



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 27 February 2025

Subject: **Will the Columbia Association Act?**

Dear Columbia Associate (CA) Members,

We, the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA was extremely pleased when in 2017 the CA Board partnered with us by contributing \$5000 to our film - "Columbia at 50 - A Bridge to the Future" you can watch the video by going to [our website](#) as it has a lot of meaning for not only Columbia, but all of Howard County. We were also the force behind the "2014 CA New Town report" that was presented to the board by Jane Dembner, see February 12, 2015, minutes.

The question we have especially after 10 years is what is the future of Columbia and what action will this Board take? We ask because the complacency of the CA Boards has been for the most part complacent. When was the last time that CA testified in front of the Council on behalf of their residents for causes which concern them? Why did you choose not to testify regarding CB11-2025 especially to support those residents in River Hill and Hickory Ridge who are potentially affected if you believe in the best interests of their health and safety will not be in jeopardy. We submitted our testimony to the County Council to you.

We, like others, are very concerned you have not acted on such major issues as the control of Covenants, Design guidelines, New Town Zoning, the forthcoming Gateway Project, the effect of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) regarding safety and health and Comprehensive Rezoning.

There is a Chinese proverb which states, "Vision without Action is a Daydream while Action without Vision is a Nightmare." So, we ask what is the real vision of Columbia? Will you start to take action to demonstrate to your residents that you do indeed care?

We are perplexed that Mr. Shawn MacInnes has not had the courtesy to take the time to respond to our invitation to meet with our Board. We would like to discuss the pros and cons to try to obtain dialogue for mutual understanding and potential improvements. Twice emails were sent to Mr. MacInnes to meet with HCCA, but the courtesy of a response was never received. Your failure to respond shows that CA simply does not care to discuss the concerns of your residents. If this is the case, then your website needs to be revised by deleting the words "Your Input Matters" when concerned residents register to testify. We do suggest you consider periodically conducting Town Hall meetings to inform CA Members of your plans and strategy for the future.

We would appreciate you take the necessary actions to discuss the vision for the future of Columbia. Your residents are depending on you to act now and be involved with their concerns,

Thank You for listening.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President