

ST. LOUIS CHURCH

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April 9, 2018

Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty, Chair
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phil Engelke, Chair
Howard County Planning Board
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: GPA 01-2018 – General Plan Amendment to Expand the PSA
To Permit Expanded Housing and Medical Care
For Howard County Senior Citizens

Dear Chairpersons Sigaty and Engelke:

I am writing to you to express my strong support for GPA 01-2018. To introduce myself, I am presently serving as Pastor of St. Louis Church in Clarksville — one of the largest Catholic congregations in the Archdiocese of Baltimore with a registration of over 4200 families. I was appointed to this role by Cardinal William Keeler in February of 1996.

Over the past 22 years, I have observed a great many changes in the once small community of Clarksville. Over the past few decades, new roads, new schools, and even new villages have emerged which have by and large contributed quite positively to our community. (That's not to suggest that there have not been growing pains along the way.) In any event, one aspect of our community's growth that has deeply concerned me for some time is that the need for senior housing and senior medical care has seemingly not been a high priority. You see, too many times I have had to minister to senior members of our congregation as they face the reality that they are no longer able to safely remain within their homes due to the complications of aging. Too often, these seniors have had to relocate from their homes and from their community to an unfamiliar place - often separated from their established support networks including their friends and family. For this reason, I was delighted when I learned of a proposal put forth by Erickson Living to help to address Howard County's need for increased senior housing and senior medical care right here in Clarksville.

As part of my duties as a Pastor, I have on numerous occasions visited other Erickson Living communities including the Charlestown, Oak Crest and Riderwood

communities. As such, I am very familiar with the Erickson Living model for senior housing and senior care. Without comparison to other high quality providers of senior housing and care, I have been continually impressed by the high levels of quality care and compassion made available to the senior residents of these Erickson Living communities. My prayer for the senior members of our Howard County community is that they too might be able to experience the peace and dignity that comes from being able to age in place within their established community surrounded by friends and family. In my view, the passage of GPA 01-2018 is a positive step in this direction.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge that a lot of very important details will need to be worked out before the proposed Erickson Living continuing care retirement community (CCRC) might become a reality. As I understand it, however, the discussion about these details cannot even begin in earnest unless and until GPA 01-2018 is approved by the County Council. I also understand that in the event that these essential details relating to the proposed CCRC cannot be worked out to the satisfaction of the Zoning Board, the expansion of the PSA will automatically revert back to its current location without any further action of the County Council being required. In light of this automatic reversion provision within the legislation itself it would seem that there can be no harm in approving GPA 01-2018 since all that would be accomplished is that the conversation relating to this proposal would be permitted to continue. With the approval of GPA 01-2018, Erickson Living would be afforded the opportunity to present its best case to the citizens of Howard County and to the Howard County Zoning Board that the benefits of the proposed CCRC at this location in Clarksville in fact outweigh any and all adverse impacts associated with the proposal. I therefore ask that you vote to continue the conversation by approving GPA 01-2018.

Sincerely yours,



Monsignor Joseph L. Luca
Pastor

CC: Calvin Ball
Greg Fox
Jen Terrasa
Jon Weinstein
Erica Roberts; Vice Chair
Tudy Adler
Ed Coleman
Kevin McAliley