

Item 12 - Correspondence

From: [Cloverly Civic Association](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Berbert, Benjamin](#)
Subject: Policies to Streamline Conditional Uses July 25, 2024 Item 12
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:03:18 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the [Policies to Streamline Conditional Uses](#). The report lays out the roles of the Planning Staff, the Planning Board, the applicants, and the Hearing Examiner. However, the roles of the citizens are ignored. Isn't a major function of these policies to elicit comments and ideas from the citizens of Montgomery County on a proposed conditional use. This policy would eliminate hearings in which citizens could comment on the work of the planning staff in reports prepared for submission to the Planning Board and eventually the Hearing Examiner. Was there ever an effort to elicit comments on the proposed policies on how this policy would impact their participation? The fact that citizens were not even able to participate in this hearing is evidence that citizens were not included in the policies proposed. I am only one citizen and have had only two days to review the policy. I understand the policy changes were begun in November of 2023 at the request of the Council. My major comment is that the policy is not clear. I see little streamlining in the new policy. Everyone is doing what they did before except that time for the hearings is eliminated. I assume that the Hearing Examiner is part of OZAH, but OSAH is also not discussed in the policy, or is there any evidence that they were contacted on your proposed changes of policy? I would recommend that the policy be rewritten to include input from more citizens, OZAH, and citizen groups.

Quentin Remein
President, Cloverly Civic Association
Residing at 201 Bryants Nursery Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20905
301 421-1152