



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Contact: Shelia Green
Phone: 410-715-3171

CA Board comments on proposed Zoning Regulation Amendment 102 Recommendations provided to Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors submitted a letter to the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning regarding an amendment that would allow village center land owners to petition for zoning changes, eliminating the current “gatekeeper” function of General Growth Properties outlined in New Town Zoning.

The CA Board reviewed the proposed Zoning Regulation Amendment 102 and the planning board’s technical report. The board submitted its recommendations based on considerable input from the village associations and the public. Key recommendations include added criteria on the types of development permitted in village centers, requirements to adhere to covenants currently in place at the village centers and an opportunity for village boards to produce Community Response Statements to proposed amendments. A copy of the letter to the county detailing all of the board’s recommendations is available [here](#).

Under current zoning rules, the original owner of land during the 1960s when the New Town zoning was created has the legal authority to petition for zoning amendments. When the regulations were created, the land was wholly owned by The Rouse Company, now General Growth Properties. Since that time, several village centers have been sold to other developers who must rely on GGP to request zoning amendments. ZRA 102 would allow land owners to directly petition the county without GGP’s involvement.

Citizens who would like to submit comments regarding ZRA 102 and its revisions may e-mail comments to PlanningBoard@HowardCountyMD.gov through Jan. 8. The zoning board is scheduled to hold a work session on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. at 8930 Stanford Blvd. in Columbia, Ellicott Room 2. The work session is open to the public, however, there will not be an opportunity for public testimony.

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10221 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Switchboard: 410-715-3000
Fax 410-715-0389