

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Broderick <Jennifer@bridges2hs.org>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 3:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Proposed Legislation

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Dear Howard County Council Members,

I'm writing today in support of CR 96 and CR 97. Both of these resolutions will help Howard County add additional much needed affordable units for residents with lower incomes.

CR96 will expand the number of affordable units in Columbia, and the PILOT agreement will help Enterprise Corporation in moving the renovation and expansion of the development forward

CR 97 will add affordable housing in an area that does not have any. It is only due to a recent school redistricting change which was beyond the control of the developers that the Robinson's Overlook project now will be over the APFO imposed 105% capacity limit at the elementary level. This project should be continued, as it will contribute to closing the affordable housing gap in the area, and is a positive step toward including diverse housing options in that area.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jen Broderick, LCSW
Bridges to Housing Stability Acting Executive Director
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Jennifer@bridges2hs.org

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Sayers, Margery

From: LINDA Wengel <lwengel@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR 96 and 97

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The League of Women Voters of Howard County strongly supports passage of Council Resolutions 96 and 97.

In 2018 the League conducted a thorough study of the need and supply of affordable housing in Howard County. Recognizing the scarcity of low and moderate income housing in the county, the League adopted a policy to support multiple approaches to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Relevant to CR 96, is our position that any redevelopment of low and moderate income housing maintain at least the same number of affordable units. The Enterprise proposal achieves this goal and by adding an equal number of market rate units advances the goal of mixed income development. The Enterprise development will have a positive effect on both the Wilde Lake and Harpers Choice neighborhoods

Relevant to CR 97 is our position that affordable housing, which is now concentrated in a few areas in the county, should be dispersed throughout the county.

Payment in lieu of taxes should be considered an incentive for developers to build affordable housing. Granting PILOT helps developers obtain scarce Low Income Housing Tax Credits and increases the feasibility of development. Additionally, the League was surprised during the course of our study, to learn that Howard County, which offers education programs and limited assistance with down payments and security deposits, does not own or manage any low income housing. Real estate tax exemption for LIHTC developments is a reasonable contribution to the advancement of moderate and low income housing in Howard County.

Thank you for considering our written testimony.

Linda Wengel
Action Chair
League of Women Voters of Howard County

