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CB 60-2016, Commercial Athletic Facilities

PM

Patty Miller <pjm@carneykelehan.com>

Tue 2:54 PM

CouncilMail; Tom Meachum <tmm@carneykelehan.com>

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Attached please find a letter regarding CB 60-2016.

Patty Miller, Assistant to Thomas M. Meachum

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September 20, 2016

**Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043**

RE: CB 60-2016

Dear Chairperson Ball and Council Members:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information in support of the passage of CB 60-2016, Commercial Athletic Facilities.

The purpose of this proposed Zoning Regulation change is to add indoor athletic facilities in the two rural zoning classifications as a conditional use where now the only athletic facilities available under a conditional use are outdoor.

There are few indoor athletic facilities in western Howard County, especially those that can be utilized by youth. Schools and the Glenwood Community Center are essentially the only venues open to the public. There is certainly a need for additional facilities, especially those that may provide indoor soccer or lacrosse.

A conditional use for outdoor athletic facilities is found in the current Zoning Regulations. There is no provision for indoor athletic facilities. In prior discussions with the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Planning Board, it is not clear why there is a provision for outdoor facilities but not indoor.

Having an indoor facility would meet the need for additional sports space while accommodating those activities inside. Providing such additional recreational space is in alignment with a number of General Plan goals as referenced in our Petition to Amend the Zoning Regulations and the DPZ Staff Report.

The Petitioner is in agreement with the current bill's language which is slightly different from the original language proposed in the Petition.

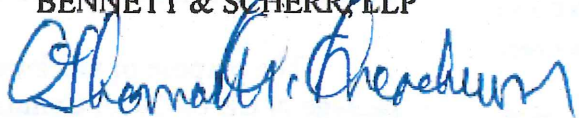
Howard County Council
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The building and parking uses have to be 75 feet from residential properties, and a minimum of 3 acres. There are no permitted outdoor uses through this conditional use except for parking and lighting. The land on which the use is situated shall not be subject to an agricultural easement.

Adding this conditional use to the Zoning Regulations will provide additional recreation and athletic opportunities for Howard County residents at no cost to the government but with the same benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

CARNEY, KELEHAN, BRESLER,
BENNETT & SCHERR, LLP



Thomas M. Meachum

TMM/pjm

P:\TMM\WPDATA\Country Springs Wholesale-MBW Farms\County Council ltr wpd

Bill number CB60-2016 Bob Haney Indoor Athletic Facility in Lisbon

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indoorfacility.docx
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Dear Howard County Council Members,
September 2016

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Regarding: Bill number CB60-2016

My name is Linda Giampalmo and I live in Glenwood, Maryland. I have been a Howard County resident since 1986 and a Glenwood resident for 15 years. This letter is written on behalf of Bob Haney and his plans to open an indoor training facility in Lisbon, Maryland. I have three daughters; two of whom have graduated Glenelg High School and one whom currently attends. They all played sports in Howard County including soccer, field hockey and lacrosse. They were involved with Western Howard County Soccer, Thunder soccer, SAC soccer, Cobra Lacrosse, Hero's Lacrosse, Stampede Field Hockey and Warhawk's Field Hockey and continued to play Varsity High School sports for Glenelg High School. They were also hard working students who excelled in academics and were the top of their class. This is important to note because there is limited time after school to attend practices, do significant amount of homework, and eat dinner. Time constraints became a huge issue when playing sports and having an indoor facility nearby would improve our lives. In today's competitive environment, sports have become yearlong training endeavors – not just in season sports. Our children are now expected to attend practices, training sessions and indoor leagues games out of season and it is in their best interests to have facilities nearby so they are not spending precious afterschool time driving to far away indoor sports locations. I highly recommend that Bob Haney's Athletic Facility be approved.

Years ago when my older daughters played field hockey we could use the temporary winter indoor facility at Circle D Farm which was convenient. Those facilities have long since closed

and now we have to drive into Baltimore or Carrol County on busy weeknights to attend training sessions. It would be so helpful if there was a facility in the Western Howard County area to attend these same events.

My daughters also do exercise training workouts to keep in shape and to prevent injuries and would benefit from having a facility nearby where they could obtain this training which they now drive to Ellicott City.

I believe it is in the best interests of the citizens and athletes of Western Howard County to have indoor athletic facility available and I am very glad that Mr. Bob Haney took it upon himself to create a much needed resource in our community. Please support his effort because it will save us valuable time and it supports our local community; otherwise we will be spending a lot of time and money elsewhere.

Thank you kindly,

Linda Giampalmo