



Date: 17 March 2025

Subject: **HCCA Favors CB16-2025**

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President. We FAVOR CB16-2025 introduced by Council-member Liz Walsh.

A depository of reports, studies, publications, and other documents residing in a centralized database accessible via the County website would aid in providing all your constituents with greater transparency.

We do have a suggestion for potential amendments and some questions to improve the Bill as follows:

Refer to Page 1, Line 12 - after the word “document” add the words “such as” and cite some examples of the documents which our envisioned to be a part of the centralized database.

Refer to Page 1 Line 25 - add all Public Information Act (PIA) requests and associated document responses shall all be included in the repository. For your information the school system has a database permitting the opportunity to retrieve all filed PIAs with responses so there is no reason not to include this suggested amendment. This can be found by going to the link - <https://mpia.hcpss.org/>.

Our questions refer to Page 1, Lines 21 thru 24:

What documents are envisioned to initially be posted in the database?

Can the public request postings of information to be applied and if so what will be the procedure for such requests?

Who will determine what information is to be posted?

How often will the requested information be posted?

What penalties will be rendered if not posted within a reasonable timeframe?

We appreciate Council-member Walsh’s initiative to establish a means of sharing pertinent information with the public to gain knowledge.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President