

Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR57-2020 Rule 1.012 -Conduct of public hearings - States of Emergency

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Dear Council,

In CR57-2020 on Page 3, Lines 18 and 19, it is disingenuous to claim that subsections (b) and (c) are superseded and then relate back to them in Page 3, Line 27 and Page 4, Line 2. Claiming that the subsections are superseded is confusing and not even accurate; subsection (b)(1) is still applicable. Furthermore, it is confusing for the public which will be required to parse the language to determine which time limits and other provisions apply and which do not. This is even more difficult due to the fact the the so-called current language of the Rule is in fact the pre-CR100 language. For these reasons and for clarity and transparency, the emergency provisions must be restated in toto and not relate back to subsection (b).

On Page 3, Lines 16 and 17 it must be made clear that any state of emergency declared by the President or Governor is one that is effective in Howard County and not elsewhere.

On Page 4, Lines 1 and 2 the requirement that signups occur by 7 pm on the day prior to the hearing invariably means that the this will be on Sundays or public holidays--including religious holidays. This is counter to other provisions in the Rules, Code and Charter that do not count weekends and holidays for computation of time or allow for the conduct of official business. See for example Rule 1.001 (b)(1)(i); Sec. 22.902 (b) -Computation of time; Sec. 16.128(c)(2) - Presubmission community meetings; Charter Section 209(h)(2) Life of bills. Doing this on a day and time when the Council offices are closed also means that those with problems will have no ability to contact the Council staff for assistance. The same could be said for today's 8 am deadline, unless the staff were readily available during the 7 am hour for assistance.

On Page 4, Lines 4 and 5, having signed up today for Webex, it is unclear why a telephone number is needed. It is also unclear whether this provision envisioned the receipt of a text. If so this is not clear, and unfair to persons with phones which do not have texting ability.

I hope that appropriate amendments will be submitted to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz