



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

Date: 18 February 2020

Subject: **HCCA is Against CB9-2020**

Good Evening. My name is Stu Kohn representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as President. We are Against CB9-2020 as was the Planning Board who voted Against the petition on 11 July 2019 even though the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) recommended Approval. We have a very strong suggestion to eliminate the recommendations by DPZ on the Technical Staff Report as they should be a regulatory body not a facilitator. DPZ should not be an influence in decisions, leave it up to the decision makers to be unbiased.

The vote by the Planning Board by a 5 to 0 vote to disagree with DPZ's recommendation is undoubtedly an unusual event and should be duly recognized as an extremely rare moment. They should be commended for their action. The Planning Board's recommendation described in their concerns in their Decision and Order says it best as stated, "The proposed amendments are designed to address issues with one property, however, they will apply county-wide and could result in unintended consequences." This is compelling evidence for the Council to agree and deny this Bill strictly based on principle.

One other point is when we testified in November on CB65 regarding a proposed Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA) we suggested its form be restructured to include the amount of any campaign contributions to any of our elected officials which exceeds \$500 who introduce or sponsor any given proposed Bill whereby a ZRA is filed. We would like this suggestion extended to include if his or her attorney(s) also contributed campaign finances. Your constituents should have the right and the opportunity to know all the facts. The reformatting of the ZRA form needs to be expedited by this body to obtain the utmost transparency. We reiterate you should vote against CB9-2020 as it would be the right thing to do based on the Planning Board's recommendation.

Thank you,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President