



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

FYI,

The following is a request for our County Councilmembers to hopefully take action on a major concern the Howard County Citizens Association has had for too many years.

The lack of Due Process and issues raised by the concerned parties has been totally out of control for years and basically ignored for too many years. We request immediate attention by our leaders to please improve the zoning process NOW.

We, the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA are trying to do our best to work with our County Council members in an attempt to resolve the zoning proceeding issues. We can only hope that action will be taken to once and for all resolve the issues.

Two cases have recently occurred making the aforementioned statement reality. One is currently in front of the Board of Appeals (BoA) and the other was the outcome of the Erickson case by the Zoning Board. The BoA handling of this case has undoubtedly been atrocious, and members of the Council unfortunately agree.

On 21 March we testified on CR26-2022 which was a nomination for a BoA member. You can [refer to our testimony on the HCCA website](#). To see the video and hear the communication with the Council refer to the [recording for the Legislative Public Hearing from Monday, March 21, 2022](#) and scroll down to Council Resolution 26 to my name.

Councilmember Liz Walsh said it best in her dissent to the Erickson Case. She stated, “There was no due process, neither rules applicable nor consistently enforced, throughout the interminable hours of hearings—flung in whole, then in part, to a virtual realm. There were no sufficient evidentiary bases for the findings and conclusions here stated—not as a majority originally voted upon, even less so as subsequently modified. I entirely dissent.”

As we previously stated to you in a HCCA Listserve posting the outcome of the Erickson case was very disturbing. The bottom line is that the Petitioner did not meet the zoning criteria for the development, but the Zoning Board failed to fulfill its duties and responsibilities with the exception of Liz Walsh which we appreciate her succinct dissent. A “Motion for Reconsideration” was filed to the Zoning Board by Alan Schneider a HCCA Board member and Joel Hurewitz to review the outcome. We are asking the Zoning Board to provide us the courtesy of a response. See the [PROTESTANT’S PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION](#) to read the “Reconsideration” motion.

A quote by Eleanor Roosevelt reads, “Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.” I can tell you unfortunately the scale of justice is titled in the wrong direction. The time is NOW to once and for all have the scale of justice balanced because we have been deprived of our Due Process for far too long.

We ask our County Councilmembers will you please take the necessary action to ensure all your constituents will be afforded their right of Due Process?

Stu Kohn
HCCA President