

Lisa Markowitz

President, The People's Voice Corporate Court Ellicott City

May 20, 2019

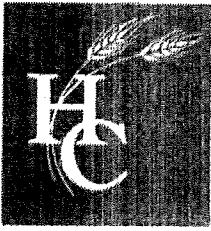
Testimony in Support of CB20-2019

The details in this Bill referencing the timing of reports and decision deadlines outlines the clear need for an extension. I hope that further extensions are made after getting all the report requirements completed, so as to capture time needed for at least some portion of actual flood mitigation efforts to be implemented.

Our watershed area flooding problems did not occur overnight, and have been on-going with exacerbation from removal of natural surfaces, going into steep slopes and not having adequate storm water management requirements, along with the increasing probability of intense storms versus what we used to call 100 year or 1000 year storms. Clearly, older neighborhoods built under older regulations are having problems, but even the latest regulations are not preventing flooding given the increased intensity and frequency of storms. Also, the measurement of effects of development are not taken so far away as to engineer and fully expect its impacts downstream for significant distances that funnel into flood-prone watersheds. Having the moratorium on these entire watersheds while these important issues are addressed is much appreciated and necessary.

Some say development helps with flooding because it adheres to the most current storm water management rules, but those rules are not preventing flooding, and are not addressing effects further from the projects. We clearly need more time to implement large, expensive mitigation projects to keep people and property safe, and we need to stop the flow while that is done.

A moratorium on development in these sensitive areas should remain until we have adequate offset to its continued progress regarding flooding concerns.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Lisa Markowitz, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

The People's Voice to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 20 to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

support for /  opposition to /  request to amend this legislation.  
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lisa Markowitz

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/20/19

Organization: The People's Voice

Organization Address: 3205 Corporate Ct  
Ellicott City MD 21042

Number of Members: 2818

Name of Chair/President: Lisa Markowitz

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

CB 20-2019

5/20/19

To the County Council Members,

My name is Carolyn Weibel, and I have resided on Longview Drive in Valley Mede for the past 20 years. I am going on record in support of extending the building moratorium for the Tiber-Hudson and Plumtree watersheds for at least another 3 months. I watched and listened to the May 13, 2019 Monthly County Council Meeting discussing the presentation made by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Planning and Zoning. As you know, this same presentation will be presented to the General Public Tuesday evening, May 21, 2019.

My concern is that recommendations have been made to the Council, and there are still questions and decisions to be made about these recommendations. Resuming development at the end of July 2019 before there is a plan in place to address these "high density", "short duration" storms in both of these watersheds is harmful.

Continued development without fixing the current storm water management issues is ludicrous, at best. We thought that the storm of 2011 wouldn't occur again, and it did to a worse degree in 2016. We thought that the storm of 2016 wouldn't occur again, and it did in 2018, just as deadly. The trend is not a good one, and we should fix the problems as they exist today before any consideration is given to any more development.

CB80-16 legislation, that was enacted following the 2016 flooding event, gives consideration only to the Tiber Watershed, and not the Plumtree Watershed. This legislation prohibits the issuance of waivers to the Howard County Current Zoning Regulations and Practices covering no development in a 100-year floodplain, steep slope regulations, stream buffer regulations, and field verification of environmental features. Plumtree Watershed needs to be included in CB80-16. The rationale that there is limited affected land in the Plumtree Watershed doesn't hold water (pardon the pun). Limited affected land can contribute to potential storm water issues. If any of

these waivers are permitted, then existing and/or newer communities will experience destruction due to continued flooding in the Plumtree Watershed. One project in the Plumtree Watershed that comes to mind is the proposed Bethany Glen project. It is in a floodplain, and the Little Plumtree originates on the 67 acres of this proposed development. This acreage, in my mind, is significant, so please consider adding the Plumtree Watershed to CB80-16.

One final comment - consideration needs to be given to pursuing the purchase of land parcels within floodplains. This should not only be to create preservation areas, but to continue to create open space.

Thank you for reading/listening to my concerns.

Carolyn Weibel  
Valley Mede resident

May 20, 2019

My name is Sherry Fackler-Berkowitz, and until February 2019 I co-owned a piece of property at 8069 Main Street in Historic Ellicott City. The historic stucco building at the bottom of the hill.

2011 - 4' water in the basement.

2016 - 7 ½' of water in the building, tenants stuck in our back apartment.

2018 - 8' water in the building, tenants stuck in the front of building.

I am here to support bill CB20-2019.

I believe we should extend the Watershed Safety Act. This would allow the County Council and the County Executive to reevaluate the standards for storm water runoff along with retention ponds that need to be built on all properties that are going to be developed in and around the watershed.

Since the 2018 flood a lot of new data has come to the attention of the County Council and the County Executive, thanks to Ron Peters because of the cameras he placed along the river. We now have a better idea of how much water comes down each branch in the watershed. This information gives the county better data on how and where we should begin to control the water.

I've heard developers say that they are the answer to controlling the flow of water, yet in the years before, the county did not put enough restrictions on storm water runoff from new development. Now that we have this new information it is time that we make those who develop around and, in the watershed, meet new standards to today's storms.

It's time for resident's, property owners and businesses owners begin to feel safe again.

If we move forward without new standards and restrictions in place it will show that we have learned nothing, not to mention the many residents, business and property owners that are investing thousands of dollars to flood proof their properties. Their reward should be stricter stormwater management that will help save their investments for years to come.

It's unfortunate that this is where we are today, but we know a lot more then we did in 2011 or even 2016. Let's use that information wisely.

As the new safe and sound program is being developed, the moratorium on building in and around the watershed should continue to be in effect until new storm water management standards are put in place to make the communities in and around the watershed safe.

I hope this County Council will be the ones to make a real difference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sherry Fackler-Berkowitz', located at the bottom right of the page.

May 20, 2019

I am Len Berkowitz, co-owner of Great Panes Art Glass Studio and former property owner of 8069 Main Street.

I credit my longevity of 40 years directly because the Historic District of Ellicott City.

Historic Ellicott City has allowed me to grow, prosper and benefit <sup>FROM</sup> for the diversity, enthusiasm, and do diligence of many of the people who have found their way to the Historic District.

We have been vocal, demonstrative and a staunch supporter of limited development.

This is the first time in those 40 years, we the people, have been able to limit and hopefully reduce over development.

It is my great parting gift to the town I owe so much to ask / NO DEMAND a continued moratorium on development and a plan to give those who come after me the same future that I was so fortunate to have.



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