

Date: 1 May 2018

**Subject: County Council Approval of County Hospital Funding**

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. I reside at 8709 Yellow Bird Court Laurel, MD. 20723.

The Health of our County is in your hands and we ask you to simply assist by providing your constituents a potential healthier environment for the betterment of all. Please see this request is your top priority. It would go a long ways to ensure our quality of life is the prime concern of the County and the necessary action will be taken. We simply need to be fully prepared for our future and this future is now!

We the HCCA, appreciate that County Executive, Kittleman had the hospitality to provide our only hospital with some appropriate funding. As you know, HCCA for many years has been a major advocate regarding Quality of Life issues. When the President of the Hospital, Steve Snelgrove states. "The hospital is not the right size for the community we serve. And despite operating at capacity, we are planning to care for a senior population that will double in a decade, while also keeping pace with the county's population growth. It should be abundantly clear by now that Howard County's health care environment needs have outpaced the hospital's resources and without action now, our quality of life will be eroded. Many residents ask whether Howard County General Hospital has the capacity to accommodate expected growth and an aging population. The frank answer is we do not." The combination of this quote with the daunting 2016 statistics found on their website is enough to not hesitate to approve the County Executive's recommendation. Just to highlight these statistics the Hospital provided services to approximately 220,000 people or 69% of the County Population and Evaluated and treated 78,072 patients in the Emergency Rooms or 25% of the County Population. We simply cannot afford to continue to develop without any real strategic planning. Certainly the Health and Safety of your constituents need to come first.

In conclusion, we request all Council Members perform the necessary surgery to prevent the patient, us, from bleeding to death. With your scalpels, in this case, your pen it would undoubtedly be the right thing to do for the future. This funding as read from the report will support the Hospital's capital project by agreeing to provide \$5 million over the next five years, starting with \$500,000 this year. The money will be used to build a two-story addition that will add 30 inpatient beds, an inpatient psychiatry unit and a short-stay observation unit. For the third year, the county will provide \$312,500 for emergency room improvements, which will total \$1.25 million after next year's fourth and final installment.

You have heard this before from us. The Hospital should be part of APFO as we have been stating for years as it is part of our infrastructure as are Roads and Schools. However, for now the most important item is for you to pass this major funding request. It would do a world of good for us all with the goal to reach a healthier environment.

Thank You.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President