



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

From: STUART KOHN <stukohn@verizon.net>

Date: November 14, 2023 at 9:03:26 AM EST

To: calvinball@howardcountymd.gov, councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>

Subject: Concerns of Constituents Regarding Our Hospital

To our Elected Officials,

We have a major problem which we believe ALL of YOU are aware. See some of the various emails below from our Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA Listserv and our response to our Membership.

Yes - this is a MAJOR PROBLEM in our County and needs to be resolved but the problem has been existing since 2008 / 2009. The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA has been involved with this for years, but unfortunately it still exists and getting worse. We met with the Hospital Administration on three different occasions back then regarding the Red/Yellow Alerts whereby the Hospital was not accepting ambulances and for a time decreased as well as the Emergency Department wait time.

We recently [testified to the County Council](#) regarding suggested proposed Amendments to the General Plan and suggested a periodic Public Forum to be conducted with the Hospital and the Public - see the fifth paragraph - to discuss the status and have the public articulate their experience at the Hospital. Perhaps the Council will pursue the suggestion.

This problem needs to be immediately addressed, discussed with the source and determine what if any steps can be made to reduce the issue. We all deserve a better means of a quality of life. We only hope that County Executive Ball's Bulletin dated 13 November when he states the goal is to have a "transformative expansion of the hospital capacity to improve emergency operations" becomes reality. We are glad that our County Government recognizes the situation especially since the last several years we have given monies to the Hospital and now there is a proposed budget of an additional \$15 million towards the Hospital. We are glad the problem is obviously being taken seriously.

Any feedback from our Elected Officials regarding conducting a periodic Public Forum would be Appreciated. If this is possible please establish a date and time when the first meeting can be conducted in an attempt to take an active role to reduce the problem and let us know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President