



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

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

## HCCA Testimony - CB34-2023 - Sole Source Contracts

Dear Council Members,

As a follow-up to the testimony submitted for CB34-2023 one only has to read the auditor's report

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=34749> which justifies the approval of the Bill.

There is no reason not to unanimously pass CB34-2023.

Stu Kohn

HCCA President

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On Jul 14, 2023, at 4:42 PM, STUART KOHN wrote:

Dear Council Members,

My name is Stu Kohn from Laurel and as President representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA.

We want to thank Council Member Deb Jung for taking the necessary action on our suggestion to investigate the issuance of Sole Source contracts. She deserves a lot of credit. Thank You. This Bill should not fail if all Council Members truly believe in competitiveness, fairness and an equitable system. Sole Source contracts as described in the County Code under 4.110 is very stringent as it should be.

We need accountability and oversight to ensure such contracts are awarded as they are supposed to be. Sole Source contracts need to be better administered and scrutinized to ensure a just process for all parties. Just because your name is Howard Hughes Corporation should not mean you get a gift for the procurement of a Sole Source contract. Yes - the Bill prohibits any Sole Source contract from being awarded due to land ownership. It should also require the County Executive to send any Sole Source contracts over a given amount to the Council for review. This provides accountability.

We need to make sure that oversight by the County Council as described in the Bill will be advantageous to bring transparency for all concerned parties. We need this to especially enable Minority contractors to be treated fairly. We are sure you all agree.

It's time to do the right thing regarding County procurement. Councilperson, Deb Jung did. We would expect all Council Members to do the same as there would be no excuse. We ask you Vote in **FAVOR** of CB34-2023.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA President