



Date: 21 December 2023

Subject: **HCCA 2023 Annual Report**

As we close out 2023 and enter our 63rd year the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA Board of Directors would like to **Thank You** for your support. Please consider [renewing your 2024 HCCA Membership](#) or [becoming a New Member](#). Over the years we have donated to various charities in Howard County and will continue to do so with your support. We recently donated \$250 to the Howard County Food Bank and hope to provide more to charities in our County with your generosity of membership and contributions.

You can go to [our website](#) to view our goals and activities. We are extremely proud of our Group being involved by continuing to try and improve our Quality of Life in our County. Our involvement can be viewed at the [HCCA Reports, Documents and Testimonies page](#).

We have testified to the County Council Members, sat on various Boards, sent written requests to our elected officials, been involved in zoning cases and its process, and communicated with community members regarding their concerns. As you can see, we have tried to be advocates for improvements some of which are as follows:

- > The Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center where ambulances are being re-routed to other hospitals not serving County residents and the Emergency Room waiting time needs to be reduced.
- > Airplane Noise needs to be drastically reduced. Sitting member on BWI Roundtable.
- > Ensure Electric Vehicle Chargers are available in homes - Member of the Maryland Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council.
- > Instrumental in revising the Zoning Board Rules of Procedure and its process.
- > Ensuring the Environment is a priority.

We have some Resolutions for 2024 (in no particular order) to be considered for action by our Elected Officials:

- > Always have the courtesy to respond to constituent's emails and phone calls regarding suggestions and concerns.> No Additional Portables/Trailers at our Schools.

- > Arrange periodic Hospital Town Hall Meetings to decrease Emergency Wait Times and ensure Ambulances will be routed to the closest hospital, that being the Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.
- > Establish Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers at Multifamily dwellings of all types wherever there is curbside parking. Coordinate with BGE to install EV Chargers under the EVSE Pilot Program.
- > Promote accountability to the General Plan regarding all Implementation Action Plans as identified in Chapter 11.
- > Eliminate the continued excessive Airplane Noise.
- > Eliminate Fee in Lieu to mandate developers to meet their Moderate-Income Housing obligation as stated in the zoning regulations for a given project.
- > The implementation of ADU's should be a conditional use to better accommodate regional differences in storm water management, traffic and parking needs.
- > Traffic Studies on "Minor Collectors" intersections should be included in the Planned Service Area. Refer to Page 4-2 of the Design Manual as it currently exists for the rural area.
- > Review of the General Plan over 10 years should be analyzed at 2-year intervals for each Council District and address Zoning and Growth as it pertains to the Master Plan in the given District.
- > Permit oral communication at the Design Panel's Hearings by restricting it to Architectural and Landscaping Testimony.
- > Continue oversight of watershed projects to ensure all stakeholder positions are addressed.
- > Ensure Columbia remains a planned community and remain vigilant in our oversight of how the General Plan might affect the planned community. The County Council should oversee that the Columbia Association upholds its obligations which are recorded in the Howard County land records, dated 13 December 1966 under Liber 463, page 158.
- > All Implementation Action statements for each Chapter of the General Plan (HoCo by Design) shall be evaluated to include a written report card by those responsible for action requiring a review with the County Council and Public every two years. This is to ensure all Implementation Action contents are meaningful and not just rhetoric, so the proposed goals are being met as defined.

> Take significant steps regarding Route 1 to have solid plans for immediate action to ensure the elimination of it looking in parts as a third world country. If necessary, a complete review of the Route 1 Design Manual and establish a Task Force to take immediate action.

State Resolutions

> Permit Registered Independents to be able to vote for Judges in Primary Elections as they can for Board of Education candidates.

> Request Accountability regarding the 2024 Bond Initiatives as currently there is no justification by including Line Items as a major part of the General Assembly Legislative Bond Initiative's Request application form.

> Work with the State to obtain more beds at the Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.

We hope we can make a difference but greater involvement from your participation is needed. We are proud that at our Annual Meetings we have honored those who have been very involved by awarding them as an "Activist of the Year" and showing our appreciation by giving a \$100 Gift Card of their choice. We would like to see more of you involved by testifying and telling us your concerns and providing suggestions for improvements. We want to hear from you.

Let's hope 2024 will be most rewarding by successfully having our goals become reality. We look forward to your participation.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President