



Howard County Citizens Association
Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

May 24, 2021

County Council – HCCA Positions on Resolutions 72,73,74,86,80 2021

Resolutions 72/73 – These fees have been stagnant for far too long and need to be reviewed for a rational increase. Adding a purely inflationary clause to increase automatically is warranted.

Resolution 74 – the ZRA petitioner fee should be increased to follow the County Code and have the Council set the appropriate cost to the County to be reimbursed by petitioners who stand to profit immensely from these measures. Individuals who petition for these changes also benefit very much, and should have to weigh investing in a change carefully, since the changes affect others.

Resolutions 86/89- The HCCA has argued for a long time to raise or eliminate the fee-in-lieu of providing MIHU's to get them more spread out, and/or get more County funds closer to the cost of the units. These fees are artificially capped by the building industry which is entirely inappropriate and not done by other jurisdictions. The cap has to be removed. While it is in place, the Council should be told the maximum that can be chosen to raise the fee in the legislative financial impact information.

The Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) agrees with the testimony provided by The People's Voice (TPV) on these resolutions.

Stu Kohn

President

The People's Voice, LLC

Ethics Ballot™

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD 21042

May 17, 2021
County Council Testimony

CR 72/73 – DILP and DPZ annual fee review – Should be amended with increases.

Over the years, we have asked why these fees have not been raised in well over a decade. The answer the past two years has been that the Office of Law stated there had to be data collected to warrant the increase in cost of services to the County. Promises were made to do what was anticipated to be a fairly easy review of personnel cost increases over such a long period of time warranting increases. This is year three for this particular Council asking that be done to update these fees.

A rational increase over time to these fees will not make them cost prohibitive to individuals who are doing home improvements.

In the coming year there will be a lot of talk about development fees, regulations, APFO, all with an eye toward figuring out the General Plan growth goals. There are fees in many areas that were long overdue to be increased and were. Hopefully, they will not be lowered after being risen for so short a time. Appropriate County charges should exist, during high or low growth times, and this is so past any rational look back period, it just needs to be done. Can't we protect the County's costs in fees? After all, we have been protecting one industry inflation index as a maximum for their fees, which also must change.

Thank you.

Lisa Markovitz
President