



Howard County Citizens Association

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The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 17 June 2019

Subject: **HCCA Testimony CB32-2019**

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

We are extremely pleased to state we are by all means definitely in favor of CB32-2019 as we were for CB16 and 71-2018. Councilwoman Deb Jung, my Councilperson has indeed not only heard us, has taken the necessary action and realizes that all her constituents should be able to have the opportunity to question the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) designee to appear at quasi-judicial hearings regarding the Planning Board and strongly suggest to include at any given Meeting whereby a Technical Staff Report has been issued. This would provide the audience the opportunity to ask questions after DPZ's presentation. This is only fair especially because the public is not privy to seeing DPZ's Technical Staff Report until two weeks prior to a given hearing which HCCA a few years ago worked with the Council and was instrumental in seeing this was evoked. This Bill should be passed especially because the Petitioner has been involved with communicating with DPZ for quite some time whereas all other interested parties are seeing the findings for the first time and should have the right to ask DPZ any questions.

A little background – CB16 which we suggested was introduced by Councilpersons Sigaty and Terrasa to allow the public to question DPZ at Zoning Board Meetings. It passed 5 to 0 as it should have. Since now one can question DPZ at Zoning Board Meetings which I am pleased to announce this is documented in the newly adopted Zoning Board Rules of Procedure it makes no sense to exclude the same opportunity at Planning Board Hearings.

CB71-2018 was introduced by Councilpersons Terrasa and Ball. This Bill was simply correcting an oversight regarding CB16-2018 which we pointed out when we testified on 17 September 2018. It was an extremely important attempt in the right direction which provided a more level playing field for all concerned parties. For some strange reason it was denied. It failed by a 3 to 2 vote with then Councilpersons Ball and Terrasa voting in favor.

We suggest as was written in CB71 that CB32-2019 on page 4, lines 22 thru 27 corrects this most important matter. We would recommend that for clarity you add the following to line 27 after the word "Questions" – by any individual who signs up to testify. We suggest on line 24 after the word "Hearings" you consider adding the words "Meeting whenever a Technical Report is issued." One has to keep in mind that in Zoning Board Hearings CB16 only included Quasi-judicial because this is how they are conducted. The passage of CB32-2019 will enable any interested parties to have DPZ or a representative answer questions regarding their presentation at any given Planning Board hearing or meeting. The non-development community needs some semblance of a more level playing field.

Hopefully our entire County Council will unanimously vote in Favor of CB32. There is absolutely no reason you should not! We want Councilwoman Jung to know our appreciation as it is extremely

refreshing when any elected official attempts to take action on any wrong to make it right.
Councilwoman Jung all we can say is Thank You.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President