

CB110

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To: CouncilMail

I'm writing to express my support of CB110-2015, the resolution confirming the appointment of Christopher Oxenham to the Housing Commission, as I am on vacation and can't attend the meeting tonight in person.

I have known Chris his entire life. He has tremendous family values and integrity. He has built a successful financial advisory business at a young age by proving himself to be an intelligent man with sound judgement. Chris is straightforward and is well liked by the people with whom he serves in various other organizations. Like me, he is passionate about his convictions, but is able to consider the opinions of others and work with a team. He works as hard as anyone I know at being a successful business owner, community advocate, husband and father.

The Commission currently has members with a broad range of experience, including at least two members which had no housing or community services background prior to joining the Commission. The member Chris is to replace also had no relevant experience when he was unanimously confirmed by four of you. However, the Commission lacks a voice from the business community despite that group being a primary stakeholder through development, management and funding of the priorities that result from this Commission's work.

The residents of Western Howard County also lack representation on the Commission. As with so many other areas of our local government, conversations are dominated by people from the more populated Eastern communities. Chris is a resident of Woodbine and understands the thoughts, values and interests of our rural community.

We find ourselves at a crossroads with several housing issues, especially Downtown affordable housing given the requirements we worked into the Master Plan has not generated results. I believe the best solutions will come from a Commission with a many different perspectives that will challenge each other, and that this confirmation will result in an even more inclusive and diverse Commission. I am confident you will find Chris to be a likeable and effective person if you're willing to get to know him.

As always, thank you for your hard work and consideration of my thoughts.

David Yungman

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