



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 16 January 2024
Subject: **HCCA in Favor of CB4-2024**

Good evening.

I am Brian England a Howard County Citizens Association Board Member testifying on behalf of HCCA, we are very much in Favor of CB4-2024.

We want to thank Council member Liz Walsh for having the fortitude to introduce such a Bill which will have a monumental effect in avoiding the hypocrisy regarding Affordable and Moderate-Income Housing.

Yes - for years the HCCA has been advocating that the Fee-in-lieu program should be eliminated with absolutely no exceptions.

We see the Bill on Page 17, Line 6 thru Page 20, Line 11 to delete the Alternative Compliance and Fee-in-lieu section is exactly what should have been done years ago especially if anyone believes in Affordable Housing and ensuring that the Housing is adequately distributed throughout our County.

Up until now no Council member has had the courage to publicly suggest such legislation. Thank you, Council member Liz Walsh, as you deserve a lot of credit. If you all really believe in “not limiting” and the “equal distribution throughout the County”, then the right thing to do is to eliminate the ability to provide the Developer a “get out of jail free card”.

We do have concerns about the current process for the allocating “fee in lieu” monies. For example, an excellently conceived project “Patuxent Commons” was allocated \$3.2 million dollars in 2022 from “fee in lieu” but has not broken ground yet. Why?

Your positive votes on CB4-2024 will show your constituents that those in need will not be deprived because the elimination of Fee-in-lieu is an important ingredient for doing what is right.

Brian England
HCCA Board of Director