

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Jennifer White <jwhite@thehorizonfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony Submission  
**Attachments:** Shared Streets Testimony\_031521.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

Please find testimony on behalf of the Horizon Foundation in support of CR43-2021.

Thank you,

**Jennifer Arice White, MSPH**

Senior Policy and Community Engagement Officer, Horizon Foundation

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**CR43-2021:** Implementation of a “Shared Streets Program”

**Position:** Support

Good Evening Chairperson Walsh and members of the Howard County Council

My name is Jennifer White, Sr. Policy and Community Engagement Officer at the Horizon Foundation in Howard County, MD. The Horizon Foundation is Howard County’s community health foundation and the largest independent health philanthropy in the state of Maryland. We lead community change so everyone in Howard County can live a longer, better life.

The Horizon Foundation is in support of CR43-2021, which encourages the implementation of a “Shared Streets Program”. Many of us are now relying on safe and accessible sidewalks, bike lanes, paths and crosswalks for physical activity, as a mental reprieve from isolation, and an important way for essential workers to get to their jobs. We salute Chairperson Walsh for her advocacy of Shared Streets as a temporary response to this global pandemic.

Implementing temporary, programmatic demonstrations of safer, more accessible streets is consistent with both WalkHoward and BikeHoward, our pedestrian and bike master plans respectively. The WalkHoward plan, for example, calls for a series of Howard County walk-about, which follows the example of the Columbia Association’s Bikeabout. Led by the Department of Recreation and Parks and Columbia Association, local businesses would have an opportunity to engage with residents while raising awareness about the importance of creating safer, more accessible streets.

The types of Shared Streets program elements listed in CR43-2021 vary in cost and feasibility and would require appropriate funding and coordination with Howard County agencies if implemented. We urge Howard County Council to work with the County Executive to determine which Shared Streets elements are feasible and then agree on an appropriate level of funding to support these elements.

A Shared Streets Program is at best a temporary response to a much larger problem. We cannot stress enough the importance of creating permanent infrastructure that will enable our community to safely and accessibly bike, walk and access public transportation. The primary reason why this program is proposed is that our community does not have the safe, accessible roads we need.

Building safe, accessible streets requires long-term, consistent capital funding. Recall that just last year, the County Council voted to cut funding to several complete streets capital projects in the County Executive’s budget. Moving forward, we urge you to make significant capital investments in our biking and walking infrastructure to build and improve sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, crosswalks, and intersections.

In closing, the Foundation supports demonstration programs like “Shared Streets”, but long-term solutions like Complete Streets and investments in biking and walking capital projects will create the infrastructure that will make our roads much safer and more accessible for generations. We urge you to prioritize biking and walking projects in Howard County’s capital budget now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

I, Jennifer White, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

Horizon Foundation to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CR 43-2021 to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Jennifer A. White

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 3/18/2021

Organization: Horizon Foundation

Organization Address: 10221 Dincepin Cir #208

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 10 Staff; 18 Board Members

Name of Chair/President: Nikki H. Vernick

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
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TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Carina Malchiodi, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Brownie Troop 1890 to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CR43-2021 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

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

Printed Name: Carina Malchiodi

Signature: Andrea Kodys (Mother, for Carina Malchiodi - minor child)

Date: 14 March 2021

Organization: Brownie Troop 1890

Organization Address: N/A

N/A

Number of Members: 15

Name of Chair/President: Andrea Kodys (Leader)

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