wynne
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 6:59 AM
To: Affolter, Melissa <maffolter@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>; Krams, Diana <dkrams@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: File saving

Melissa

I will be at GHB Monday – flexible late morning / early afternoon if that is convenient. Happy to grab both of us something from the café around lunch time and do this over lunch.

I realize it may not be due to the work session that day. If this doesn't work, let's touch base Monday to set up time.

Wynne

From: Affolter, Melissa
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Hayes, Wynne <whayes@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: File saving

Hi Wynne,

Jen is winding down and cleaning out her files, and there are quite a few that she wants to save electronically. Would you have time next week to have a conversation with her about the best method for her to save all of those files? She could really use some professional guidance. Thanks very much!

Kindest regards,
Melissa

~~~~~  
Melissa Affolter  
Special Assistant to Councilwoman Jen Terrasa  
Howard County Council, District 3  
3430 Court House Drive || Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Office: 410.313.3108 || Fax: 410.313.3297

Like Councilwoman Terrasa's page on [Facebook](#), follow her on [Twitter](#), and sign up for her [newsletter](#)!

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Carrie Foley <carfol1@umbc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 8:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** In Reference to Bills TAO-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018  
**Attachments:** Foley Testimony.docx

To the Howard County Council members:

My name is Carrie Foley. I was born and have lived most of my life in Howard County. Currently, I live in District 1, but I do not reside within Historic Ellicott City.

I started at Ellicott Mills Brewing Company on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 as a server. My current title is a bit long: Server, Bartender, Assistant Manager, Banquet Coordinator, and Facebook Admin.

I was working on the night of July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. I was spared the mental anguish of the 2011 and 2018 floods as I was not working those days. However, after 2016, I knew what to expect as I made my way down to Ellicott City on May 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. I knew we would not be able to get into the building; I knew there would be no mud mucking that day. My main purpose was to go down and hug my bosses (Tim and Rick) and my co-workers. I needed to be with people who had been through this before.

After the 2016 flood, I had nightmares for weeks, and even though I was not at work on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the nightmares and sleepless nights reared their ugly heads again. I am not going to recount my experience the night of the 2016 flood. It's too painful, and I know you have already heard from so many who have bravely told their stories. Stories that are far more harrowing than mine. I would like to talk about the reality of my situation now:

I check the weather more now than I have ever in my life. This rainy summer has been awful. Every day there is a high chance of rain, I make a mental checklist. Where will I park my car, or should I just have my husband drop me off at work? When I am scheduled to manage on a rainy day, I start to think about what I need to save if the basement begins to flood (computers – check – money from the safe – check – printer from the office – check.) Then I start to think how many people on the schedule I can do without. Who do I call out first to help keep overhead low? Who has been called out recently and missed out on money? Who has second jobs? Who has kids to support? These are terrible choices. Then I go over my speech to the employees because, when it rains I am constantly reassuring the staff I do have that the Fall will be busy, hang in there, please don't give me your notice. The last thing I do on my checklist is I think about what I can work on to get people in the door (Facebook posts, Monthly Newsletters, uploading events on Howard County and Maryland Tourism sites.)

I know the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan is not perfect. But I want to see Ellicott City a vibrant, thriving community again. Therefore, I support Council bills: TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018.

I love working in Historic Ellicott City. I do not want to be forced to make a decision to leave. I think it is important to understand something about the restaurant business: it is not monolithic. Not all restaurant staff are created equal. The people of Ellicott Mills Brewing Company and in Historic Ellicott City are more like family to me. Leaving the Brewery and walking into a restaurant on Route 40 is an option, but not one I want to be forced to explore. Understand this, I will ultimately do what has to be done to support my family.

I would love to continue to do so in Historic Ellicott City.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Foley

9/19/2018

\*I have also attached a copy in Word to this email.

To the Howard County Council members:

My name is Carrie Foley. I was born and have lived most of my life in Howard County. Currently, I live in District 1, but I do not reside within Historic Ellicott City.

I started at Ellicott Mills Brewing Company on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 as a server. My current title is a bit long: Server, Bartender, Assistant Manager, Banquet Coordinator, and Facebook Admin.

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I know the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan is not perfect. But I want to see Ellicott City a vibrant, thriving community again. Therefore, I support Council bills: TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018.

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I would love to continue to do so in Historic Ellicott City.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Foley

9/19/2018

# PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Carey O'Bannon Kyler

**i** I attended the Ellicott City Flood Mitigation testimony on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. At the end, Councilwoman Sigaty opened up the floor to additional people who had not pre-registered to speak. I did not realize this would be an option, so I was unprepared to do so; otherwise, I would have approached to address the council and the room. These would be my remarks, which I submit for your consideration:

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Carey Kyler and I live at 3570 Sylvan Lane in the Historic District. I've been a resident and community member of the historic district for over 20 years. Every time it rains, I worry for my friends who live and work on Main Street. I worry for our town.

## Testimony

The stories we heard in the testimony are absolutely heartbreaking- people being forced to the second floor as they worried about their safety, and the safety of their patrons. From small children to the elderly, we heard about their continued fear and the emotional scarring these floods have inflicted. No one should EVER have to endure that kind of fear once, let alone twice. I applaud the council for working towards a solution as quickly as they can.

However, as I listened to testimony after testimony, heartbroken for these people, I couldn't help but wonder, WHY would the council support a plan that residents believe makes them safe **when, in fact, you know that it will not?**

Why are residents supporting this plan? Because they have been told it will make them **safer**. However, I've spoken to many owners and residents who admit they have not *actually* read the plan. They have heard it will make them safer, so they are understandably advocating for it, while wondering why some people won't support it. They mistakenly believe the detractors value buildings over life. This couldn't be farther from the truth. If the demolition plan reduced the water to a safe level, I would support the plan. It does not.

## Issues

**i** According to the proposed plan, diagram 5, **the water levels on lower Main will still be 4'-8'; Upper Main will retain 2'-4' of water.** By your contracted engineer's admission last week at the Conservancy round table, to paraphrase:

**"You are fine in ankle high water; when it hits your waist, you are in deep trouble."**

This plan will have levels SIGNIFICANTLY above waist level. People will not be able to escape, once again, and may even be lulled into a false sense of security that they will be fine, delaying their escape to safety, because their elected officials promised them a safer Main Street.

**I ask again, why would the Council support this?**

**i** According to the proposed plan, **water velocities will be reduced from 11+ feet per second down to 4.5 feet per second.** A notable drop, to be sure, but when the Department of the Interior swift water definition (for which trained experts need to rescue people) is defined as anything over 1.7 feet per second, **how is over 3 TIMES that number safe?** As someone who has been a certified scuba diver for nearly 30 years, I can tell you that currents like that will quickly sweep people away.

**Why would the Council support a plan that is MORE THAN TRIPLE the safety level for speed that will continue to put residents and visitors in harm's way?**

### 5. Expanded Stream Channel Model

The model in Diagram 5 below demonstrates the effect of an expanded stream channel in the area on lower Main Street between the Caplan's Building and Maryland Avenue with the buildings having been removed.



Flood water levels 2016  
(Hazardous)



Flood water levels with proposed plan  
(Still hazardous)

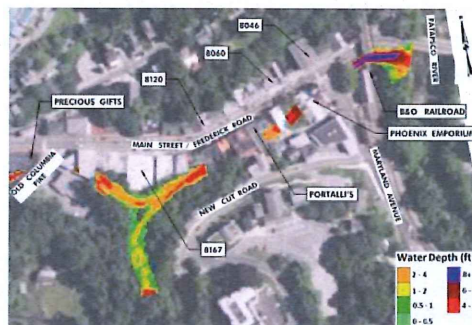
With this plan, buckets and buckets of muck will still have to be removed, buildings will be destroyed, North side lower Main businesses like Georgia Grace along with the train station will be at significant and continued risk, and people could still die.

Is it “safer”? Sure, in the same way that jumping from a 45-foot building is safer than jumping from a 110-foot building. But the result is the same.

## The Solution

*However, there is a safe solution.*

2016 - Ellicott City Hydrology / Hydraulic Study and Concept Mitigation Analysis



In your H&H plan, the tunnel option diagram (figure 4.12, page 48) shows no yellow, no orange, no red, and no purple. Why? Because the tunnel option removes the water. I have heard that this plan will run somewhere between \$60-\$80 Million dollars and will take 2-5 years to complete, without having to close Main Street. For some reason, it was not shown side by side with the 4 options in the proposed plan. So, we are left to believe that the “best of the worst” proposed options is the best.

***Why the Council would not address and explore a plan that effectively removes water to an actually safe level (vs. “safer”), that costs about the same, and takes the same or less time boggles the mind.***

If the 2016 election taught us anything, it's that people will vote for change because it seems better than status quo or inaction. I submit that bad change is worse than no change. You, as a council, owe it to your constituents to tell them the truth about what the real outcome of this plan will be. People are counting on you to help them. When the next flood hits, and it will, the destruction will still come, and then nobody will return to Main Street.

**If you accept this plan, it will be your legacy that you lured the public into a false sense of security, when real security was in the document right next to it.**

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** adele Brown <moonlight4adele@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 10:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Save Ellicott City

Don't destroy a beautiful historic town. There must be some way to deal with the water situation!—building up perhaps!?!?!?

*Adele Brown*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tammy Beideman <tammy@sweetelizabethjane.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 8:44 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support county flood mitigation plan

Tammy Beideman, Sweet Elizabeth Jane

On April 1, 2011, I opened Sweet Elizabeth Jane inside the Caplan's Department Store. For 5 years, I poured my heart and soul into building a strong business and connecting with the community. SEJ became an important part of Main Street and we grew very fast. My husband and I invested our retirement into opening the store and grew it organically with very little initial funding. Following the 2016 flood, in order to rebuild, we were given an SBA Disaster Loan for \$490,000. What we owned free and clear, we will now be paying off for years.

On July 30, 2016 my life was turned upside down. At 8 pm, while in DC, I received a phone call. It was my GM. She was crying and she said that she had received a frantic call from Natalie, our closing manager, saying that the water was coming up through the floor boards, our "God Save the Queen" sign had fallen off the wall, the dress racks were floating out of the building and the walls were starting to shake, what should she do? Then Mariah said the phone was swept away and they were disconnected. She kept saying "Tammy, I believe this is a very grave situation."

I immediately went to the community facebook page to find out what the eyes on the street could see. Within minutes, someone posted a view from their apartment. I could see that water was up to the second level of the buildings. As we searched, we finally heard from one girl's mom, that 2 of the girls had floated down Main Street hanging on to a car and they were rescued in tiber alley by a resident. We still didn't know where the 3rd girl was and Mariah and I feared that we had lost Natalie, our manager. The 3 girls had linked arms when they tried to escape Caplan's, but the current was too strong and Natalie became separated. They didn't know what happened to her. Fortunately, about an hour later, Natalie's mom called and told us that Natalie was rescued at Cocoa Lane.

For me, seeing the first image of a gutted Caplan's on twitter at midnight, brought only relief that my girls had survived. I was numb and shocked. These buildings are not safe. We have been part of studies and meetings for 2 years. I was a member of the Community Advisory Group. So much has been studied. It's time for action.

No one wins here. It's not about that. It's about our survival-the businesses, not the buildings. We need our leaders to make the hard decisions. Main Street is about the hustle and bustle of shoppers and diners interacting with the small businesses who make this town thrive. Main street is eerily SILENT- boarded up buildings do not belong on Main Street.

Action is needed now. The longer Main Street is not operating, the worse it is for the business community. Sales are way down. People are not coming out. Today was a flash flood warning. The blinking sign on Old Columbia Pike greets visitors. We sadly did 10 transactions all day. We have more than 20 employees. Please, take action on this bill. We can't continue like this. We will have no choice but to relocate, as I'm sure many others will as well.

Tammy Beideman  
Sweet Elizabeth Jane  
8289 Main St.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sent from my iPad



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sam McClung <twintwix1978@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 7:45 PM  
**To:** Smith, Gary; jkeller@howardcountymd.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; Heather McClung; s mcclung  
**Subject:** Re: Flood Mitigation on Merryman Street

Hi. I'm emailing again on behalf of my dad, Sam McClung, of 8411 Merryman St. We would like to be directed to where we can find information on how the flood mitigation plan or the Tiber Flood Retention Facility project will be mitigating the flooding on Merryman St, particularly at the "S" curve next to #8411. We don't see where in the flood plan or the Tiber Flood project that the flooding will be helped at this particular spot. Please spell it out for us.

Please respond to our 4th email. We very much want to get this information. Or if you can please spell out for us that there is NO flood mitigation for this specific "S" curve next to 8411 Merryman St, that would be helpful for us too.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Heather McClung, on behalf of Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St.

On Sun, Sep 16, 2018 at 4:25 PM Sam McClung <[twintwix1978@gmail.com](mailto:twintwix1978@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Gary Smith and Jesse Keller,

I'm forwarding my email to you in the hopes that you may be able to help me, actually my dad, Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St.

Please read the email below that I sent on my dad's behalf to Weinstein and Kittleman. I hope you can direct me to the information that my dad needs or at least give us some answers about what flood mitigation is planned for Merryman St.

Thank you so much.

Cheers,  
Heather McClung

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Sam McClung <[twintwix1978@gmail.com](mailto:twintwix1978@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Sep 16, 2018 at 6:53 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Flood Mitigation on Merryman Street  
**To:** <[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)>, <[akittleman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:akittleman@howardcountymd.gov)>

Hi Mr. Kittleman and Mr. Weinstein,

I'm emailing again. I and my father, Sam McClung of 8411 Merryman St, attended the 9/12 Ellicott City Meeting about the flood plans. Again, we noticed that in the plan there is no direct flood mitigation for Merryman Street where the "S" curve, in particular, comes around which is the exact spot of #8411. At the meeting we learned of the Tiber Flood

Retention Facility but when we got home, we could not find much information on it and what it is or will actually do to reduce the flooding at the "S" curve.

Please direct us to where the information is about flood mitigation that is currently happening (from the 2016 flood) or that is currently planned for Merryman St, in particular the "S" curve that receives 8+ feet of flood water that has damaged #8411 horribly, not once but twice.

We want to be informed for the public hearing tomorrow evening on 9/17.

Please respond with information tomorrow, Monday daytime.

Thank you so much for your assistance as my dad deals with this second devastating flood of his home. He has lost everything again and really needs your help to retain value in his property and get back on his feet again quickly. (Hopefully much quicker than the 2016 flood as he had only been back in his house for 6 months before the May 2018 flood.)

Best regards,

Heather McClung, on behalf of Sam McClung my father of 8411 Merryman St

On Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 9:22 PM Sam McClung <[twintwix1978@gmail.com](mailto:twintwix1978@gmail.com)> wrote:

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:** Cara Koontz <carakoontz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 3:29 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony: DO NOT demolish Main Street EC

To whomever it concerns,

I'm writing to testify **against** the plan to demolish buildings on Main Street, Ellicott City. I'm a current resident of EC and, like many others, believe this is the wrong move forward. The demolition plan was rushed, with little public transparency — allowing just 40 days for folks (and experts) to study a complex, multifaceted issue is irresponsible and dangerous.

The plan is also scientifically unsound, and would only decrease the amount of swift water on Main Street to 4-6' (still a lethal amount). Nothing about this proposal is emergent. The demolition happens right away, but the mitigation to the channel doesn't happen until FY21-22.

And, most important, the cultural history of main street is jeopardized by political posturing and elected leaders more passionate about maintaining public image than preserving the safety of the town, maintaining its history, and doing right by the community (including small business owners).

This plan is a disgrace. I urge you to reconsider, take your time, and do it the right way.

Thank you —

Cara

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mary Catherine Walter <marycatherine@mc Alpinehouse.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Reconsider EC Flood Mitigation Plans

Dear Howard County Council,

I stand with so many residents caring deeply for the history and integrity of Ellicott City, and my heart breaks for the business owners and residents affected by the 2016 and 2018 floods. I grew up in Ellicott City and it would be an understatement to say EC means a lot to me: it's home. We can all agree that life safety is of tantamount importance and that something must urgently and immediately be done to help mitigate inevitable future floods. However, I ask you to please reconsider major aspects of the recent plan unveiled in August.

Strong Towns, a national, non-profit organization formed by experienced urbanists, has published an article I wrote that I urge you to please read: <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2018/9/17/ellicott-citys-flood-mitigation-plans-would-be-a-disaster-in-their-own-right>



### Ellicott City's Flood Mitigation Plans Would Be a Disaster in Their Own Right

[www.strongtowns.org](http://www.strongtowns.org)

Like many small, historic cities, Ellicott City, Maryland is a resilient town that has always rebuilt and recovered after natural disasters. It would be a shame if it could not recover from a man-made one.

I have studied and worked in the field of urban design since I received a Bachelors of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. I have also read the entirety of your flood mitigation plan and the 2016 McCormick Taylor Project. Demolishing the ten buildings at the base of Main Street will not significantly solve the life-threatening flood issues and will only cause more damage to the heart of town. Why is the only solution suddenly to transform Main Street into nothing more than a gutter? Why not mitigate flooding uphill first where the recent floods and new problems have been arising? Why even let dangerous amounts of water flow that far into the town?

This is not about buildings. This is about people. This is not about a nostalgia to maintain things as they were. This is concern for the long-term future of Ellicott City and the hole that will be left in the life of the community if demolition is treated as the only option. What will replace the life that those buildings and businesses gave to the street? Human life should be the highest priority, but you cannot say this will save human lives while also admitting that four to six feet of water could still accumulate at the base of the hill. Main Street is the heart of Ellicott City and this demolition will leave nothing but a permanent, empty reminder of a tragedy in its wake...and still not solve the dire need for natural runoff and better water retention. Four to six feet is still a lot of water. You cannot "destroy the village to save the village". Haven't we suffered enough destruction?

I watched the long live-stream of public testimonies last night since I was unable to be there in person, but I hope you will also hear the thoughts of those who were unable to be in attendance. Please think seriously on the long-term effects of your current proposal. Please listen to our voices before more irreversible damage is inflicted on our already hurting home.

Sincerely,  
Mary Catherine Walter

4519 Mustering Drum  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
443-520-9530

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jacob Lindle <jacob.lindle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 1:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please save Maryland's historic buildings

To whom it may concern,  
Please don't tear down Maryland's historic buildings. There are other ways to solve the flood crisis. We must not forget who we are and where we came from.  
Thank you,  
Jacob Lindle

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PORTIONS OF CB61-2018  
CB62-2018

Betty Adams, Glenwood MD 21738

The Hon. Mary Kay Sigaty , Chairperson  
The Hon. Calvin Ball  
The Hon. Jen Terrasa  
The Hon. Greg Fox  
The Hon. Jon Weinstein

2018 SEP 20 PM 1:36

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
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Madame Chairperson, Dr. Ball, Ms. Terrasa, Mr. Fox, Mr. Weinstein:

Somewhat ironically due to weather conditions and flooding out here in my part of Western Howard County, I was unable to appear to testify and so modified my written testimony so that you would not think me a discourteous no-show or someone who changed position.

Although I live in Western Howard County, I have close ties to Ellicott City. A Howard County resident since 1974 and married to a native Howard Countian, I lived in Ellicott City from 1974-1984. I served on the Board of Directors for the Howard County Historical Society until February of 2016 and have also been on the Board for Historic Ellicott City, Inc. I shop and dine in OEC.

Because of ties to Clark's Hardware, I was aware of the devastation from Agnes in 1972. I shoveled mud and cried with them as they were forced to relocate their business. I volunteered after Eloise in 1976. With my later participation in HEC, Inc. I was a strong supporter of giving as much financial aid as we could to the ECP in 2016-17; you may recall that proceeds from our Decorator Show house were earmarked for this aid and that we made a significant contribution.

I have been aware of the conversations and community meetings that have taken place since the 2016 flood. I know there have been discussions prior to 2016. However to say I was nonplused by the Press Conference in August is an understatement. It was the first I had heard of the Plan to demolish the swath of lower Main St. I immediately called for release of the Plan and in the interim studied the Army Corps of Engineers report and whatever else material I could locate. I have a copy of a Planning Report from August of 1976 prepared for the then Office of Planning and Zoning by Murphy/Williams in Philadelphia, "Ellicott City: New Life for an Old Town." That Report stressed what I see as missing in the current discussion: a consensus after full discussion of all engineering solutions and open and thoughtful community engagement.

Therefore I still question the process by which demolition became the ultimate solution. I am also troubled by the presentation of the Plan at a hastily called Press Conference when the actual Plan still was not released. I read and reread the Plan after its release and was dismayed that Preservation Maryland, a huge driving force, a resource, and source of hands-on assistance in 2016, had not been made aware of the Plan. Should other governmental agencies be involved? Are they involved?

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2018 SEP 20 AM 10: 29

September 19, 2018

To the Howard County Council

Re: Testifying AGAINST the Flood Mitigation Proposal for Historic Ellicott City, Council Bill 61-2018

I am Sally Bright, a resident of Cambridge, Maryland but also have a second residence in Woodstock at Waverly Woods and pay Howard County taxes. I came up to testify about the flood mitigation proposal because my husband, Dr. Richard Bright, and I had been directly involved for almost 35 years from 1968 to 2003 in the renaissance of the historic district. We have been members of every historic preservation organization and have personally invested in two homes over the years, saving them from neglect and in one case demolition. My husband was also appointed by the county executive to serve on the Historic District Commission, and we have invested endless hours of our volunteer time testifying before various councils and boards, and serving on committees, task forces, and fundraisers for the historic district.

The historic district's successes from the National Register designation to restoration and preservation of Main Street were accomplished by different factions working together...a legion of business owners, business property owners, historic preservationists, homeowners, the various levels of government, and others outside the historic district who just wanted to be part of this precious town.

Unfortunately, this camaraderie was not present at the hearing Monday, which saddened me and made me trash my prepared testimony. In fact, the atmosphere rendered me speechless! Instead there were factions and implications that the preservationists were not entitled or qualified to speak. Did they not think we were just as saddened about what has happened to the town and the people who work and live there because of environmental factors beyond anyone's control? I was also appalled that one council member was hostile to the preservation component of the testimony.

Here are some of my thoughts:

- 1) Contrary to reporting by today's Baltimore Sun, the testimony was almost even in favor of and against the plan. Most of the testimony for the plan was given toward the beginning of the public testimony; testimony against the plan was interspersed throughout with most given at the end of the long evening. I witnessed people for the plan leaving after their testimonies so that they did not stay to hear the other side (although they could watch it on video).
- 2) Many of the people who testified for the proposal gave emotional rather than fact-based testimony. Many of the business people lamented the loss of their business, but did not own the properties in question except for a few. Their stories were powerful and be rest assured they were not lost on the preservationists. Historic preservationists have hearts too!
- 3) I had originally come to testify about WATER, which was the subject of the evening. Ironically, it is water that first gave Ellicott City its national recognition in the late 18th century when the Ellicott



brothers learned to harness it to grind wheat. These are my concerns about the flood mitigation plan as proposed:

a) There is not sufficient attention to the Patapsco River which has been known to overflow its banks onto Main Street as in 1972 during Hurricane Agnes. Since then there has been no action to dredge this once-navigable river while in the meantime upstream development continues with much of its sediment continuing to fill up the river.

b) There is not sufficient attention to the rainwater that cascades down Main Street from the seven hills that surround the historic district even during "normal" rainfall. This has been exacerbated by overdevelopment upstream with lack of proper water retention ponds, or properly maintained retention ponds, or not enough of them. There should be more consideration to holding back the water and slowing down its velocity through a series of dams or some type of containment facility. This point was emphasized by the beleaguered residents on New Cut Road.

c) There is not sufficient attention to the inevitable perfect storm when the Patapsco River overflows its banks and meets Main Street. Your plan does not have a contingency plan for this. So what good would it do to tear down part of the historic district for a huge pipe that will flow into the Patapsco River and no doubt back up in this scenario?

d) The plan will always be contentious unless there is a historic preservation component to it. Historic preservation advocates should be welcomed with their knowledge and expertise. As a minimum the facades should be retained. Tearing down part of the streetscape is comparable to business suicide since the tax base will be decreased and enjoying walking the streets of Ellicott City will be diminished.

e) I would suggest that the County buy the properties that the owners want to sell and stabilize them with some of these funds until a more comprehensive plan is enacted. For the property owners who do not want to sell, grant them funds to stabilize their buildings. Then consider how these properties can be better utilized; i.e., perhaps putting in non-commercial uses such as a visitor center or a museum.

4) This plan should be either voted down or tabled until after the elections when all of you will not be sitting on the County Council. There could also be a new County Executive. You should not be the decision maker for this fast-tracked expensive plan. Instead, let's come up with an imaginative plan that could well be a model for other historic communities facing similar storm issues.

← APRS  
JF  
MS

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
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2018 SEP 20 AM 10:11

My name is April Baer and I reside on Greenway Drive in Ellicott City. I oppose the demolition component of the flood mitigation legislation.

As a life-long Howard Countian and someone who was born and raised in the Historic District, I'm here to offer a perspective. Unfortunately, the tone of these proceedings is unnecessarily confrontational and pit us against one, however, we all want the same thing—community preservation through smart planning. In opposing the demolition component, we are not proposing to sit on our hands and wait for the next flood, as has been suggested.

Historic Ellicott City is a gem. The unique qualities that draw visitors, residents, historians, and businesses alike, do not exist by happenstance. The town has been saved, improved, and preserved by citizen activism and imagination. I grew up in the 1970s in old Ellicott City and it was a dying town. Businesses had left, the town was full of countless folks sitting on stoops and drinking out of brown paper bags, a large homeless population living in tents along the river, hard drugs were dealt out of the Star Disco, and the historic district designation saved the town. That designation turned Ellicott City into a place where tourism and commerce thrive today.

I have lived through flood, fire (both accidental and by an arsonist), and bad development proposals that have threatened our historic hamlet. There are always parties who recommend swift, draconian measures in response to these events.

There are many who feel strongly about our town. Town residents, Howard Countians, Marylanders, preservationists, government officials, and business owners. The perspectives of all constituents must be considered before approving any plan. It is our moment in time to protect our town and each other.

The demolition component of this legislation destroys the town and fails to fix the problem. We don't get a do over—remediation must be done correctly. Please do not approve this legislation.

**Statement of Matthew H. Fleming (Ellicott City Partnership)  
to the Howard County Council, Legislative Public Hearing, 17 September 2018  
in support of TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018**

Members of the County Council, thank you for the privilege of coming before you to speak in support of TAO1-FY2019, CB61-2018, and CB62-2018. My name is Matthew Fleming. I'm the president of the Board of Directors of the Ellicott City Partnership (ECP; I'm here representing the ECP, but am also a resident). The ECP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that serves Ellicott City's historic district, Old Ellicott City. The ECP works to preserve the heritage and vitality of Old Ellicott City while creating and enhancing economic growth. The ECP seeks a vibrant, economically sustainable, historic community. The ECP's constituents comprise businesses, property owners, residents, and visitors to Old Ellicott City.

The board of directors of the ECP voted unanimously on 5 September 2018 to support both the five-year flood mitigation plan as presented by the county on 23 August 2018, and the funding bills currently before the County Council that will support that effort.

Why does the ECP support this plan? This plan is the culmination of years of analysis. The county has been studying the issue since 2011, with intensified focus—and considerable public input—via its Flood Work Group since 2015 and Master Plan process since 2016. The plan comprises an analysis-based package of measures that seeks to minimize flood risk in the West End and on Main Street. The plan reduces floodwater depth on lower Main, for example, by nearly 50 percent, and, more importantly, velocity by nearly 60 percent (quality, in terms of debris, is also improved with multiple measures). These parameters, particularly reduced velocity, significantly increase resilience. In so doing, the plan reduces the costs of future flood events, not least lives lost, fire and police response-and-recovery support, property and business repairs, and lost revenue.

The plan minimizes flood risk subject to a very real set of constraints, including: engineering feasibility; cost (including ongoing operations and maintenance); time-to-risk-reduction impact; resilience to failure (and diversification of risk); and long-term viability of the town. Might a different plan have a greater impact on flood risk? Perhaps, but analysis suggests that a different plan might also require significantly greater funding and/or additional years of construction because of nontrivial engineering challenges.

Why the urgency? Calls for immediate action are made after each flood event, quite reasonably. The urgency is felt more deeply at present, however, given: statements made to the county by the National Weather Service regarding data that suggest increased likelihood of extreme rain events; concern that damaged buildings, stream walls, and associated support structures cannot withstand further damage without potentially catastrophic failure; and statements made by existing businesses that they cannot survive extended periods of business disruption.

How can the ECP support the county's plan? Our mission calls on us to preserve the heritage of Old Ellicott City. But preserving should not imply maintaining status quo at any cost. Any visitor to any historic city or town in the world is aware that cities and towns change over time. Cities and towns are living things. They evolve, shaped by events such as floods and fires and wars. Ellicott City is no different.

Moreover, our mission calls on us to preserve vitality while creating economic growth. There is neither vitality nor economic growth in a town that is, or is perceived to be, closed. There is neither vitality nor economic growth in a town that is, or is perceived to be, unsafe to owners, employees, residents, and visitors.

We, like all who love Ellicott City, wish that circumstances were different. But they are not. Property owners support the plan; businesses—including those who will be displaced—support the plan; storm-water experts support the plan. And, for the long-term survivability of Ellicott City, the ECP supports the plan and this legislation.