

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** STUART KOHN <stukohn@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Stu Kohn  
**Subject:** HCCA Testimony - CB34-2023 - Sole Source Contracts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

My name is Stu Kohn from Laurel and as President representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA.

We want to thank Council Member Deb Jung for taking the necessary action on our suggestion to investigate the issuance of Sole Source contracts. She deserves a lot of credit. Thank You. This Bill should not fail if all Council Members truly believe in competitiveness, fairness and an equitable system. Sole Source contracts as described in the County Code under 4.110 is very stringent as it should be.

We need accountability and oversight to ensure such contracts are awarded as they are supposed to be. Sole Source contracts need to be better administered and scrutinized to ensure a just process for all parties. Just because your name is Howard Hughes Corporation should not mean you get a gift for the procurement of a Sole Source contract. Yes - the Bill prohibits any Sole Source contract from being awarded due to land ownership. It should also require the County Executive to send any Sole Source contracts over a given amount to the Council for review. This provides accountability.

We need to make sure that oversight by the County Council as described in the Bill will be advantageous to bring transparency for all concerned parties. We need this to especially enable Minority contractors to be treated fairly. We are sure you all agree.

It's time to do the right thing regarding County procurement. Councilperson, Deb Jung did. We would expect all Council Members to do the same as there would be no excuse. We ask you Vote in **FAVOR** of CB34-2023.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** STUART KOHN <stukohn@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 9:35 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Stu Kohn  
**Subject:** Re: HCCA Testimony - CB34-2023 - Sole Source Contracts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Council Members,

As a followup to the testimony submitted for CB34-2023 one only has to read the auditor's report - <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=34749> which justifies the approval of the Bill.

There is no reason not to unanimously pass CB34-2023.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

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Stu Kohn  
HCCA President

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 34-2023**

Introduced: July 5, 2023

Auditor: Rebecca Gold

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Fiscal Impact:

We anticipate the passage of Council Bill 34-2023 could potentially result in future cost savings to the County from the competitive procurement of certain County contracts that otherwise would have been awarded using the sole-source method. This is based on the assumption that increased competition in a procurement process will achieve a lower market price. However, we are unable to quantify this potential savings, as we cannot predict the future procurement activities of the County that would be impacted by CB34-2023.

Based on information provided by the Administrator of the Office of Procurement and Contract Administration (Procurement), we do not anticipate any additional operating costs to be incurred by the County as a result of this legislation. The Administrator indicated the proposed legislation will not require any additional resources or staffing needs.

Purpose:

Council Bill 34-2023 amends Section 4.110 (Sole-source purchase) of the County Code. It proposes the following changes:

- The legislation prohibits the use of land ownership as a justification for the County awarding a sole-source contract (with exceptions for land owned by public utilities and railroad corporations).
- The legislation adds the requirement that certain sole-source contracts must be presented to the County Council for review and comment, prior to the contracts' approval by the County Purchasing Agent.

Other Comments:

Based on information provided by the Procurement Administrator, there have been an average of 62 sole source contracts approved annually with an average contract value of \$103,476 between FY 2018 and FY 2022.