



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

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

Date: 18 January 2022

Subject: **HCCA in FAVOR of CB7/8-2022**

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Laurel and as President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA we are unequivocally in **FAVOR** of both CB7 and 8-2022. There is no doubt that this entire body should as well. We want to take this time to thank Councilmember Walsh for her continuing efforts to make our County a better place by trying her best to fix issues which never should have occurred in the first place.

If any Councilmember votes against these two proposed bills it would undoubtedly demonstrate to your constituents that you are against Affordable Housing and believe in discrimination. Furthermore, how about once and for all eliminating Fee-in-Lieu where developers buy their way out of a responsibility, we should all take seriously.

Some of you state your commitment in Affordable Housing. If you are really sincere you will not hesitate to vote in favor of these two Bills? You need to prove to us that Affordable Housing should be a requirement in ALL zoning districts, with no exemptions! Will you show us you will vote strictly on principle rather than developer's donations to politicians?

We don't want any excuses as to why these Bills should be denied. We only hope that our voices really do count. We say this especially because of a few recent experiences. For example, CB78-2021 to override the veto by the County Executive especially after Councilmembers Jones and Rigby originally voted in favor. Another example is CB50-2021 the expansion of the PSA strictly to benefit Erickson. All who testified were against and no one from Erickson or the public testified in support, yet it was passed. Obviously in these cases our voices were not heard. So, do our voices really matter?

Why after all these years is the zoning district PGCC exempt from Moderate Income Housing Units, MIHU? You can and should make this wrong a right. If your conscience is truly your guide, then MIHU should stand for Make It Happen Universally throughout our County now. Just say "YES" to CB7 and 8 especially if you really believe as you say you do in Affordable Housing then please show us your full commitment. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "The time is always right to do what is right."

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President