

Sayers, Margery

From: Marjorie Valin <mvalin@frankbiz.com>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 1:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Submitting testimony strongly against CB 75 2018

I am asking the Council to vote against CB-75 2018. It is so vague as to be irresponsible. Not only does it gut the authority of the HPC to carry out its mission, it would require the HPC to approve demolition of the very buildings it exists to protect - in the name of public safety, but with no definition of what constitutes public safety.

If a historic building does not pass inspection, is it a threat to public safety and subject to demolition?

If a building needs major repairs and renovation, like nearly every historic structure, is it to be torn down instead of restored?

If there is a fire that damages but does not destroy the structure, who decides if it is a safety threat?

If a historic building stands in the way of development rights, it is a good bet that someone will find a public safety concern.

And what are the parameters of "public safety"? 5 people? A block? A neighborhood, business district or voting district? Who writes laws that leave out this type of specificity?

CB 75 sets a terrible precedent that could make Ellicott City or other areas of Howard County unrecognizable in less than one generation. It is bad enough that this bill is an end run to avoid federal intervention that might delay or keep the flood mitigation plan moving forward, but it is a Pandora's Box for Howard County's future.

For a county that has been the financial beneficiary of heritage tours and cultural tourism, this bill is killing the goose that has laid the golden egg. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote against it.

Marjorie Valin
5367 Five Fingers Way
Columbia MD 21045

Co-owner of Frank Strategic Marketing, formerly located at 8320 Main Street, Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: John Logan <jlstonekeeper@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 9:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bill CB75-2018 Demolition ECBldgs

I lived in HO for 55 years and worked for Rec and Parks for over 30. The last 20 I was charged with tool trade care of 18 historic sites owned by the County. Since retirement I have continued Preservation career with a stone, monument, gravestone repair and conservation business.

During Hurricane Katrina I received a grant from Worlds Monument fund to access damage to homes and structures in New Orleans. Published a pamphlet on care of flood damaged structures for residents, it was well received. After first flood in EC I sent 50 copies to Rec and Parks, did not hear back. Hope folks received copies that needed it.

What could possibly be more historically correct than what is already there? Foundations are probably compromised, but can be repaired, anything can be repaired, unless it explodes. If the B&O Station was half way down the hill in the river, I'm sure it would be repaired.

I have a relationship with the Association for Preservation Technology and many preservation architects. Some structural engineers are not versed on rubble stone, timber, triple brick or other historic building practices. Mostly concrete/ steel for demo. Public should be able to get the structural assessment reports and read them. Hope the County knows this.

Went to a Historic District Commission mtg years ago. Back then not many folks on the commission seemed to be versed in historic preservation practice and theory. My opinion, hope there is more knowledge there now, not to discredit anyone. Should read the Secretary of Interior's Standards for treatment of historic structures, again. When plastic windows and cement board are approved building materials replacements that's not preservation in a historic district.

The money spent on architectural documents prior to demolition, the study of what should replace the bldgs and the cost of replacement would probably equal repair. Maybe a plaza with statues of the Ellicott Bros, George Howard, Wendall Bowman, or Roland Bounds.

Got my first real haircut in one of those bldgs, Clark's was really the only hardware in 1960 when I was 7. This is Ellicott City MD founded 1771, these buildings, the B&O station, this town was very significant to the founding of our Country. Very significant, agriculture, commerce, transportation.

In closing I hope there is not a big by partisan battle over this and I hope the County has done their homework thoroughly. I am not taking a side, just observations, opinions, statements of questions from someone that has been in the historic preservation tool trades for a while.

Thank you for your time, best regards
Michael Logan Waynesboro, PA

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Edelen <peter.edelen@peteredelen.com>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 6:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony In Support of CB75-2018

Dear Council Members,

I am submitting testimony in support of CB75-2018 in lieu of my scheduled public testimony.

While opposition has concentrated on “demolition”, it is important to note that there are a large number of flood proofing measures that could improve Public Safety proposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers that would not get approved by the Historic Preservation Commission ‘as is’ without purchasing expensive specialized and custom made mechanisms outside of the country in some cases. This is because readily available flood doors for example do not meet HPC requirements for facade improvements. There are a large number of structural flood proofing measures that can not be implemented because of these requirements.

I believe that approval of all flood proofing measures should take priority over stringent HPC requirements that prevent expedient remediation to structures along Main Street in the interest of Public Safety. The Historic Preservation Commission rules in the County Code already have rules in place for these types of applications in section 16.605 and I believe amending 16.607 for certificate of approvals in regards to Public Safety is absolutely necessary.

I would ask that in your consideration and decision of this bill, you review the NONSTRUCTURAL FLOOD PROOFING STUDY FOR ELLICOTT CITY, MD prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the Historic Preservation Commission in a special meeting and see how many recommended measures would be approved with their current requirements if this bill were not approved.

This report can be referenced here

at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=dHPynIDuG5I%3d&portalid=0> at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Ellicott-City-Flood-2018/Previous-Studies> in case you have not been provided this report before.

It has been wildly speculated that this bill would enable Howard County to demolish structures unrelated to Public Safety measures in favor of development. I believe this bill can be approved in a manner that would protect structures such as the B&O Railroad Museum and other historic structures throughout the County that have been speculated by opposition to mislead the public about this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Peter A Edelen

Sayers, Margery

From: lindaleslie@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 6:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB-75-2018 - No!

Dear council members,

I read with great dismay proposed legislation bill 75, which allows for, among other things, the destruction of historic buildings against the recommendations of the historic preservation commission. The speed with which you are trying to rush this bill through the council is alarming. The lack of details that have been provided on the necessity for this bill is equally alarming. Pretty much every historic building could be put at risk for the sake of "public safety." Would you care to define that better for us?

I do not support passage of this bill at this time.

- Linda Leslie
Columbia, MD

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail