



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 16 Nov 2015

Subject: Consider Amending CB51-2015

Dear: Council Members

I was unable to testify in front of you at tonight's Legislative Public Hearing on CB51-2015 an Act providing that the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) will provide advice on projects in certain Zoning Districts; consistent with the Zoning Regulations

We, HCCA would like for you to consider including in this Bill the opportunity for the public to testify in person before the DAP Board rather than the current process of only allowing the public to submit written testimony. The enactment of this suggested amendment would bring significant transparency in the process. We believe that this is the only body that does not permit in person testimony. As you know oral testimony is permitted before the County Council, Zoning Board, Planning Board, Hearing Examiner, Board of Appeals, and the Historic Preservation Commission. So the question is why not in DAP proceedings?

If you were to give the public the opportunity to testify orally before the DAP it could be very beneficial in a given case because sometimes the public can provide information that the DAP members did not think about during the architectural design review of a given project. To have the public not be able to verbally testify is simply not right. The public should have the opportunity to orally testify before the DAP other than only submitting written testimony. This would be a winning formula for all.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President