

Date: 11 January 2018

## Subject: Testimony to Planning Board Regarding ZRA-183 Mulching, Composting Wood Waste

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. We fully agree with Ted Mariani's testimony representing the Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County. We strongly suggest that after hearing Mr. Mariani's testimony that you get legal advice about the Agricultural Preservation contract from the Office of Law before you make your decision. We are glad that the Council made a mistake in the expiration date of the original Bill. Because of this we have further proposed amendments. Perhaps we should wish for another error to possibly produce further amendments.

The real question tonight is what are we doing here in the first place? It is a shame that we are back here for a repeat performance. Maybe my pessimism will change, but I doubt it. I say this because, when I was the next to last person to testify at the last meeting on May 25, 2017 the Chair stated, "Please keep it to the time limits as it is getting very late and we need to get to the Work Session." This insinuates that our testimony did not matter. Obviously it did not because the Planning Board members which there were only 3 in attendance did not at all take into consideration the health and safety concerns as addressed by many citizens testimony at their Work Session. The question is why not? The main goal of the Planning Board was to make sure that their Work Session would not go beyond their 10:30PM curfew. At a minimum with the volume of health and safety concerns bestowed upon the Planning Board they should have at least taken the volume of material home with them and conducted their Work Session at a later date after weighing all the material.

Your job is to ensure that the public's health and safety are in no way at risk. On page 11 of the Technical Staff Report it states, "Policy 4.5 of the General Plan regarding RC and RR zoning regulations is to provide greater flexibility for the agricultural community as well as appropriate protections for rural residents." So based on this statement you should be conscientious and take the material from the last meeting, study it, and let us know if you have any health and safety concerns in your Work Session. Just demonstrate that you really do care to give to simply give us a reason to be optimistic with this Board.

Thank you.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President