



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

*Since 1961...*

*The Voice Of The People of Howard County*

Date: 16 April 2018

**Subject: HCCA Testimony Regarding CB21-2018 – Mulching, Composting and Natural Wood Waste**

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA.

Let it be known that the concerned citizens continue to not in any way be against farming. Our theme from the very beginning regarding mulching, composting, and natural wood waste is simply -- for the farm, by the farm and on the farm. It is a shame we are back here for a repeat performance. Does anyone really think anything will change? Will this just unfortunately be a repeat performance? Does anyone really care about the potential Health and Safety concerns regarding the impact that this proposed Bill might cause with perhaps the exception of Councilpersons Terrasa and Ball based on their last vote. Why is it that in both the Planning Board and in your previous Work Session there was no dialog regarding this major concern raised by your constituents? Why wasn't there at least one Medical Expert to be questioned in the Council's Work Session? How about performing this request at your next Work Session? Let your constituents have the opportunity to hear your questions and the answers so all can clearly draw conclusions whereby CB21 is warranted or not!

Your job is to ensure that the public is in no way at risk when it comes to our health and safety. 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." We ask is this the case regarding the proposed Bill? Simply tell the residents of Howard County they should have no worry regarding their Health and Safety and why? We want to at a bare minimum for you to have a discussion at your Work Session on this major concern. We are looking at Councilman Weinstein to be the individual who might turn this around if the facts from the medical experts are heard at your next Work Session with overwhelming compelling evidence. Two weeks ago, I learned at a public meeting regarding the storage facility located on Old Guilford Road in the M1 zoning district that there is no citizen input or notification required. All should take note of this especially Councilman Weinstein as Mulching facilities are permitted in both M1 and M2 districts. Certainly you would think that citizens should have a voice. This should be a concern for the betterment of transparency.

In conclusion, HCCA as you know has always been an advocate for Quality of Life issues. All we ask is to please get all the facts on the table at your Work Session as the Health and Safety of our County is in your hands. We don't want to be dealt a bad hand whereby it will be too late to recover. We cannot afford the consequences.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President