



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 6 November 2024

Subject: **APFO Testimony**

My name is Stu Kohn from Scaggsville, testifying for the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President. I was a member of the previous APFO Task Force.

We have a dream that one day (sound familiar) APFO will be more than just Adequate which would undoubtedly be appreciated by all. We are seeking an Awesome Public Facilities Ordinance which should include Quality of Life Issues such as the Hospital, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Utilities, etc. We need to have stricter restrictions on roads and schools and take serious action on the following because otherwise APFO should be known as ALPO, "A Lousy Public Ordinance."

- ❖ The elimination of all signs which read, "Stay Alert Traffic Congestion Next 3 or 4 Miles".
- ❖ Roads which are classified as an "E" Level of Service should no longer be considered passing in Downtown Columbia referencing the Design Manual, Volume 3, page 5-5.
- ❖ Reference the General Plan, Chapter 10, Managing Growth, page 16. The ability for any developer to be permitted to pay Fee-in-Lieu to mitigate any declared traffic impact should never be allowed.
- ❖ The elimination of Roads classified as "Minor Collectors" as stated in the Design Manual should be required to be analyzed in all areas not just the non-Public Service Area areas.
- ❖ The complete elimination of over 230 trailers at schools and no more added.
- ❖ To ensure all schools whenever trailers are required should be labeled as "Overcapacity" and "Closed." Any school whose enrollment exceeds 100 percent should be declared "Closed."
- ❖ No schools should automatically be declared "Open" after 4 years having previously been declared "Closed." No development should occur after 4 years until completely satisfied.
- ❖ The elimination of the excessive amount of waiting time in the Emergency Room at the Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.

- ❖ To ensure there are enough in-patients beds at Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center to handle services prior to proposed development.
- ❖ To ensure there is enough personnel assigned with the Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services for any proposed development.
- ❖ To ensure the electrical grid can more than adequately handle the workload due to any newly proposed development.
- ❖ To ensure delivery of mail will not be delayed because of over development.

Please refer to the recently adopted General Plan, Chapter 10, Managing Growth. Why aren't Quality of Life issues addressed in this Chapter? We don't see any mention of the Hospital, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Utilities, etc. Why not?

At your last meeting presentations were made by Fire, Police and the Hospital that included remarks about their services. They were dumbfounded when they were asked should they be a part of APFO. We all need to ensure these critical services in no way result in a negative impact by outpacing growth.

There is a quote by George Bernard Shaw regarding Progress which states, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

At your meeting on October 23, you were told to stifle so unfortunately feedback is not part of this agenda. What is the rationale for such a decree? Bill Gates stated, "We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve."

Any response?

Thank you.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President