

Date: 25 June 2015

Subject: Let's All Be Neighborly

My name is Stu Kohn and I'm the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. For the last month there has been an incredible amount of communication on our HCCA listserv regarding the unbearable noise and even vibrations heard and felt throughout the neighborhood from the Merriweather Post Pavilion and Symphony Woods. From what we've read on the listserv the residents are extremely irate about why there is no enforcement of the law and why did our delegation permit an increase in the decibel level.

HCCA in no way thinks that Merriweather should go away as they are a revenue generator and bring entertainment to the public. What we do hope is that the proprietor fully realizes the music is not stopping at the back of the row of seats. We would like to know the percentage of revenue that the County receives as well as the Columbia Association, and Howard Hughes. I don't believe we are making too much noise by asking this question.

We have the following suggestions for consideration:

- Prevent their property (i.e. Symphony Woods) from being used to contribute to the excessive noise causing many complaints within the community. Just because the State noise legislation permits these high volumes, that does not mean CA needs to permit it on their property.
- Work with the Howard County Delegation, Executive and Council and advocate for the Columbia residents and the neighboring communities' residents that are being bothered by the excessive noise.
- Try to reason with the Merriweather operator to convince them to be good neighbors, not just to push the law to the extreme.

Whatever the current decibel level is the code needs to be strictly enforced and substantial penalties need to be applied if the law is broken? Who will take the responsibility whenever the proprietor does not meet his obligation? Will the Columbia Association or the Inner Arbor Trust have the courage to step up to the plate with the assistance of our police department, the County Executive, County Council and our Delegation to once and for all simply enforce the law because your residents and citizens have major complaints. These complaints are as far away as six miles.

We understand the fine when the law is broken is a paltry \$100. This is inexcusable. We recommend, the first offense should be \$1000, the second offense the fine should be \$2000, and the third offense the cancellation of the next paying public event.

The Howard County Citizens Association is asking for the authorities to simply follow the State Farm slogan, "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there." In this case change it to "Like a good neighbor, Merriweather Post and Symphony Woods will be there to be a Great Neighbor and fully cooperate and abide by the rules."

The CA mission statement on your website states, "Working every day in hundreds of ways to make Columbia an even better place to live, walk and play." We simply ask you to work in one way to address and fix the problem by showing leadership in the community.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President