

## **Good afternoon to All Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee**

**I am writing to address the statements of the Columbia Association attorney, Mr. Paul Tiburzi.**

**I have lived in Columbia, MD for fifty years. I have endured the good, bad and the ugly. Mr. Tiburzi doesn't live here. He works for the CA Board of Directors. He portrayed Columbia as the LA, LA-LAND where everything is great and harmonious. The CA Board of Directors should not be exempted from this Bill. If my rights are violated in the community in which I live, which is governed by a board of directors, why do you think I need protection and support if CA is doing such a great job? I've been here since the beginning. I've worked in all aspects of my community. I've seen the changes.**

**The Columbia Association has a Residents' Speak Out, but not for those of us who live in condominium and homeowners' associations to air our concerns about governing violations. We have "governing documents" that tell us what to do. If you have a board that goes rogue, you must hire another lawyer to help resolve issues. That's more money that associations must pay. CA governs all of us, surely, they could resolve problems. You are told, that CA deals with the esthetics and amenities of Columbia, not the associations with their own boards of directors.**

**We need the support of the Attorney General's office and this Bill of Rights to bring social justice to the associations. Many of the governing documents have not been amended or updated since properties were bought. Lets get to the backlog of complaints filed to help those of us who have no help at all. All Marylanders should have a commission to resolve issues in associations and the support and protection of the Attorney General's Office.**

**Please look at this Bill of Rights favorably to help all Marylanders. The Columbia Association is not the essence of this Bill. It is what can we do to alleviate the travesties being perpetrated against Homeowners in these communities. I still have a story to tell, please feel free to call me. We will have more than 2 minutes.**

**Thank you for all that you do!!**

**Patricia "Pat" Thomas**

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