

Date: 19 January 2016

Subject: Howard County Citizens Association Supports CB55-2016

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA fully supports CB55-2016. We are extremely pleased and appreciative that the Council took the time to not only meet with approximately 150 concerned residents of Highland and other communities this past summer, but listened and are taking appropriate action on the BRX and BR zoning. We want to thank both Councilwoman Sigaty and Councilman Fox for teaming together and introducing this Bill. It clearly shows that we can indeed work together with the hope of having a very positive outcome. The one major question is how much time will be allocated to determine the viability of the BRX zoning?

The real question in this case and other zoning cases is what is the real vision of Howard County? It should be about sense not necessarily strictly cents. There is a Chinese proverb that states, "Vision without Action is a Daydream – Action without Vision is a Nightmare." We are glad you are taking the necessary "Action" so the residents of Highland will be able to perhaps rest comfortably for a while until such time that the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) completes their evaluation to determine if the BRX is feasible. Hopefully DPZ's decision will provide an enduring sleep for all.

HCCA requests the County Council not only have DPZ evaluate the BRX zoning, but look into some of the other 42 types of zoning currently permitted in our County. The purpose would be as stated in this proposed Bill on page 2 lines 26 thru 31 and continued on page 3 lines 1 thru 5. It states, "These rezoning applications, if considered and approved under the present criteria in the Zoning Regulations, could lead to development which would be incompatible with surrounding residential uses. There is a current threat to the public health, safety and welfare if rezoning applications, as defined in this Act, were approved under the current criteria in the Zoning Regulations." Based on the aforementioned wording there is no doubt that other types of zoning comes to one's mind for potential investigation and recommendations. Perhaps establishing a Working Group with DPZ would be advantageous for all concerned parties.

There is a quote by Henry Ford which I believe sums up this situation it states, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Thank you,



Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, LLC

Testimony to Howard County Council

01/19/2016

Support CB 55-2015

This bill puts a temporary hold on applications for BRX and BR zoning. I commend and applaud the plan to review these zones for the reasons stated, especially regarding sustaining and enhancing versus overwhelming communities. That is an excellent point. I will repeat it "to sustain and enhance versus overwhelm communities". I couldn't agree more and I believe that should be a priority elsewhere, if not everywhere.