

**Testimony for CB46**

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**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2016 6:50 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** howard-citizen@yahoogroups.com

Dear Council Members,

The People's Voice supports Council Bill 46, and agrees with the recommendations from the Fueling Task Force. The changes the Planning Board recommends to increase setbacks from schools, and other facilities, and the drastic reduction of space between stations and logistical requirements within, are too large a decrease. The reason given by the Planning Board is that they are prioritizing facilitating competition, but placing these restrictions on new stations will not restrict competition as they are not so onerous to make those seeking to add facilities unable to do so. It is just good planning to carve out protections for the community for the longer term. We have seen all too clearly, in various areas in the County, what happens when one of these stations goes out of business. It creates the appearance of unsightly blight for a long time because of the difficulty, and expense of redeveloping these types of parcels.

We very much agree with supporting business and competition, but inserting some environmental, community and aesthetic protections is not going to create a market entry problem, it just safeguards quality of life issues in the planning process, which is what the DPZ, Planning Board, and of course also the Council are supposed to do.

Thank you,  
Lisa Markovitz  
President, The People's Voice, LLC