

Date: 25 May 2017

Subject: Planning Board Testimony on ZRA 160/180 – Mulching and Composting

Good evening. My name is Stu Kohn, 8709 Yellow Bird Court Laurel, MD 20723. I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. I was a member of the Mulching/Composting Task Force and attended 23 of the 24 of meetings starting in August 2014. As a member and concerned citizen I find this case should be quite simple as from the very beginning our County Executive had stated throughout his campaign and during his tenure that there shall be no Industrial Mulching on any Agricultural Preservation property. At our HCCA Annual Meeting, last week -- 17 May, we asked County Executive Kittleman, "Has your stance in anyway changed from your campaign promise that Industrial Mulching on Agricultural Preservation which includes both County and State should never happen?" His answer was unequivocally, "No."

You have heard tonight the overwhelming compelling concerns from others regarding the lack of Enforcement on DPZ's part and Health and Safety issues. I also was a member of the APFO Task Force as I testified in front of you on 16 February. My testimony was about quality of life measurements which need to be part of APFO. Fire Chief Butler, who I have the utmost respect, appeared at our Task Force on three different occasions. He appeared twice on his own, because he is extremely passionate regarding any and all Fire concerns especially in the West with the Cistern Systems. I would suggest you consider calling in Chief Butler as a witness or simply viewing his concerns on the APFO video tapes. What is sad is there are 14 Counties in Maryland who utilize APFO measurements. Eight of the 14 have "Fire" as one of their categories. This includes, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's. Howard County is not one of them. Why? The Chief made several motions to our committee, but unfortunately they were defeated. These motions are as follows:

Proposed Motion: Require the County to develop a plan of action to address Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) public water supply/cistern needs in the western portion of the county - VOTE: 17 to 0

Even though this was recognized as a very positive action the task force accepted early on that APFO is not a standalone document, but rather ties to other zoning and infrastructure related county laws. APFO's connection to these laws offered the task force an opportunity to recommend improvements and corrections that although not within the Ordinance should be updated to better align with it.

Proposed Motion: Include DFRS as a test in APFO with a mitigation option to pass the test. Mitigation is proportionate to developer's impact on fire and rescue services. -- VOTE: 11 to 7

Proposed Motion: For proposed developments of a) between four (4) and ten (10) residential units, or
b) more than 20,000 combined square feet of finished and unfinished space, where the closest municipal water source is greater than ½ mile from the furthest address: the applicant shall allocate an appropriate land parcel with a right of way for construction and use of a County-

owned man-made water source dedicated solely to fire suppression. The location and suitability of the site shall be approved by the Department based on operational need and Public Protection Classification Rating requirements. For proposed developments of a) more than ten (10) residential units, or b) more than 50,000 square feet of finished or unfinished space, where the closest municipal water source is greater than ½ mile from the furthest address: the applicant shall fund expenditures associated with installation of an accessible man-made water source dedicated solely to fire suppression. The source must be constructed in a location and to specifications approved by the Department based on operational need and Public Protection Classification Rating requirements, and must be in place in the scheduled completion year of the Development - VOTE: 9 to 7 to 1

In closing, until “Fire” becomes a category of measurement to assist to eliminate hazardous conditions you cannot consciously allow ZRA-180 to stand on its own. Please consider incorporating the suggested amendments regarding quality of life issues such as major potential fire concerns when making your decision and order. The future of Howard County is in your hands.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President