

Daniel Meijer
Silver Spring Maryland 20910

February 15, 2021

President Tom Rucker & other Members of the Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave, 6th floor
Rockville Maryland 20850

Written Testimony Concerning: **ZTA 20-07**

Dear President Tom Rucker and other Members of the Montgomery County Council,

As stated in my oral testimony in the "Public Rearing-ZTA 20-07, R-60 Zone - Uses and Standards" last Thursday. I am very concerned that this ZTA, (along with the recent previous ones that will impact the allowable density in such zones) may interfere with timely access by emergency vehicles in older residential communities.

This is because many of the older neighborhoods have very narrow roads that were only designed to handle the traffic from the occupancy load of the single family lots they serve.

Increasing the occupancy load of existing single family homes to a multifamily use on the small lots (that are common in older neighborhoods)-puts the entire community at a public safety risk.

One can easily visualize an ambulance or fire truck stuck on a narrow street obstructed by the off-site parking needs of multifamily conversions of single family home lots in older communities where existing road structure was not designed to support such an increased "occupancy load" density.

As I described in my oral testimony - such delays can have a life threatening impact on the residents in such neighborhoods - giving my sister as an example who has a serious heart condition and has had required ambulance services to her home in East Silver Spring that if delayed - might have become a life or death situation. Something which should be of grave concern to those who wish to "Age in Place" in their current homes.

For that reason, I believe this could rise to a legal level of "gross negligence" * if land use decision makers (such as the Council) simply do not dutifully address this public safety issue that is described in this written testimony on ZTA 20-07.

Thank you for addressing this concern,



Daniel Meijer

*Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings Section 5-522 (a) (4) (ii): "Immunity of the State is not waived ... [for] Any tortuous act or omission of State personnel that: ... is made with malice or gross negligence" (emphasis added)