



Date: September 19, 2022. Subject: **CB 55-2022**
Testimony in SUPPORT by Howard County Citizens Association

Good evening, Council Members. I am Alan Schneider of Clarksville, speaking for HCCA. The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA, thanks Council member Deb Jung for introducing CB 55-2022 to clarify issuance of subpoenas in Zoning Board cases. There is much to learn. We ALL should have learned a lot from the Erickson Zoning Board case.

We are extremely encouraged. We see the Request for Quotations for hiring a consultant for the purpose of revising the Zoning Board Rules of Procedure. It states under 17.1.6, that the Rules shall provide for subpoenas. Thus, implicit in the Procedure for hiring a consultant for the purpose of revising the Zoning Board Rules of Procedure, is confirmation, and a compelling reason, why this Bill speaks for itself, and should be unanimously approved by all members of the County Council. Passage of CB 55 supports Howard County's policy of due process for all.

Councilwoman Jung's introduction of CB 55 illustrates that **Essential Due Process** includes obtaining complete information. There is no doubt that all Council members should demonstrate to your constituents that support Due Process by voting in FAVOR of this Bill.

NOTE the current inconsistency between procedures for the Zoning Board, on the one hand and on the other hand the procedures for the Board of Appeals, and the Hearing Examiner. The Issuance of Subpoenas is found in the Board of Appeals Rules of Procedure on page 8, section 2,208(h) and is stated in Section 7.5 in the Hearing Examiner's Rules of Procedure. So why wouldn't you vote in Favor of subpoenas in pursuing standardization for Zoning Rules of Procedure?

As you know we were ALL denied, including you, the right to hear from potential key witnesses by the County Executive in the Erickson case which unfortunately demonstrated unfairness; questions we all had were completely stifled. This was extremely frustrating, disheartening and not the way to conduct any case. The passage of this Bill will facilitate change.. **We are sure you** would want a much fairer zoning process **in order** to obtain pertinent information resulting in a more meaningful ability to make your decision.

This Bill is a very positive step in the right direction. Your vote of APPROVAL would be appreciated to facilitate a Zoning process for justice for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Schneider, HCCA Board Member