



Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

March 7, 2022

RE: CR16-2022

Preservation
Howard County
P. O. Box 406
Simpsonville MD 21150

410-303-3420

thsimpson@gmail.com
preservationhowardcounty.org

Dear Howard County Council Members:

Preservation Howard County writes to express its opposition to CR16-2022. Simply put, the proposed sale of the Historic District's alleyway beside the Phoenix to a private owner is very short-sighted.

We support economic prosperity on Main Street and see it as an asset to historic preservation. But this transaction, benefitting a single business owner, would be exceedingly imprudent right now—a time when redevelopment plans for the Courthouse properties just uphill from this site are incomplete, and, even more critically, a time when Main Street flood evacuation plans have yet to be fully developed and tested. Should evolving plans make it necessary in the future for the county to have full control of the site, reacquisition costs could be exceedingly dear. From streetscape planning and safety perspectives, CR16-2022 simply defies good sense. The site should remain public property for the foreseeable future.

Board

Tara H. Simpson
Allan Shad
Dale Schumacher
Margaret Stella
Eileen Tennor
Stephen McKenna
Najee Bailey
Robert Brennan
Laura Manning-Attridge

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara H. Simpson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tara Simpson, Psy.D.
President