



Date: 9 July 2026

Subject: Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) Testimony to Columbia Association (CA) Board

To: Columbia Association Board

GOOD EVENING

I AM PAUL VERCHINSKI, A RESIDENT OF OAKLAND MILLS SINCE 1973. I COME BEFORE YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (HCCA) AND AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR HCCA.

CA IS A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION THAT HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF COLUMBIA. IT IS ALSO SUBJECT TO THE MARYLAND HOMEOWNERS ACT. PRIOR TO REBRANDING, CA WAS KNOWN TO US OLD TIMERS AS THE COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

I REVIEWED YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEB PAGE AND IT TROUBLES THE HCCA. YOU NOTE THAT "OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS A GROUP OF RESIDENTS ELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGES". THE OPERATIVE WORD IS "ELECTED"

I ATTENDED THE CIRCUIT COURT HEARING ON JULY 1 AND LISTENED TO THE ARGUMENT OF CA COUNSEL. THE ASSERTION WAS MADE BY CA COUNSEL THAT THE REMAINING CA BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENT THE VILLAGES THAT HAVE BEEN DISENFRANCHISED BY YOU SINCE THEY NO LONGER HAVE SEATED CA REPRESENTATIVES. THIS APPEARS TO BE FACTUALLY FALSE.

KINGS CONTRIVANCE'S CA REPRESENTATIVE RESIGNED FROM THE CA BOARD. I WAS INTERESTED IN GETTING APPOINTED BY KINGS CONTRIVANCE TO THE CA BOARD. I LIVE IN ANOTHER VILLAGE, OAKLAND MILLS. I WAS QUOTED ARTICLE IX THAT WAS AMENDED INTO THE KC CHARTER IN 1983. IT IS NOTEABLE FOR WHAT IT SAYS REGARDING THE KC CA REPRESENTATIVE.

““ARTICLE IX Columbia Council Representative Section 9.01 Powers. The Representative of the Association on the Columbia Council shall perform those functions, and shall have those powers, specified in the Charter of the Association and the Charter of CPRA. Section 9.02 Number and Election. There shall be one Representative of the Association on the Columbia Council. The Representative shall be a member of the Association.”

THESE EXACT WORDS WERE AMENDED INTO ALL COLUMBIA VILLAGE CHARTERS IN 1983 WHEN THE SCHEME FOR CA GOVERNANCE CHANGED. “ASSOCIATION “ IS DEFINED AS THE KING CONTRIVANCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND NOT THE

“COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION”. IF IT WAS THE “COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION”, IT WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHICH VILLAGE I LIVED IN COLUMBIA SO LONG AS I WAS SUBJECT TO THE CA LIEN

YOU HAVE REMOVED PHOTOS OF THOSE VOLUNTEER RESIDENTS DULY ELECTED FOR OAKLAND MILLS, LONG REACH, AND RIVER HILL. HCCA IS PERPLEXED SINCE THOSE 3 VILLAGES ALONG WITH THE OTHER SEVEN HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGES AND ACKNOWLEDGED AT THE MAY 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. ACCORDING TO SECTION IX ABOVE.

REASONS GIVEN TO THE RESIDENTS OF OAKLAND MILLS, LONG REACH, AND RIVER HILL ARE ALLEGED ETHICS CHARGES. IT APPEARS THAT THE WAY ETHICS CHARGES ARE HANDLED BY THE CA IS AN ALL OR NOTHING WITH NO GRADATION BUT TO SUMMARILY THROW REPRESENTATIVES OFF THE BOARD AND PREVENT THEM FROM REPRESENTING THEIR VILLAGES. CA, UNFORTUNATLY, HAS A HISTORY OF USING ETHICS CHARGES AS A CUDGEL TO REMOVE DIRECTORS THAT DO NOT AGREE WITH THE BOARD MAJORITY,

HCCA, FOUNDED IN 1961, HAS FOSTERED GOOD GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND CA AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RESIDENT DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF A THIRD OF COLUMBIA'S VILLAGES REPRESENTING ABOUT 40,000 RESIDENTS. WE WOULD LIKE SOME ANSWERS FROM THE CA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION REGARDING RESIDENT DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF CA. THE REMAINING BOARD MEMBERS, IN FACT, DO NOT REPRESENT THESE THREE VILLAGES AS ALLEGED BY CA COUNSEL

AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, I AND OTHER CA LIEN PAYERS WORK THRU OUR CA VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES ON CA ISSUES OF CONCERN AND THAT IS REQUIRED BY OUR RESPECTIVE VILLAGE CHARTERS.

OAKLAND MILLS, LONG REACH, AND RIVER HILL HAVE ALL ELECTED OUR CA REPRESENTATIVES AND EXPECT TO SEE THEM SEATED FOR THE COMING CA BOARD YEAR.

TO SUMMARIZE, WHAT WILL YOU ALTERNATIVELY AS BOARD MEMBERS PROACTIVELY DO TO ASSURE REPRESENTATION FOR THE THREE VILLAGES IF THIS IMPASS CONTINUES?

WE WOULD REMIND YOU AGAIN THAT YOU ARE SUBJECT TO THE MARYLAND HOMEOWNERS ACT WHICH ADDRESSES ELECTIONS.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEBSITE STATES “YOUR INPUT MATTERS” CONCERNING SPEAK OUTS. OUR QUESTION IS DOES IT INDEED MATTER?

THANK YOU,
PAUL VERCHINSKI