



July 2013

Volume X, Issue IV

**County Council Meetings
July 23, 24 and 25
Howard Building**

The Crossroads: Substantially Altered or Sustained?

President's Message

The headline remains the same because the Council makes the final decision this year, maybe before the August recess. We hope not.

In addition to testifying before Council three times and following up with written comments, I sent the following email today.

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To: The County Council of Howard County
Via email at: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
From: Dan O'Leary, President
12832 Highland Rd
Highland MD 20777
301.854.9424, danielol@aol.com

Resolved: Comprehensive Rezoning must be fully deliberated and debated without regard to legislative rules and calendars.

Dear Council Members:

I implore you to adopt the resolution above and to make it your guiding principle in adopting comprehensive zoning in its final form. Here are a few reasons why:

1. It is **COMPREHENSIVE** and only occurs every decade and the speed of societal change is an ever-increasing trend. Change is no longer measured in years, but in months, weeks and even days.
2. **494 pages of zoning regulations, 153 map amendments, 61 amendments, hours of testimony and counting:** The scope and size of the material to be reviewed is overwhelming. When combined with the need to hold hearings and

digest testimony, reconcile conflicting views, forge compromises and draft appropriate amendments, it presents an impossible task in the very limited time frame allotted.

3. I estimate I personally spent roughly 400 hours over two years studying and revising less than 100 pages of the regulations and only 10 of the text amendments. If any of you have spent this amount of time, given the volume of material, is it adequate?

4. Since the numerous appeals to break this process down to portions of the County and the regulations, and to consider them every three years or so have failed, you must bite the bullet and persevere in insuring that the task is done properly.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to appeal to you to take the following action:

- **Amend Business Rural Crossroads (BRX):** Consider Highland in the context of the **BRX and the 7 proposed map amendments**. Remove **BR** or **CCT** as qualifiers for potential **BRX** status because to do so would be in conflict with the very purposes and definitions of the **BR** and **CCT** zones.

- **At a minimum, deny Map amendment 40.001 and grant only 40.003 40.008:** This action would be consistent with adopting a limited **BRX**, allowing modest appropriate growth on a case-by case basis which has been the community sentiment for the last 11 years.

- **Reinstate the funeral home provisions proposed by DPZ.**

- **Rollback the PSA from the Clarksville and Fulton areas.**

- **Revisit and consider the detailed recommendations made in my previous written and oral testimony.**

Thank you again for your attention and patience. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have. My email is danielol@aol.com, and my phone is 301-854-9424 – Dan O’Leary.
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GHCA Website

Chuck Gait, whose column appears in the **Howard County Times**, loyally continues as **GHCA Webmaster**. Visit the site, <http://www.highlandmd.org/> and send your comments or suggestions to **Chuck** at: Chuck.Gait@gmail.com

Highland Day, October 5, 2013

GHCA’s main task is to provide volunteers before, during and after the event. We still need volunteers; please contact **Georgianna Meagher**, gdgmeagher@gmail.com

Membership Special Appeal: Please join or rejoin GHCA. The Membership is **\$50** for the calendar year. **Now more than ever your participation and membership is needed to support the continued efforts of GHCA to represent your interests before Maryland/Howard County government, development interests, and community events.**

Name: _____
Email: _____ (very important! Save postage, and keep informed)
Address (only if not on your check)

Make Your Check Payable to GHCA
Mail to GHCA, PO Box 235, Highland, Maryland 20777

**THE GHCA CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT MEMBERS AND WITHOUT THE GHCA
WE'RE ALL ON OUR OWN!!!!**

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