

Legislative Testimony for Mar 15 2021

Name	Street Address	City	Zip	Representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Additional remarks	Attachment
Carlesa Finney	7917 Glengary Court	Glen Burnie	21061	Yes	And Dr. Akeda Pearson Stenbar and Wanda Stansbury	Res. 18-21: Support for the Joint Initiative to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap report	Support		YES
Susan Cochran	332 Hamlet Circle	Edgewater	21037	Yes		Bill 20-21: Erosion & Sediment Control – Sub & Dev – Forest Conservation	Support	I support this measure which will close a loophole to ensure greater conservation of our very important trees. Trees offer great benefits to us and need to be protected. Although planting trees and paying fines is not sufficient to what needs to be done to preserve our woodlands, it will retard the clearing of invaluable trees in our county.	
Paul Christensen	231 Hidden Valley Road	Tracys Landing	20779	Yes		Bill 20-21: Erosion & Sediment Control – Sub & Dev – Forest Conservation	Support	Please support Bill 20-21. The loophole that it removes from the Forest Conservation legislation is significant. In well-publicized actions, developers have already taken advantage of this loophole to remove trees that were inconvenient to their development plans and suffered only a minor penalty. We cannot allow developers to avoid tree protection laws merely by being secretive about their longer-term plans.	
Mary Wallace	119 E. Lake DR	Annapolis	21403	No	Townes At Walden HOA, Inc.	Bill 21-21: Zoning – Landscaping and Tree Contracting with Accessory Recycling of Logs into Firewood	Support		
Ilse Reynolds	4 Westwick Court	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Bill 21-21: Zoning – Landscaping and Tree Contracting with Accessory Recycling of Logs into Firewood	Support	strongly support this!	
CHARLES DEALE	1854 LINDAMOOR DR	ANNAPOLIS	21401	Yes		Bill 21-21: Zoning – Landscaping and Tree Contracting with Accessory Recycling of Logs into Firewood	Support	biLL SHOULD BE 21-21 ACCORDING TO THE LIST	
Steven Nelson	2161 Scotts Crossing Ct	Annapolis	21401	No	Annapolis Tree Company	Bill 21-21: Zoning – Landscaping and Tree Contracting with Accessory Recycling of Logs into Firewood	Support	Tree removals often are left with waste logs too large to chip. To resolve tree contractors most often bring logs to a landfill or drop into a forest. The former is at a significant cost to the customer. Customers often request firewood from the waste log(s) this legislation makes both economical and environmental sense. I support this legislation because it is eliminates the disposal costs and burden to the landfill; customers get firewood instead of an adder on the invoice; a wood processor increases efficiency - labor is reduced to a few hours from several days; and residential heating is now offset in a green manner.	

We support the recommendations of the Joint Initiative to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap to address persistent disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes between White and Black students and the structural and systemic racism that created and continues to perpetuate these inequities. It is critical, however, to build on the extensive work and outcomes that were accomplished between 2005 and 2014 under the U.S. Department of Justice-mediated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) resulting from complaints from African American parents, community representatives, and the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP against the AACPS.

In 2004, the Complainants filed with the U. S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights asserting that, "Anne Arundel County Public Schools has categorically denied and limited opportunities for African American students." On September 7, 2005, the MOA to identify AACPS's structural and systemic cultural and racial inequities and to root them out was signed and the work began.

Then, in 2014, *Interim* Superintendent, Mamie Perkins, with no history of or investment in the agreement or the community, and with blatant disregard for the work and the community, in effect breached the MOA when she summarily dismantled the office that was established to lead and monitor the goals. Perkins paved the way for Superintendent Arlotto to step in and accept no accountability to the MOA.

It is quite unfortunate that so much momentum was lost under Mr. Arlotto and that perhaps it took a knee on the neck of George Floyd to understand why we have been crying out that Black lives matter. Our prayer is that this new awakening and understanding is genuine and not politic.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlesa R. Finney, former Executive Director and

Dr. Akeda Pearson-Stenbar, former School-Community Liaison

AACPS Office of Equity and Human Relations

Wanda R. Stansbury, former negotiator/co-drafter of the OCR MOA

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Glen Burnie, MD 21061