



Date: 21 January 2025

Subject: **HCCA Testimony for CB6 thru 8-2025**

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville testifying on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President.

We are extremely pleased that members of the Council bestowed gratitude for our involvement in the pursuit of happiness for the establishment of the Office of Inspector General, IG. We are indeed happy and very much appreciate your sincerity. We will continue to work in what endeavor is necessary to ensure the IG Office for years to come will be first class to ensure accountability, transparency and oversight for the citizens of our County. With 145,061 or 86 percent of the voters saying “YES” it is incumbent of all of us to strive for an Office of Excellence.

In reviewing CB6 thru 8-2025 and we thank Council-member Jung for introducing these mandatory Bills. We have some questions and suggestions for potential improvements. They are as follows:

For CB6-2025

Refer to Page 2, line 25 – the attachment Exhibit A – Question - What does FLSA stand for and what does the code “E” mean? Suggestion – add a footnote to this Exhibit to describe.

For CB7-2025

We fully agree that both the IG and Deputy’s salary should be equivalent to the County Solicitor and Deputy.

Refer to Page 2, line 25 – after the words ‘Attachment A to this Bill’ – add “under related documents.”

Referring to this Attachment the Howard County Salary Schedule Table - We have some suggestions for clarity whereby footnotes would be helpful for an explanation to the public. The meaning of the rows “Grades 1 thru 23. The meaning of why salaries in columns are in black and others in red.

Question – Where does one find the salary schedule on the County website? The availability of such information should be apparent to your constituents.

For CB8-2025

Question – How often are financial disclosure statements required to be updated and where are the forms found?

In closing, we want to reiterate our deep appreciation for all your efforts in pursuing an Office which has long been needed to assist in making our County a better place to live, work and thrive.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President