



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 20 May 2025

Subject: **APFO Testimony by the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)**

Good evening. I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville representing the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President.

Does this Committee really care about communication and interacting with the public? We ask because it seems that silence from you, not allowing questions or comments at these hearings, is the norm pertaining to this public meeting as was the last. Are we just being appeased? This should in no way be a one-way conversation! How do we know if our suggestions and / or concerns are being heard and perhaps acted?

I was a member of the previous APFO Committee. We testified to the County Council in July 2017. Almost 8 years later the acronym of APFO should change to ALPO, A Lousy Public Ordinance. It remains "Lousy" because the measurements for protection of schools, roads and quality of life issues have not worked and needs to be much stricter. Can you guarantee your recommendations will better the situation?

With your proposed school recommendations to the Council will you guarantee permanent elimination for the need to redistrict or necessitate additional trailers? We believe no school capacity should exceed 100 percent, no more additional trailers should exist for overflow and should be counted automatically as overcapacity.

The level of service of roads should only pass at a service level higher than a "D" because of the volume of congested traffic and the proliferation of development. We should have measurements to include Fire, Emergency Medical Services, the Police, the Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical System, Utilities, and Storm Water, etc. Will any member of this committee consider making any motions regarding quality-of-life issues? If so when will the public be informed so we may provide any comments?

When we see road signs stating, "Stay alert traffic congestion next 3 miles" and schools with nearly 250 trailers we obviously have major problems and concerns. Developers should not be permitted to get a free get out of jail card after four years ignoring schools declared overcapacity. There should not be a time limit. This is not fair to the future of Howard County - our students. We need to avoid the heartburn of redistricting. Furthermore, there should not be any housing exemptions for APFO.

We are not in support of eliminating the wait and having fees paid instead. Having higher fees closer to the actual cost of the impacts on development should happen without eliminating the wait of crowded school requirements to assist in their budget and planning.

We hope you will take the necessary action for APFO to once and for all stand for an “Awesome” Public Facilities Ordinance which we can be proud.

Thank you for listening, we only hope. The question is will the public be informed of any of their recommendations which might be implemented by any of your actions?

Stu Kohn
HCCA President