



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 22 February 2022

Subject: HCCA in **FAVOR** of CB13-2022

Good evening. My name is Stu Kohn from Laurel and as President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA we are proud that this proposed Bill is because of our suggestion and communication with the Department of Planning and Zoning, the Administration, and my Councilperson Deb Jung. This Bill is to promote accountability and responsibility. When this Bill is unanimously passed it could be as Councilmember Opel Jones states in his e-newsletter, "We all win together." The removal of such signs in a timely manner will provide a means to know if there is a new activity on the property site and to remove signs that are irrelevant as stated in the administrative testimony.

We are appreciative that by working with Director Amy Gowan, Jeff Goins, and Brian Shepter of Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) as well as Sam Sidh, County Executive Chief of Staff that this Bill is before this body. They should be given the utmost credit and a thanks goes out to them for not only listening to our concern but taking the necessary action. In fact, Sam even called me to ensure we were okay with the contents of the Bill. Amy pursued by calling the individual petitioner's attorneys asking them to remove notification signs which had been standing way after the occurrence of the event. Both Jeff and Brian had telephone meetings with me to go over the substance of the bill. During the evolution of this Bill I couldn't ask for anything more. We appreciate the effort. Thanks!

Some suggestions to potentially strengthen the Bill are as follows:

In the introduction, please add the Planning Board for clarity. Initially the various entities were not included, because I was told they are part of the Titles as referred in the Bill. We are pleased that they are now included after our suggestion.

Ideally, we would like to see the fine not be \$250 per sign when not adhering to the policy but "X" amount per day the sign was to be removed.

Please refer to page 6, line 15, 19, 23, 25 and 26 – add after the word "poster" "including all poles supporting the poster."

Refer to page 6, line 17 – after the word "Board" add "Board of Appeals."

Hopefully by the passage of this Bill it will be the sign of the times for better public communication, accuracy, and responsibility. Again, thanks for the support of the Administration and the DPZ. We could not ask for anything more other than the passage of this Bill. This Bill demonstrates a government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Thank you.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President