



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: October 21, 2019

Subject: **HCCA Testimony – CB-51-2019. Strong Support. Requesting Strengthening Amendments**

My name is Alan Schneider. I am a Board member and officer of Howard County Citizens Association. I am authorized to testify for HCCA. HCCA thanks Chief Executive Calvin Ball and the County Council for proposing CB-51. However, CB-51 needs to be much stronger.

The goal is to protect the health and safety of vulnerable children and elderly, and “to protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment”. **That’s a longtime goal.**

1. CB-51 enacts “policy”. However, much more is needed now for many reasons. A few are:
 - a. There is very little, if any, effective change, including the following reasons.
 - b. There is no penalty.
 - c. There is no enforcement.
 - d. If there was enforcement, such as a “fine”, the fine authorized by Charter is only \$1,000.

2. Assume responsibility for protecting **more than** only the vulnerable people on county land. The County’s Police Powers are virtually unlimited. (25A of the Annotated Code of Maryland.) **Excluding “private property” is unreasonable.** More is needed to avoid irreparable damage going forward, before it’s too late to take action later.
Enact Amendments to expand CB-51 to apply to private use of harmful chemicals on community property including **HOA property, property adjacent to schools, daycares and all property approved for “over 55” housing.** (Documentation is available regarding State Registered Pesticide Sensitive Residents in a Howard County HOA who have been harmed by repeated pesticide treatments despite notifications to the company applying pesticides, and noncompliance with State regulations. Local laws are needed to bolster limited State resources.)
 - a. Howard County’s population grew from 61,911 in 1970 when the Charter was effective, to 323,196 in 2018. (Attachment.)
 - b. Toxic pesticides have grown in number, the ease of application, and wider usage.
 - c. A growing population and wider pesticide use have increased cancer and other medical afflictions.

3. Add amendments to protect Howard County’s health and Quality of Life. Remember that income from increased population (as measured by inadequate and insufficient APFO calculations) is not covering future hospital growth, nor police and the cost of the expansion of other social programs. Howard County had 78,000 individuals going to our Emergency Room last year, provided services to approximately 200,000, admitted or observed over 21,000 patients, and provided outreach to over 30,000 people. Plan ahead to avoid preventable increases in hospital admissions.

Thank you,

Alan Schneider

HCCA Board Member and Secretary