

September 12, 2013

Mr. Isiah Leggett  
 Montgomery County Executive  
 Executive Office Building  
 101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

**Re: 175 Watts Branch Parkway property**

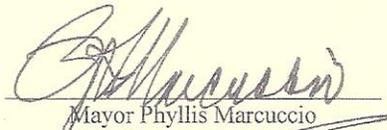
Dear Mr. Leggett,

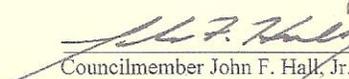
The Mayor and Council of Rockville have received numerous inquiries regarding the future of the County property at 175 Watts Branch Parkway. With the Karma Academy closure in 2010 and the fire and demolition at the site this year, the nearby residents and neighborhood associations have had lengthy discussions about the preferred use of the property. The communities believe that preserving the space as parkland will benefit the community and the environment.

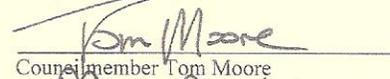
During the July 15 Mayor and Council meeting, several residents shared their concerns about the negative impact that any development at the site would have on their neighborhoods. The residents requested that the Mayor and Council pursue acquiring the property from the County and incorporating it into the existing Woottons Mill Park. The Mayor and Council is in agreement with our residents that we would not like to see any development on that site and we support dedicating it as parkland.

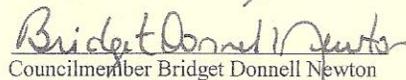
The City is aware of the County's 2012 Housing Policy guidelines that require giving housing the first priority consideration when there is a change of use or ownership of publicly-owned land. We hope that the Mayor and Council and residents' input also will be a high priority given that the entire property is within Rockville's city limits. In addition, the City's 2002 Comprehensive Master Plan determined that if that property was expanded or redeveloped that it could potentially impact the surrounding neighborhoods. The Mayor and Council believe that the concerns of the impacted neighbors are important and we urge the County to allow the City to acquire the property contingent upon dedicating the property as City parkland.

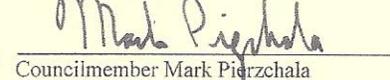
Sincerely yours,

  
 Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio

  
 Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr.

  
 Councilmember Tom Moore

  
 Councilmember Bridget Donnell Newton

  
 Councilmember Mark Pierzchala

cc: Barbara Matthews, City Manager  
 Debra Daniel, Rockville City Attorney  
 David Dise, Director, Montgomery County Department of General Services  
 Chris Henry, Acting Director, Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks  
 Gregg Ossont, Deputy Director, Montgomery County Department of General Services  
 Susan Swift, Director, Rockville Department of Planning and Community Development



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MAYOR  
 Phyllis Marcuccio

COUNCIL  
 John F. Hall, Jr.  
 Tom Moore  
 Bridget Donnell Newton  
 Mark Pierzchala

CITY MANAGER  
 Barbara B. Matthews

CITY CLERK  
 Doug Barber

CITY ATTORNEY  
 Debra Yerg Daniel