HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay



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July 7, 2020

Opel Jones, Chairperson Howard County Zoning Board 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Chairperson Jones,

It has come to our attention that the Zoning Board has requested that multiple members of the Administration appear at the July 15th hearing on Erickson at Limestone Valley (ZB 1118M). This request follows the presentation of the Technical Staff Report (TSR) by the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) Director at the June 17th Zoning Board hearing. As the scope of the Administration's in-person involvement in Zoning Board matters is limited to the testimony of the DPZ Director or their designee about the contents of the TSR, we are respectfully declining this request.

The Administration has met its responsibility of providing sworn testimony on the above referenced matter. Howard County Code §16.204(i) provides that the DPZ Director or designee "shall attend a Zoning Board public hearing concerning a petition for piecemeal map amendment or development plan and, under oath and subject to cross-examination, summarize the Department's findings, explain the development process, and answer any related questions." On June 17, 2020, DPZ Director Amy Gowan presented the Department's findings in the above referenced matter and was subject to lengthy cross-examination by the Zoning Board and members of the public. The DPZ Director's participation in the June 17th Zoning Board hearing meets the requirements of the Howard County Code.

I encourage the Zoning Board to evaluate the above referenced petition based on the testimony of the petitioner, the contents of the DPZ TSR and the testimony of the DPZ Director, as previous Zoning Boards have during similar cases. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

All my Best,

Calvin Ball Howard County Executive

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Cc: David Yungmann, Vice Chairperson Liz Walsh, Member Christiana Mercer Rigby, Member Deb Jung, Member Robin Regner, Board Administrator Gary Kuc, County Attorney