



Howard County Citizens Association

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

Date: 22 September 2026

Subject: **HCCA Testimony for CB58-2026**

Good evening.

I am Stu Kohn from Scaggsville and testifying on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA as its President.

We would hope all our Council members would be in favor of this Bill introduced by Council-member Deb Jung.

A quote about “Transparency” is stated as, “The single most important ingredient in the recipe for success is transparency because transparency builds trust.”

There is a quote regarding “Accountability” which reads, “It is often treated like a "bad word" - something associated with punishment or being "called out." But in reality, accountability is a superpower. It is the bridge between a goal and an achievement. When you own your actions, you own your results.

These two words are what makes for good government. Thank You for trying to promote Accountability and Transparency as this Bill strives to do this.

We have some comments pertaining to the Bill which are as follows:

- We agree all nonprofit agencies should be required to have a minimum of two years of experience prior to applying for a Grant.
- Having a centralized database would promote transparency in describing pertinent information.
- Please refer to Page 3 line 6 --we recommend after this line the following be stated, “The anticipated completion date of the Project shall be provided with the Grant application.”
- Refer to Page 3 line 24 – after the word “disbursed” add --if the Grant funding has not been spent by the anticipate completion date of the Project as provided by the Grantee in the application, then the remaining funding shall be returned.
- Please refer to Page 5 Lines 7 thru 9 - what is the rationale for asking “for at least 25% of the total proxy costs from private or non-private sources.” We ask because some of our

Board Members are concerned this percentage is high as some large expensive projects could otherwise go to deserving non-profits.

- Refer to Page 6 line 19 – after the word “funds” add -- and available to the public via the County website.
- Question – is there any opportunity for the public to comment if they have any concern about a particular Grant?
- Refer to Page 7 line 2 – after the word “sources” add – the anticipated date when the Grant will be completed

There is no question the proposed details regarding the administration of the Grant program with the adoption of CB58-2026 will be most rewarding for ALL CONCERN PARTIES. It would be in the best interest to pass this Bill unanimously especially if you believe in Transparency and Accountability. We thank Council-member Jung for promoting improvements to the Grant Program.

Thank you,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President