



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 22 April 2019

Subject: HCCA Testimony Regarding CB17-2019 the Increase School Wait Time

Good Evening. My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA testifying on their behalf.

We are in favor of CB17 and support the testimony you heard from the Savage Community Association and the Peoples Voice. We want to commend Councilwoman Liz Walsh for her attempt to do something positive about the current APFO criteria especially when it comes to the category of our schools. HCCA was a representative on the APFO Task Force. We have never been enthralled with the measurements of APFO. When we testified to the Council in July 2017 we said, "Something is drastically wrong to the point where the acronym of APFO should be changed to ALPO – A Lousy Protective Ordinance and that no one in the County should be proud."

The education of our children should undoubtedly be the priority for our future. It is the best investment we could ever make. If APFO was really working we wouldn't see any redistricting or 234 plus portables. CB17 is suggesting the wait time be for 7 years. The one good thing is the Task Force was able to extend the wait time to 5 years. What guarantee do we have this will work? We simply need to ensure that overdevelopment does not override our children's education because of poor strategic planning. The longer the school system has to prepare to increased enrollment because of overdevelopment, the less likely they are to need further portable capacity.

Let's do something worthwhile to once and for all ensure that APFO stands for not "Adequate" but an "Awesome" Protective Facilities Ordinance! How about making the appropriate revisions to APFO as the community would appreciate your efforts to also include Quality of Life measurements such as the Hospital, EMS Police, and Fire? While you are looking into refinements to APFO we need to do something about the Roads test. If the test was really working then why do we see signs which read, "Stay Alert Congested Area Next 3 Miles?"

The real question to be answered is our infrastructure keeping pace with development. The answer is NO. We all need to be smarter and realistic if we care about the future welfare of Howard County.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President