



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: June 17, 2019

Subject: **CB31-2019 (ZRA-187)**

Testimony in SUPPORT

By Paul Verchinski, HCCA Board Member

To: Howard County Council

There are a variety of age-restricted subdivisions which have been developed in the County under the conditional use provisions of the County Code. The existing age-restricted subdivisions range from the minimal 5 acres with about 20 housing units to many more acres with over 100 units. In the latter case, the age-restricted conditional use code provisions have incentivized developers to invest in large subdivision communities which in turn have provided many amenities for older adults. An example of a large one is Bethany Glen. Unfortunately, Bethany Glen is remote and mostly located on Bethany Lane, a 2 lane local road with no transit service available. The nearest transit stop is about 2-miles away on Route 40. When Older Adults can no longer drive they become dependent on transit.

Transit is an area where the smaller age-restricted subdivisions are extremely disadvantaged. Smaller subdivisions are much less likely to be sited near or at a transit stop when compared to the larger subdivisions. In most cases, these smaller, in-fill subdivisions are on local streets. Without a transit stop, older adults in these smaller subdivisions will receive much less benefit from the County transit system when traveling to medical appointments, continuing education, government facilities and meetings, shopping, and other activities available in the County. The County, which now provides free transit on its scheduled routes for the disabled and older adults will be required to pay for and provide Paratransit service which typically costs upwards of \$50 per trip.

Sites proposed for age-restricted housing which have frontage and direct access to a collector or arterial road are much more likely to have or receive scheduled transit service.

The Howard County Citizens Association requests that all County Council members vote in favor of CB31-2019.