



Date: 22 February 2022

Subject: **HCCA is in FAVOR of CB15-2022**

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Laurel representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as President. We are in FAVOR of this Bill and very pleased that Council-members Walsh and Yungmann saw fit to introduce this Bill. We do have some questions and suggested amendments before it will be passed by this body.

The first question is how long is the term of Planning Board Members?

Please refer to page 1, line 19 and 20 – why are these lines needed when line 18 stipulates “each member shall reside in a different Council-manic district?”

After line 18 we recommend the following – If a member before their term expires or for some reason is removed then the replacement shall reside in the same Council-manic district.

On line 22 after the word – “course” please consider adding “and very knowledgeable in the Maryland Open Meetings Act.”

Please refer to page 1, line 24 and add after “council” the wording “prior to the Council’s vote.”
Question – what precisely will you be looking for regarding the nominee’s qualifications? We would hope the individual ideally has “Planning” experience.

After line 24 consider adding – No nominee shall be an employer or employee of a Law Firm who practices in any zoning cases in Howard County. For this reason we are glad CR19-2022 was we think withdrawn.

Please refer to page 2, line 6 and consider adding after the word - “them” the following sentence – “Any Meeting or Hearing which is conducted virtually the video shall be posted to the Planning Board website.”

Please refer to page 3, line 16 – change the word – “form” to “from.”

After line 16 we recommend a subsection as roman numeral IV-- Removal of Office if Not in Attendance. It would state the following – Any Planning Board Member who in a given 3-month period is absent 50 percent of the time will be given one warning from the Executive Secretary that he/she is on probation and shall be present at least 80 percent of the time for the following 3-months. Failure to adhere shall result in removal as a member of the Planning Board.

Council-members Walsh and Yungmann the HCCA Thanks You for your effort.

Stu Kohn, HCCA President