

October 25, 2018

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

RE: Pending Howard County Council Bill CB75-2018

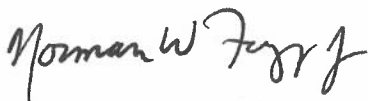
Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

I am the Chair of the Sykesville Historic District Commission and have reviewed the proposed Howard County Council Bill CB75-2018, along with comments submitted by the Maryland Association of Historic Districts. I share their concerns regarding precedent being set in Howard County by the pending Council Bill CB75-2018, specifically concerning Ellicott City, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and protection from catastrophic flooding. My concern is that the lack of a more narrow definition of "public safety", along with the use of the language "shall approve", removes any ability of the HPC to deliberate, and disapprove with cause, any application regarding historic sites within Ellicott City, and especially that regarding flood mitigation. This language could continue to affect the role of HPC oversight in the future.

Further, this could be used to justify similar actions in other municipal historic preservation districts. Specifically, in Sykesville, our Historic District Commission is working to preserve the Warfield Historic Site which contains a number of buildings that require significant, expensive repairs to preserve them. It is not hard to conceive of a situation where the SHDC role to ensure their preservation could be compromised using that language in a similar Carroll County bill.

While I agree that an amendment regarding public safety is necessary to address this issue, I feel that definition should be narrowly defined and the term "shall approve" be modified to provide for the continued oversight of the HPC to approve or disapprove an application based on all considerations. To continue the important role of the Howard County Preservation Commission to provide oversight for the heritage of Howard County and to protect its independent nature, I respectfully request that the County Council consider the ramifications of the bill CB75-2018 and vote no on this version.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman Fogg
718 Oklahoma Avenue
Sykesville, MD 21784

CC: Leslie L. Gottert, MA, Executive Director, MAHD

Sayers, Margery

From: joy gaither-wineke <jgwink@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 5:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB75

Hello,
My name is Joy Wineke and I am a Ellicott City resident and I'm in of supports CB75.
Please pass this amendment.
Thank you,
Joy Wineke
Sent from my iPhone