



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 15 July 2024

Subject: HCCA Testimony CB45-2024 Board of Appeals Compensation

My name is Stu Kohn from beautiful Scaggsville testifying for the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA.

We are absolutely Against CB45-2024. How can this Bill be justified for such a large increase in compensation for the Board of Appeals (BoA) Members? It is outrageous! How and why is this large increase justified from \$110 to \$220 per each public session a 100 percent increase and from \$16,125 to \$27,250 a 69 percent increase pertaining to the maximum cumulative total payment per year? This needs to be discussed so we all can understand the rationale. What has the BoA done to warrant such an increase? Would you approve such a large increase for yourselves?

We note the Auditor states the last time the BoA compensation was changed was 2014. The dollar's cumulative inflation rate was 32.7 percent in the last ten years. So how does one justify the proposed 69 percent increase?

What makes the BoA much more important than the Planning Board based on the compensation? Why is the compensation of the Planning Board not described in the Charter while the BoA is? Should it be?

If this Bill were to be Approved, it would lend itself for the Inspector General to investigate the waste if CB47 and 48-2024 is Approved.

We would appreciate responses to these questions as the increase is unconscionable and warrants an explanation.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President