



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 17 June 2019

Subject: **HCCA Testimony – CB98-2019**

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

The question is quite apparent why do we see that in 2022 thru 2024 a substantial increase in the number of housing unit allocations? If it is because of “rolling over” from previous years because they were not allocated then we should not roll-over and play dead! Yes – we are Against this Resolution.

Not until APFO is REALLY ADEQUATE which County Executive stated has problems when we proposed the question to him at last week’s HCCA Annual Meeting. We should in no way accept these numbers. We cannot afford to increase allocations when we face the following issues regarding adequacy of education, transportation, and Quality of Life issues.

Schools – are inadequate having currently 234 trailers and will be having a major redistricting which is unfair to our children.

Roads – are woefully inadequate when you see signs which read, “Stay Alert – Congested Area Next 3 or 4 Miles.” When you see and have the awful experience of traffic on such roads as Routes, 29, 32, 108, 95, and Snowden River Parkway, etc. then we obviously don’t have a strategic plan to eradicate the problem. This is Smart Growth at its worst. SMART should stand for Sensible – Manageable – Accessible – Reliable –Traffic. Adding more units is the height of absurdity.

Hospital – is inadequate to say the least. When you have 78,000 individuals going to the Emergency Room last year, provided services to approximately 200,000, admitted to or observed over 21,000 patients, and provided outreach to over 30,000 people this is impressive, but we simply can’t handle the truth. This is evident when Steve Snelgrove, the President of the Hospital has stated, “The Hospital has significant concerns when we have an aging population and growth is outpacing our existing infrastructure.

Police – the 2014 Annual Police Report stated there were 183,000 911 calls. This is begging the question can our Police really handle the additional proposed housing unit allocations?

Do we even know if the number of 1850 units per year should be the number used? What makes this number so magical?

We suggest a thorough review be conducted before we arbitrarily select numbers which could haunt the future of our County. It is time not to kick the can down the road and hope we can survive.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President