

Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

November 17, 2017

Council President Berliner
Council Vice President Riemer
PHED Chair Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Elrich
Councilmember Hucker
Councilmember Katz
Councilmember Leventhal
Councilmember Navarro
Councilmember Rice

Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 4th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Bill No. 24-17
Concerning: Land Use Information – Burial Sites - Future Legislation/Site Plans & Building Permits

Dear Councilmembers:

The Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights wishes to express its appreciation for your unanimous passage of Bill No. 24-17 with the consequent significant improvement in the respect and care that burial sites will receive when confronted with impending development.

However, Bill No. 24-17 deals only with the process involved in applying for subdivision.

In the course of discussion of the Bill during the PHED committee review it was noted that expedited passage of the Bill necessitated omission of language regarding burial sites during the site plan and building permitting processes. The concern was that such consideration would add a great deal of time to debate and discussion on the subject and that it would be better to enact the bill and return to the subject to deal with site plans and building permits in the near future.

Our letter to you dated Oct. 5, 2017 on Bill No. 24-17 expressed our collective interest in ensuring that these processes would take into account burial sites. This is essential to respectful treatment of such grounds. The relevant comment from that letter was as follows:

- “Require identification of burial site(s) that are on the inventory on all subdivision and site plans addressing the area where burial site(s) are located that are submitted to the Planning Dept. for approval, and all building permit applications submitted to the Department of Permitting Services for approval.”

We look forward to the Council’s early return to the matter of burial sites with regard to site plans and building permits in order to achieve completion of legislation necessary for appropriate deference honoring human remains

We look forward to the Council's early return to the matter of burial sites with regard to site plans and building permits in order to achieve completion of legislation necessary for appropriate deference honoring human remains.

We appreciate your engagement on this issue and your consideration of our interests.
Sincerely,



Harold W. Pfohl, Chair
Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

c. Jeffrey Zyontz, County Council Staff

Representing the Citizens Associations of Brookdale, Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase West, Drummond, Friendship Heights, Glen Echo Heights, Kenwood, Kenwood Condominium, Kenwood House Cooperative, Somerset, Springfield, Sumner Village Condominium, Westmoreland, Westbard mews, Westwood Mews, and Wood Acres