



New Year's Resolutions for Transparency in Government

The new year is only a month old, so there is still plenty of time for County Executive Stuart Pittman and the Anne Arundel County government to make some New Year's resolutions for better government and citizen involvement in his second term. The Growth Action Network (GAN) has some suggestions.

The matter of constructing an office building in Quiet Waters Park might be resolved for now, but there are still raw feelings, citizen complaints about the lack of transparency of the process and frankly some deep-seated concerns that this is just another example of a broken process

When 200 neighbors meet on a Friday night to say they had heard nothing of the plans for a project of this size — despite the county following its own requirements for public engagement — there is a problem with the county's own requirements for public engagement.

In order for Anne Arundel County to be "The Best Place for All," the citizens must have a measure of trust in our government that has been missing in these and too many parks and land-use decisions.....[more](#)

Electric Vehicles and the Zoning Code



In a [recent presentation](#) to the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee, a proposal for a new Sheetz gas station with 12 pumps and a convenience store in an industrially-zoned area was

reviewed. The applicants desired several modifications of the zoning code, such as removing 2 specimen trees. In return they proffered as an offsetting environmental benefit installation of infrastructure (wiring) to support 2 electric charging stations at sometime in the future.

This development example illuminates a weakness in our zoning code. Automobile gas stations are allowed as conditional uses in several industrial and commercial districts throughout the County, and there are many of them. But vigorous efforts to encourage replacement of gas-fueled vehicles with electric vehicles are underway. One of the impediments is anxiety of prospective EV owners about convenient availability of charging stations. In view of this, it seems counterproductive to provide new gas refueling stations without EV charging capabilities.

Section 18-10-107 of the Anne Arundel County Code summarizes the conditions that must be met by automobile gasoline stations. There is no mention of EV charging. At the very minimum, these Code conditions should be modified to assure that new gas stations include EV fast charging stations of a number comparable to that of gas pumps.

GAN members are encouraged to contact their [Council representatives](#) and request their sponsorship of a bill to modify Section 18-10-107 of the County code to require provision of EV fast charging stations in new gas stations.

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