



March 6, 2015

Mr. Allan Kittleman, County Executive
Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty, Howard County Council Chairperson and
Council Members Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Jennifer Terrasa and Jon Weinstein

Dear Mr. Kittleman and County Council members,

ACS is on record and continues to strongly support integration of affordable housing—including units for residents with incomes below 50 percent of the Howard County median income—as Downtown Columbia is redeveloped.

ACS supported the 2010 legislation that initiated the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) as the mechanism to assure affordable housing in Downtown Columbia.

ACS continues to be disappointed that after five years of work by the CDHC Board of Directors, which has diligently sought to identify opportunities to utilize the initial Trust monies, not one unit of affordable housing as envisioned in the legislation has been generated. Furthermore, ACS is disappointed that the stakeholder collaborations required to achieve the legislative intent through the CDHC have not come to fruition.

ACS applauds and is appreciative of the County Council's continued commitment to affordable housing in Downtown Columbia and recognizes that the charge to the CDHC to recommend legislative alternatives to the current legislative approach is intended to overcome the impasse that has resulted in stalled efforts to create that housing.

While ACS urges that all community stakeholders continue to seek non-legislative remedies that will begin immediately to bring affordable housing to Downtown Columbia, ACS also supports the proposed recommendations of the CDHC as necessary to achieve a full spectrum of housing options in Downtown Columbia.

Please contact me (443-851-9351; thekolpfamily5@gmail.com) or ACS Executive Director Joan Driessen (410-715-9545; joan.driessen@acshoco.org) if ACS can contribute to these ongoing discussions.

Respectfully,

Ande Kolp

President of the Board of Directors