

From: Dale Barnhard

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025

To: Stewart's Office, Councilmember ; Fani-Gonzalez's Office, Councilmember ; Jawando's Office, Councilmember ; Balcombe's Office, Councilmember ; Albornoz's Office, Councilmember ; Glass's Office, Councilmember ; Katz's Office, Councilmember ; Mink's Office, Councilmember ; Luedtke's Office, Councilmember ; Sayles's Office, Councilmember ; Friedson's Office, Councilmember

Subject: My testimony regarding (23-01), "Housing N.O.W."

Please submit the following following testimony:

Most of the 4 housing "N.O.W." proposals being considered will simply add MORE TAX BURDEN to county residents INCLUDING the workforce households this measure CLAIMS to benefit.

\$4 million for "opportunity fund", 25 YEAR impact tax breaks for office to housing conversion, \$8 million for just one year (FY2026) toward HIF.

MOST of this proposal is just another TAX DOLLAR give-away to DEEP MONEYED DEVELOPERS and SPECULATORS. SOMEONE ELSE has to pay for the added burden these additional units will create. Montgomery county is already one of the HIGHEST TAX BURDENED Counties in the U.S. SPECULATORS will be hovering over the more modest neighborhoods DISPLACING older residents on fixed income and taking natural occurring affordable housing OUT of circulation.

Also, council members claim to want "workforce" housing "NEAR JOBS" is almost laughable when county officials have turned over SIX COUNTY OWNED surface parking lots (#31, 31A, 24, 10, 25, and 44- ALL in downtown Bethesda).to HIGH END DEVELOPERS instead of any number of AFFORDABLE/WORKFORCE HOUSING AGENCIES!!! HYPOCRISY to the THIRD DEGREE!!! As well as being a blatant violation of council's own Racial Equality and Social Justicebill by DELIBERATELY keeping affordable housing OUT of Bethesda.

This is nothing short of a GENEROUS tax funded GIVE-AWAY to FAT MONEYED DEVELOPERS who will kick the financing of this proposal down the road to the OVER BURDENED TAX PAYERS and will exacerbate the social/economic divisions in this county even further.

Ms. Dale Ingrid Barnhard