

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jason <jpb27nyy@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:16 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** ECSafeandSound; Ball, Calvin; jpb27nyy@verizon.net  
**Subject:** email in SUPPORT of the extension to the 2018 Watershed Safety Act

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I'm wondering how many of you know that on that fateful day - May 27th, 2018 - we nearly lost 2 lives in Valleymede - and I don't believe this heroic story even caught the eye of many of our elected officials, the local news or first responders b/c of the swift acts of quick thinking neighbors who latched themselves together to rescue a man from his overturned pick-up truck from the drainage culvert on Chatham Road near Paulskirk Road AND helped his wife who was SUCKED UNDER THE ROAD and surfaced in front of the Resurrection Church discharge pipe for the overwhelmed drainage structure. True story. **How many of you are aware of this?**

Would it take the tragic and untimely PREVENTABLE loss of MORE LIVES secondary to flooding in Ellicott City before ALL of the impacting County boards, offices and committees opens their eye and look at the CUMULATIVE effects of the flooding in our communities?

Downstream building removal - while a form of mitigation - does NOT stop the rushing headwaters from reaching their destination - this is what prevention based mitigation is and SHOULD be about. The old saying, "Water finds it's level" holds true. We can ONLY try to calm the upstream rush of waters that are coursing through overwhelmed streams, creeks and brooks that overwhelm our neighborhoods, b/c we won't STOP the flood waters from causing damage. Upstream building has devastated and destroyed Old Ellicott City, and now it's taking it's toll on our outlying communities, as well. Look around. We've already had several homes in Valleymede either removed already or in the process of being purchased to be removed and allow for upstream flood control.

I fully support the extension to the 2018 Watershed Safety Act and hope that a new administration can hold accountable those boards within Howard County that have the ability to cease / decist all building in the areas where we continually suffer from surface water flooding UNTIL a community solution is determined to be **SAFE and SOUND** for all residents of Howard County.

Thank you.

Jason Bashura  
3114 Ramblewood Road  
Chatham section of Valleymede  
Ellicott City, MD

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tara Scully <taramscully@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:52 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** 2018 watershed extension

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members:

As a resident of Valley Mede where we have witnessed a significant increase in flood damage and dangerous conditions for drivers with flooded roads since 2011, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's bill to extend the 2018 Watershed Safety Act. By extending the Act's original one-year effective period, this bill will help ensure that the temporary halt in development does not lapse before the general public and members of the Council have sufficient time to consider and act upon the County Departments' forthcoming analyses and recommendations. We must act now to truly evaluate the sustainability of our county's past rampant development and its impact on the safety and viability of existing communities.

- Tara Scully  
3102 Ramblewood Rd, Ellicott City  
Sent from my iPhone

extending the 2018 Watershed Safety Act to provide sufficient time to review recommendations as we work to build a future that is smarter, safer, and environmentally sound."

"As we await the Administration's full report on CB56-2018 in May, we must continue to safeguard Ellicott City from any potential increases to its flood risk," stated Council Chair Christiana Mercer Rigby. "As a co-sponsor of this bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council and County Executive Ball to ensure we have a comprehensive flood mitigation plan moving forward."

Councilman Opel Jones stated, "I am happy to join my colleagues as a co-sponsor for CB-20, extending temporary prohibition on approvals of development plans and zoning changes. The three-month extension will allow the County Council to review recommendations from county agencies to protect public health and safety in the watersheds of our county."

"I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of this bill because it will allow the County to review the past year's history with regard to the mitigation measures that have been put into place thus far, and to determine what needs to take place on a more permanent basis," said Council Member Deb Jung.

The Council's public hearing for the extension of the Watershed Safety Act will take place Monday, May 20th at 7 pm. To sign-up to testify at the public hearing, please visit: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. Written testimony can be emailed to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov).

To view the full text of the extension legislation (CB20-2019), please visit: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Legislation>

To view the 2018 legislation (CB56-2018) please visit: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=3118>

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Howard County Council | ph: 410-313-2001 | web: [cc.howardcountymd.gov](http://cc.howardcountymd.gov)

Howard County Council, 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043

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*Ellicott City, MD* - Joined by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and three members of the County Council, District 1 Council Member Liz Walsh has pre-filed legislation (CB20-2019) to extend the effective period of the 2018 Watershed Safety Act by an additional three months. The original effective period is set to expire July 27, 2019 and the new legislation would extend it to October 27, 2019.

Enacted after the second catastrophic flooding in twenty-two months, the Watershed Safety Act (CB56-2018) aimed to protect historic Ellicott City and the residential neighborhoods of West End, Nob Hill, Chatham, Valley Mede and Dunloggin from further harm by temporarily halting further development in the Tiber Branch and Plumtree Branch watersheds. Council Bill 56-2018 passed with unanimous support of the previous five-member Council.

The term of the temporary halt was intended to enable the County's Department of Planning and Zoning, the Department of Public Works, and other appropriate agencies within County government to study-"as expeditiously as practicable without compromising quality"-the extent to which existing, planned and future development or redevelopment of property in the watersheds contribute to flooding.

The 2018 Watershed Safety Act specified eight inquiries to be made by the Departments:

- Modeling analysis of the May 27, 2018 flood
- Designs and plans for construction of flood mitigation infrastructure, including both stormwater storage and conveyance
- Analysis of how existing and proposed development and redevelopment in the watersheds contributes to flooding
- Changes to the County's stormwater management regulations
- Analysis of public and private options for retrofitting existing public and private property stormwater infrastructure
- Changes to the County's general plan, density, and open space zoning regulations
- Creation of a special benefits district or districts, or other funding mechanisms to finance stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure improvements
- Establishing a comprehensive plan for managing and controlling the various complex factors contributing to flooding to the maximum extent practicable

By the terms of the original legislation, the Departments are to share findings as they become available with the public. A report of all analyses and recommendations as to changes in law and procedures that may help to protect the watersheds from the effects of future flooding is to be submitted to the Council no later than May 31, 2019.

"By extending the original one-year effective period of the Watershed Safety Act, this bill ensures that the temporary halt in development does not lapse before the general public and members of the Council have sufficient time to consider and act upon the Departments' forthcoming analyses and recommendations," remarked Walsh. "I thank County Executive Ball and my colleagues on the Council for taking this step to give effect to the original intent of the Watershed Safety Act."

"My administration remains dedicated to improving public safety and protecting our community from flooding," said Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. "I support

Yes, I very much want to testify. I followed the link, but nothing available to sign up for yet. Thank you for getting legislation started so moratorium doesn't expire before suitable dialog.

Couple thoughts / comments:

- 1) Moratorium should continue until there is suitable storm water mitigation – at best that looks like 4 years if most expedient EC plan is followed. This follows the idea of 1<sup>st</sup> do no harm;
- 2) Everything still references 100 year storm. That's just a poor measure and doesn't deal with peak rainfall and the responsibility of folks to keep hazardous things, like excess water, on their property until no longer hazardous. This only serves to allow for development without bearing the responsibility of what happens at peak times.
- 3) Where are the "new" development regulations that we were supposed to see and be able to comment? Last I hear Jim Irvin was reviewing, at least, that's what I was told. A new storm water retention measurement could be added to those regulations.
- 4) The plans proffered by administration look like minimum of 4 years. We need expedience and adequate. We can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good;
- 5) With respect to Thursday's meeting at Howard, I suggest that the directly impacted community, i.e., property owners, business owners, residents & workers be invited to comment before other community members who are not at risk have a chance to speak. I think that most of us on Main Street have had about enough of others who aren't at risk telling us what needs to be done.

Your comments are most welcome.

**Bert Wilson, CFA**  
Managing Director  
EFW, Inc.  
8060 Main Street  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Direct: (443) 286-1397  
[www.efwcorp.com](http://www.efwcorp.com)

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**From:** Howard County Council [mailto:councilpio@howardcountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Bert Wilson  
**Subject:** District 1 Council Member Liz Walsh Files Legislation to Extend Effective Period of 2018 Watershed Safety Act



**Media Contact:**  
Nicole Dvorak  
(410) 313-2001

*April 29, 2019*  
*For Immediate Release:*

**District 1 Council Member Liz Walsh Files Legislation to  
Extend Effective Period of 2018 Watershed Safety Act**

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Bert Wilson <BertWilson@efwcorp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Dvorak, Nicole  
**Subject:** Comments - Legislation to Extend Effective Period of 2018 Watershed Safety Act

**Importance:** High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council:

I'm one of Liz Walsh's constituents, and am forwarding my comments below to the entire Council for your consideration on the matter of extending the current Tiber and Plum Tree Watershed building moratorium. I support the extension as an absolute minimum action necessary to allow time for more comprehensive legislation and associated rulemaking.

I live on Old Columbia Pike, and our family owns a property on lower Main Street, where we did a complete historic rehab, and I, currently, operate my business. Our property has been through 3 floods since 2008 when we bought it – all flash floods: 2011, 2016 & 2018. We sustained serious damage to our first floor in the last two floods, and water levels were progressively higher in each flood. I'm concerned that little progress has been made on regulations that minimize any further additions to storm water at peak rainfall events. My hope is the an immediate extension of the moratorium will provide the Council suitable time to have a thoughtful review of the many studies that were specified in the original legislation and allow time for suitable public comment.

Please support the current legislation to extend the moratorium. I hope my comments below are helpful. If you would like to discuss my perspective of the impact of this legislation on those of us at the bottom of the hill in Ellicott City, please call or email me. I'm happy to meet personally, as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

*Bert Wilson, CFA*  
 Managing Director  
 EFW, Inc.  
 8060 Main Street  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043

Direct: (443) 286-1397  
[www.efwcorp.com](http://www.efwcorp.com)

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**From:** Bert Wilson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:39 AM  
**To:** Liz Walsh (Business Fax); Nicole Dvorak (ndvorak@howardcountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** FW: District 1 Council Member Liz Walsh Files Legislation to Extend Effective Period of 2018 Watershed Safety Act  
**Importance:** High

Liz / Nicole,

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Suzette, Steve & Shaun <3muggles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 10:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Watershed Moratorium

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

As a resident of Valley Mede where we have witnessed a significant increase in flood damage since 2011, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's bill to extend the 2018 Watershed Safety Act. By extending the Act's original one-year effective period, this bill will help ensure that the temporary halt in development does not lapse before the general public and members of the Council have sufficient time to consider and act upon the County Departments' forthcoming analyses and recommendations. We must act now to truly evaluate the sustainability of our county's past rampant development and its impact on the safety and viability of existing communities.

Thank you,  
Suzette and Steve Lamb  
9506 Valley Mede Court

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathryn Coleman <crosbymd@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Extend Watershed Protection

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members:

As a resident of Valley Mede where we have witnessed significant increases in flood damage since 2011, I urge you to support Councilwoman Liz Walsh's bill to extend the 2018 Watershed Safety Act. By extending the Act's original one-year effective period, this bill will help ensure that the temporary halt in development does not lapse before the general public and members of the Council have sufficient time to consider and act upon the County Departments' forthcoming analyses and recommendations. We must act now to truly evaluate the sustainability of our county's past rampant development and its impact on the safety and viability of existing communities.

Thank you,

Kathryn Coleman  
[3105 Brookmede Road](#)  
21042

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone