



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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

From: 'STUART KOHN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Date: October 21, 2025 at 8:32:10 AM EDT
To: Calvin Ball <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Subject: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] Follow up to County Executive Ball's Request for Suggested Items for Action
Reply-To: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com

Dear County Executive Ball,

As you know the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) was contacted by your staff member, Paul Thompson, Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships asking of items you might consider to take action during your remaining time in office.

Our HCCA Members would appreciate feedback concerning the suggested items below. We would like to be informed of what items will be your priority for your Administration to take action. We don't want this exercise to become a So What.

The following are suggestions from our members.

Thank you,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Conduct Comprehensive Rezoning to be heard by the County Council.

To ensure APFO's Committee report goes forward to the County Council for legislation especially to have the opportunity for public testimony.

Conduct a public survey of the APFO Review Committee Recommendations. Especially because of the recommendation of a play for play system allowing development for a small fee that doesn't cover seat cost.

Pursue revisions to the Zoning Code Regulations started in 2016, contracted out to Clarion as the public provided considerable input and enthusiasm to better our government

see <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/development-regulation-assessment> for details. In particular reference the "Comments Synopsis" - https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/media/2017-06/2017-06-08%20Comments_Synopsis.pdf which are very much applicable 9 years later.

Ensure all understand the concept of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)'s and articulate all positive and negatives prior to any implementation. In particular, ensure ADU's will not be a negative impact concerning the deterioration of residents existing infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospital, EMS, police, fire, utilities, storm water, etc.

To ensure New Town and Gateway boundaries become a better planned community especially in the area of enforcing covenants and policy.

To ensure there will be more than adequate infrastructure to support the Gateway development whereby existing infrastructure will not deteriorate any further.

Pursue the elimination of Road Signs which read, "Stay Alert - Traffic Congestion Next 3 Miles" by conducting better traffic studies.

Reduce the number of Trailers at School sites from the almost 250 in place and don't add any more.

Reform the Board of Appeals by working with the County Council as many residents are extremely dissatisfied with the process.

Conduct at least 2 Town Hall meetings before your tenure is over. Have residents ask their questions and suggestions for any improvements without canvassing any submittals.

Permit oral testimony at Design Advisory Panel public meetings which are strictly relating to only the proposed project design.

Document the Department of Planning and Zoning's Inspections process and procedures so the public knows what to expect.

Hold more budget information sessions for the public for participatory budgeting processes and transparency.

Prioritize holding community meetings in all County districts. Rationale: Montgomery County's CE is very accessible and held ~12 meetings last year for the budget alone.

Consider revising accessibility costs to Community Centers, especially for non-profit organizations. Rationale: Rooms are underutilized and fees ~\$50/hr don't seem commensurate with upkeep costs.

Consider promoting greater equity within the Department of Recreation and Parks Activity Catalogs. Rationale: It is not clear to many these programs may be open to residents who couldn't afford them otherwise. Please prioritize children first.
Concentrate more in the old villages - one is about to be razed for more buildings.

Bring the level of services and amenities provided to Elkridge up to the same level as the rest of the county receives.

Starting with a high school in Elkridge and a pool at our proposed community center. Rationale: Refer to a paper on why a new high school should be built in Elkridge instead of a renovation for Oakland Mills

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Db_6M2NOyvqUml4WEDZypbRzUZzqrse/view?usp=sharing

We understand pre-filed legislation will be submitted stating the County Executive intends to establish a Work Group to study the impacts of the Senior Tax Credit, the Aging in Place Tax Credit, and property tax deferral program for older adults. This Work Group will consider the long-term benefits and fiscal impact of the County's tax credits to assist older adults. When will the Work Group commence?

Cc: County Council and HCCA Members