



October 30, 2018

Baltimore County Planning Board
Attn: Jessie Bialek
105 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 101
Towson, MD 21204

Dear Chairman Philips and Members of the Planning Board,

On Oct. 18, 2018, I and several residents of the Fellowship Forest community presented a report on neighborhood flooding to the Baltimore County Planning Board. The report was prepared by a team of Fellowship Forest residents and included dramatic video tapes of recent flooding of lawns, streets, headwaters of Herring Run, and bridges crossing this stream. The Fellowship Forest report and residents of surrounding neighborhoods noted that, while severe, the most recent flooding was typical of what have become recurring flood events.

Fellowship Forest, founded in 1940, is a neighborhood of 138 homes largely built between 1940 and 1970 along approximately three miles of residential streets. Children in the neighborhood walk or are driven by parents to a number of public and private schools. Flood events jeopardize their safety on school days. On non-school days, rushing waters and deceptively deep pools that result from flood events become dangerous, attractive nuisances, especially for the very young. The bridge at Ridgewood Road is regularly inundated by flood waters making access for residents and emergency vehicles particularly dangerous, if not impossible. Poor drainage /storm water management on Hickory Lane has resulted in large patches of ice along the roadway during the winter months and general deterioration of the road surface.

The root causes of the increasing frequency and severity of flood events, as well as the need for and nature of remedial action to prevent them, are generally agreed upon. The homes in and surrounding Fellowship Forest were built prior to current requirements for storm water management. More recently, very large public and private construction projects in East Towson were accompanied by acres of impervious surfaces that have only exacerbated the flooding problems portions of our neighborhood.

We believe it is incumbent on the Planning Board and County agencies to aggregate geographic data for all the contiguous neighborhoods extending west, south, and east of the Towson core and devise a program of remedial actions that will protect the historic Towson neighborhoods against continuing and increasing degradation from flood events. Such efforts will not be easy or



cheap, but they are necessary to conserve and nourish an enviable collection of affordable communities.

We appreciate the Planning Board's attention to the many requests presented at the recent Community Input Meeting. We are confident that all of our surrounding neighborhood associations will rally behind sensible solutions devised by the Planning Board and County Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Koepenick", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Koepenick, President
Fellowship Forest Community Association