

FW: CB37-2015/ ZRA155

Feldmark, Jessica

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 3:28 PM**To:** Sayers, Margery

Jessica Feldmark

Administrator

Howard County Council

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From: Sigaty, Mary Kay**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 10:04 AM**To:** Feldmark, Jessica; councilrecords**Subject:** FW: CB37-2015/ ZRA155

Testimony for CB 37-2015.

From: "Laima.Rivers" <laima.rivers@verizon.net>**Date:** Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 5:32 PM**To:** Jon Weinstein <jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov>, Calvin Ball <cball@howardcountymd.gov>, Jen Terrasa <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>, Mary Kay Sigaty <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>, Greg Fox <gfox@howardcountymd.gov>**Subject:** CB37-2015/ ZRA155

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know our feelings on the case: ZRA155-Miller-Home Based Contractors

We have known the Miller family for over 20 years and fully support keeping their business at their current location.

This is the kind of family any one would be lucky to have as neighbors. As an example, several years ago following an unusually big snow storm, their sons came to the rescue of Herons Flight in Laurel. A couple of days had passed since the storm and still no snow plow had shown up on our street. Imagine our surprise, when we finally heard the sound of equipment cleaning the street and when we looked out the window, there were the Miller boys plowing a path down the street. We had neither asked for nor expected their help, but there they were. We don't live on the same street as the Millers—we live about half a mile from the Miller residence, but still, they came, helping where they could. Who wouldn't want people like this living in their neighborhood?

The Miller Business is neither an eyesore nor generates any more noise than a neighbor who has a diesel engine pick up truck—no more noise than a lawn mower. I honestly cannot understand why anyone would complain about their business.

Recently, we had a major renovation in our home. In talking to the skilled laborers—carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc. it was a bit disquieting to hear that none of these craftsmen lived in the area. In fact, they came over from the Eastern Shore because as they put it, they couldn't afford to live here. The contractor we used is based in Carroll County; the cabinet store is located in Montgomery County. All these jurisdictions benefitted from our business, but not Howard County. I mention this because I feel very strongly that these are lost

opportunities. As this country slowly recovers from our great recession, 4 out of 5 new hires take place at small businesses. We need to promote Howard County as a jurisdiction that welcomes small businesses; by doing so, county residents benefit in a variety of ways --from increased job opportunities, to the convenience of patronizing local businesses, and of course, by increasing our tax base. We need to bring in more small businesses to Howard County and hold on to the ones we already have.

I sincerely hope you do whatever needs to be done to keep the Millers and their business right where it is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laima and Tom Rivers
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