



CR72-2021 DILP Schedule of Fees

CR73-2021 DPZ Schedule of Fees

CR74-2021 ZRA Fees

May 25, 2021

Position: CR72: Opposed as filed; CR73: Opposed as filed;

CR74: Support

The Howard County Indivisible Economic Equity Action Team believes that the fees charged by the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, and the Department of Planning and Zoning should generally cover the costs of the approval sought by a developer.

The fee for ZRA petitioners also should be raised given the long process they require and the obvious increase in County employee costs it takes to handle them. When private citizens propose these ZRA's if a Council member sponsors them, there is no cost, so that would not be onerous for individuals with viable suggestions.

Decades ago, the County Executive would more routinely adjust the fees. Thus for example, CR45-2004 included a provision specifically stating that "the County Executive has recommended changes in the fees associated with the Department of Planning and Zoning" and one that "the County Executive has proposed a fee to cover the costs of processing waivers to the Design Manual."

Such regular adjustments to the fees have become rarer and rarer as the relative real costs to developers have declined while the costs to the County to process the requests have risen with inflation.

This failure to adjust for inflation and rising costs is at the root of many of the recent conflicts over education funding and affordable housing, and is undermining the quality of life in Howard County.

Thus, Indivisible supports efforts to cover the costs including Amendments 1 and 3 to CR73-2021 and CR74-2021.