



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 19 October 2020

Subject: CB55-2020 -Requiring the County Executive to Submit Fiscal Analyses

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would like to thank Councilmember Deb Jung for introducing this piece of legislation, which would require the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses with certain pieces of legislation.

The HCCA also thanks Councilmembers Walsh and Yungmann for co-sponsoring this legislation.

Just a few weeks ago, the County Council voted on several resolutions for charter amendment which had they passed would improve the legislative body's oversight ability.

CR97 which was sponsored by Councilmember Jung would have required the County Auditor to accompany the County Executive and Council Chairs on all discussions with officials of credit rating agencies. CR98 which was sponsored by Councilmember Yungmann would have made certain appointments by the County Executive subject to confirmation. CR101 was sponsored by Councilmember Jung would have allowed the County Council to have some control over the County's capital projects and departments. CR102, which was sponsored by Councilmember Yungmann, would have added to the County Charter a requirement for fiscal analysis.

All of these Resolutions would have helped the County Council, as a co-equal branch of County government, assert oversight over some of the County's critical activities. Unfortunately, all failed because Councilmembers Jones and Rigby declined to acknowledge the branch of government they represent, effectively ceding this authority to the executive branch.

We believe the approval of this Bill will incrementally improve the legislative body's oversight ability. The HCCA as a watchdog organization was disappointed that the Resolutions as mentioned failed and is very gratified that this legislation has three votes to pass. We only hope CB55 receives a unanimous vote to ensure a veto-proof majority.

We urge passage of this legislation to gain transparency for all.

Hiruy Hadgu
HCCA Board of Directors