

Carol DeSoto

From: Charles County Government <applications@charlescountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Public Record
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* School Allocation Policy Changes Public Comments

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School Allocation Policy Changes Public Comments

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

Name

Linda McLaughlin

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Are you:

Against Topic

Comment

Dear Commissioners, I rise in opposition to the proposed amendments to the APFO. Though the mixed-use development within the Waldorf Station opportunity zone sounds like a good idea, I am concerned about the funding to address enrollment growth. We want the best possible education for our students who live in Charles County. The Maryland Built to Learn Act this session included funding, but was contingent upon the Blueprint for MDs future, which was vetoed. There is a concern around the lack of state funding to support CIP projects locally. I fear that the granting of the proposed exemptions other than Waldorf Station will lead to overcrowding in some areas. This will lead to an inequity of educational resources for our students, and a workload concern for our staff. Overcrowded classrooms without funding to expand or renovate schools leads to more portable classrooms/trailers. Students go outside to reach their classes in trailers, which is a security concern. Many classes such as chemistry are taught in trailers with no running water, which means no labs for the experiential learning piece. That creates an educational inequity. Overcrowding also

leads to re-districting/re-zoning. There is a saying that “good schools sell houses,” so if the county has to re-district frequently, how does that build a community where people want to buy homes? I appreciate all the work the planning commission is doing. However, these decisions affect how the schools are run, which falls within the purview of the Board of Education. The experts in education should be at the table when matters such as these are discussed. I feel that it is essential that the Commission collaborate with our Board of Education on any changes to the APFO. I believe that more time is needed for planning, as these decisions will have long term effects. These decisions will affect the educational development of our children. Their future deserves your care and consideration. Thank you.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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