

## APFO Testimony with Planning Board

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) and was grateful to be an APFO Task Force member.

I am very glad the Department of Planning and Zoning had the foresight to recommend a motion that did not pass the Task Force. This motion was to require that a planned traffic remediation project must be in construction before being able to be used as a remediation of a failed traffic test at or near its location. This was something that HCCA recommended as well as others.

I would like to refer you to an Op-Ed in the Howard County Times dated, 18 June 2015, titled, “Put Brakes on Development that Outpaces Infrastructure.” This title is extremely apropos and should be considered in Planning Board deliberations. The editorial had a lot of merit and especially where it stated, “While the Task Force looks for ways to fine-tune this important safeguard, I hope it will consider expanding criteria to include emergency personnel, hospital beds and living space for seniors and others who need help with tasks of daily living.” Unfortunately our Task Force did not see the need to pass any motions put forward by HCCA relating to quality of life issues which is a major component of infrastructure as they are in some other counties as displayed in Appendix N and O in the [Adequate Public Facilities Report \(https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Adequate-Public-Facilities-report-2016\)](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Adequate-Public-Facilities-report-2016) of the Task Force Report which are both dated in 2012. I have attached a spreadsheet we received as a handout titled, “Corrected County APFO Summary Table” which is dated in 2015. This is an updated version and shows a few more counties signed-on to include these items.

Needless to say HCCA is very disappointed and discouraged that these quality of life issues which the County goes to great lengths to describe in the 2000 General Plan and in PlanHoward2030. We simply ask why these items are missing from APFO. HCCA put in motions regarding, Police, EMS and the Hospital but they were all denied. When Fire Chief, Butler who lobbied vigorously for APFO changes was denied, when the 2014 Annual Police report states there were 183,000 “911” calls and when the hospital lists on their website that in FY-16 they evaluated and treated 78,072 patients in the Emergency Rooms, provided services to approximately 220,000 people, and provided outpatient services to 68,680 patients then one would think it is high time for the County to really make APFO not stand for “Adequate” but “Awesome – Public – Facilities – Ordinance.” When I hear there is nothing we can do regarding the hospital, because it is a “private entity” I ask how can this be especially when I now see the County will be providing the hospital with 1.25 million dollars in the next four years. I am glad our only hospital is expanding as it is certainly justified.

We cannot afford to continue to do business as usual. Yes – our quality of life issues should matter and needs to be included in APFO for a better future and a means to a more fail safe County.

As time permits I would like to take this time to thank both Cole Schnorf and Diane Mikulis the Co–Chairs of our APFO Task Force. Both did an outstanding job during the entire process which consisted of 22 meetings. They ensured all participants including our guest speakers and the 22 voting members were always heard, respected, and given courtesy. They kept us on track which was a monumental job. Another person who needs to be given recognition is Carl Delorenzo. Without Carl’s attention to detail when recording the array of motions, keeping track of our requests, his ability of note-taking, and his communication skills our Task Force would have drastically suffered the consequences had Carl not have been a pivotal force. All have my utmost respect and congratulations should be in order.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President