

TO: Howard County Council

FROM: Joan Lancos
6110 Covington Road
Columbia, MD 21044

RE: Council Bill 15-2022

As a former Member of the Howard County Planning Board, I would like to comment on the proposal to codify residency for members of the Planning Board. I see no problem with requiring that each member of the Planning Board be from a different Councilmanic District. During part of my term in the 1990s, I was the only member from Columbia despite the fact that most of the Planning Board work at that time related to approving FDPs and SDPs for Columbia. Indeed, at one point during my tenure, three of the members of the Planning Board lived in the western part of the county.

I am concerned about Sec. 16.900(c)(3) which would require a member to be a resident of the Rural Conservation or Rural Reservation zoning district. I believe this requirement in addition to the requirement that each of the five councilmanic districts be represented would eliminate the possibility of some residents of Councilmanic District 5 from serving at all if they don't live in the RC or RR areas of District 5. This would limit the pool of possible Howard County residents who would meet all the requirements needed to fill a particular seat on the Planning Board.

I would hope that any current member of the Planning Board would be allowed to complete their full term and any currently allowed re-appointments before full enforcement of these changes are implemented. The Planning Board members are "citizen planners" and as such need time to fully understand and take ownership of their responsibilities. Requiring the education course will be helpful, but, ultimately, it is actually doing the work that leads to full understanding of the responsibilities and requirements of the job.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

JCL 2.20.22



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

I, Stu Kohn, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Citizens Association -- HCCA to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB15-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Stu Kohn

Signature: _____

Date: 17 Feb 2022

Organization: HCCA

Organization Address: Ellicott City, MD. 21041

Ellicott City, MD. 21041

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

***This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.***



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 22 February 2022

Subject: HCCA is in FAVOR of CB15-2022

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Laurel representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as President. We are in FAVOR of this Bill and very pleased that Council-members Walsh and Yungmann saw fit to introduce this Bill. We do have some questions and suggested amendments before it will be passed by this body.

The first question is how long is the term of Planning Board Members?

Please refer to page 1, line 19 and 20 – why are these lines needed when line 18 stipulates “each member shall reside in a different Council-manic district?”

After line 18 we recommend the following – If a member before their term expires or for some reason is removed then the replacement shall reside in the same Council-manic district.

On line 22 after the word – “course” please consider adding “and very knowledgeable in the Maryland Open Meetings Act.”

Please refer to page 1, line 24 and add after “council” the wording “prior to the Council’s vote.”
Question – what precisely will you be looking for regarding the nominees qualifications? We would hope the individual ideally has “Planning” experience.

After line 24 consider adding – No nominee shall be an employer or employee of a Law Firm who practices in any zoning cases in Howard County.

Please refer to page 2, line 6 and consider adding after the word - “them” the following sentence – “Any Meeting or Hearing which is conducted virtually the video shall be posted to the Planning Board website.”

Please refer to page 3, line 16 – change the word – “form” to “from.”

After line 16 we recommend a subsection as roman numeral IV-- Removal of Office if Not in Attendance. It would state the following – Any Planning Board Member who in a given 3-month period is absent 50 percent of the time will be given one warning from the Executive Secretary that he/she is on probation and shall be present at least 80 percent of the time for the following 3-months. Failure to adhere shall result in removal as a member of the Planning Board.

Council-members Walsh and Yungmann the HCCA Thanks You for your effort.

Stu Kohn

HCCA President