

Date: 16 January 2018

Subject: HCCA Testimony for CR10-2018 Council Procedures

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. The address is PO Box 89, Ellicott City, MD.

We are very much in favor of improving the Introduction of Bills, Resolutions and Petitions as stated on page 2, lines 5 thru 18. If this in anyway benefits to prevent the catastrophe we all faced with both the APFO and Mulching Bill re-runs then this will be an extremely positive step for all.

Please refer to page 4, lines 27 and 28 and consider adding the following: After the word "Administrator" on line 28 add – at a minimum of one week prior to the Public Legislative Hearing.

Now for the unfortunate negative reaction to this proposed Resolution. We simply do not understand the rationale for eliminating the standard 5 minute Group testimony as described on page 4 lines 8 thru 26. Why? What precipitated this proposed action? What did we do? Do you know the average time that a Group representative takes to testify?

If this portion of the Resolution is not amended it will be known as the Archie Bunker clause. Meaning when Archie stated, to Edith to stifle herself. This is what you are doing to respected organizations? By having Groups testifying it serves to eliminate time as not as many individuals would testify who are members of a particular Group, thus saving time. Question – how much time will the Petitioner be allowed?

We are glad to see that there are no sponsors associated with this Resolution. Hopefully this means the majority of the Council does not support the proposed decrease of the time limit for Group testimony. We would not want the passage of CR10 as it stands now to be a part of your legacy. After all, Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, "Information is the currency of democracy."

Although my five minutes is not up, I thank you for listening. Hopefully, you will in no way approve the elimination of the 5-minute Group testimony. We would think you would want to gather as much information as possible to make your decisions.

Thank you.

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President