



**HCCA**

**Howard County Citizens Association**

*Since 1961...*

*The Voice Of The People of Howard County*

Date: 17 June 2019

Subject: **HCCA Testimony CR100-2019**

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

HCCA is against this proposal. We understand the intent of the Resolution is to perhaps attempt to streamline the testimony process, but unfortunately it is counter intuitive. When referring to lines 20 to 24 on page 2 any interested party is penalized because they did not sign-up in advance. The Council Chair for quite some time has had the courtesy to ask the audience is there anyone else who would like to testify. This tells the audience that Council Members are willing to hear further testimony and seem to want to obtain as much information as possible. Yes – you could ask for those not signing up in advance of the 30-minute deadline to please send written testimony. However suppose you as Council Members have a question to the person who wishes to provide perhaps compelling testimony which the public should have the opportunity to hear your question(s) to them and their response. You should want to hear all information provided by your constituents to assist in making your decision. There is also a situation whereby someone who previously did not sign-up in advance might want to counter what he or she heard during testimony of a given Bill or Resolution.

In conclusion we should not shutoff the valve because we want to save time by penalizing someone who did not previously register. This would be a negative for open government. In this case change is not good.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President