

residing in any locality in Howard County (joint owners of a single piece of property shall be counted as one owner for purposes of this section) shall in writing petition the Commission to have said locality, the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition, [constituted as a subdistrict,] *incorporated within the Metropolitan District*, then if the Commission, in its discretion, shall deem it expedient to [constitute] *incorporate* said locality as [a subdistrict] *an addition to the Metropolitan District* in accordance with the prayer of said petition, and if the County Commissioners consent thereto, the Commission shall cause plats of such locality to be made under the supervision of its chief engineer, showing the proposed water, sewerage or drainage systems. Whenever, and as such plats are completed, the Commission shall give notice by publication in at least one newspaper published generally within the county, for each of three consecutive weeks, and by handbills posted and circulated in the locality which is proposed to be [constituted a subdistrict,] *incorporated into the Metropolitan District*, and shall state in said notice the proposed boundaries of said [subdistrict,] *locality to be incorporated into the Metropolitan District*, and shall further state therein that a plat of the proposed [subdistrict] *locality* showing the proposed water, sewerage or drainage systems may be inspected at the Commission's office and that any person interested in the [creation of such subdistrict] *proposed incorporation of the locality into the Metropolitan District* will be heard by the Commission at a time specified in said notice but not less and [ten] *twenty* days after the [last] *first* publication thereof.

If twenty (20) residents and landowners in the [proposed subdistrict] *locality proposed to be incorporated into the Metropolitan District* shall thereupon, and within ten days after the last day of said publication of said notice, file with the Commission a petition protesting against the [creation of the subdistrict] *proposed incorporation of the locality into the Metropolitan District*, the Commission shall grant them a hearing within ten days after such petition is filed in the office of the Commission and not less than five-days after notice of the time and place of said hearing by advertisement published in one newspaper published generally within the County, and by personal notices addressed to any one or more persons whose names are signed to said petition. After due hearing as aforesaid, the Commission shall decide upon the reasonableness of the objections stated in said petition and shall dispose of same by written order concurred in by a majority of the Commissioners. This order shall be published in the same manner as notices are herein required to be published and a copy of said order shall be mailed to at least one of the petitioners. If the petitioners are not satisfied with the Commission's decision, they shall have the right to take and enter, within ten days after the last publication of said order, an appeal to the County Commissioners of Howard County, who shall review the Commission's decision and decide as to the necessity and propriety of [the creation of the subdistrict] *proposed incorporation of the locality into the Metropolitan District* in question; and the decision of the County Commissioners shall be final.

Upon approval of said locality by the Howard County Metropolitan Commission and by the County Commissioners of Howard County the Metropolitan Commission shall cause final plats of such locality