

## Item 7 - Correspondence

**From:** [Alex N](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Board Meeting Item 7 201015 MR2021002  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:23:35 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing to comment on agenda item 7 for the MC Planning Board meeting scheduled on October 15, 2020: Housing Opportunities Commission Headquarters Office Building (HOC HQ) Location Selection. I know that the staff recommends approval but I implore them to strongly reconsider. Given the current circumstance I don't believe there is a great need for new office space to be constructed in Downtown Silver Spring. Most of the office space in the area is currently under utilized, and given that many companies have now adapted to an increased or full time telework posture, that under utilization will likely continue after the pandemic abates. I believe the HOC should be able to locate an existing office space for its new HQ building in the area or at the very least in the county for a much lower cost than that of a new office building. It doesn't make sense to disrupt the community with yet another construction project to build offices when the existing offices in the area are under utilized. Again, I urge the staff to please reconsider their recommendation.

Cordially,

-Alexander Nau