

February 17, 2015

TO: Howard County Council

FROM: Joan Lancos  
6110 Covington Road  
Columbia, MD 21044

RE: Council Bill 6-2015

I would like to express my support for CB6-2015. As someone who frequently attends meetings/hearings of the County Council, Planning Board, Hearing Examiner and Board of Appeals, it is frustrating waiting for the Technical Staff Report to be available in a timely fashion. My responsibilities as Land Use Liaison for the Hickory Ridge Community Association require me to research cases that may impact the village and report to the village board about them. The variation in timing for meetings vs hearings is confusing and often does not allow enough time for someone following cases to respond to the findings in the TSR. Having a standard minimum requirement levels the playing field for all interested parties.

I want to specifically note that the two week time limit seems appropriate and would certainly allow me time to do my due diligence on cases. I also believe that the two week time frame before a hearing allows for scheduling of cases in a timely fashion and gives the Department of Planning and Zoning a consistent standard to follow and maintain.

Recently, I served on the County Executive's Transition Team for DPZ. We interviewed over forty people including county staff, local developers, lawyers, engineers and the public. A frequent comment had to do with the timing of TSRs. I believe CB6-2015 addresses those concerns in a fair and balanced way. I urge your approval of this bill as written.