

# HCCA TESTIMONY ON CB7-2017, AMENDING THE LIVABLE HOMES TAX CREDIT

PAUL VERCHINSKI, TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF **THE HOWARD COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (HCCA)**. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION.

WE HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT YOU MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER:

1. OLDER RESIDENTS DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW. AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR DOING THESE IMPROVEMNTS, AN AGE FRIENDLY ASSESSMENT DONE BY A CERTIFIED AGING IN PLACE SPECIALIST SHOULD BE DONE AND NOT EXCEED \$100 AS AN ELIGIBLE COST.
2. HOWARD COUNTY ENCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW 55+ AGE-RESTRICTED ADULT HOUSING COMMUNITIES. IF A BUILDER INSTALLS ITEMS THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT ARE OPTIONAL OR DESIRABLE UNDER THE 2002 "URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR AGE-RESTRICTED ADULT HOUSING IN HOWARD COUNTY" , A BUYER WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE LIVEABLE HOMES TAX CREDIT. EXAMPLES INCLUDE; LEVER HANDLES ON KITCHEN AND BATHROOM SINKS, PLUS SHOWER, CLOSET RODS ADJUSTABLE FROM 3 FEET TO 5 FEET 6 INCHES, ETC. THESE COSTS SHOULD BE LESS WHEN INSTALLED AS PART OF THE NEW BUILDING. THE BUILDER WOULD HAVE TO CERTIFY THE COSTS.

HCCA APPRECIATES THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN PROACTIVE ON AMENDING THE LIVABLE HOMES TAX CREDIT, BUT WE ALSO ASK THAT YOU AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE UPDATE THE 2002 URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES PER OUR LETTER TO YOU DATED OCTOBER 27, 2016 WHICH WE HAVE ATTACHED.