

March 12, 2008

The Honorable Raymond Skinner
Department of Housing & Community Development
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

Dear Secretary Skinner:

Affordable housing for working families is among the greatest challenges facing us in Rockville. As Mayor and Council, we are committed to support efforts to create high-quality housing stock for all segments of our population. This is especially true in "Smart Growth" areas with ample transportation options. For these reasons, we want to express our support for Montgomery Housing Partnership's application for low income tax credits as a funding source for the development of Beall's Grant II.

Located adjacent to our redeveloped Town Center, Beall's Grant II would build on the success MHP achieved with the original Beall's Grant when it purchased and redeveloped a former hotel into affordable apartments over a decade ago. The new 109 units, proposed to be built on land adjacent to the existing Beall's Grant, would offer an excellent housing option for Rockville residents of varying income levels and would be especially convenient for those working for businesses and nonprofit organizations in Town Center.

The City of Rockville has a thorough regulatory process for considering and evaluating proposals for new development in our community. It is my understanding that the Beall's Grant II proposal is to be considered by the staff Development Review Committee within the next few days as the first step of the development review process. We are hopeful the proposed project will comply with Rockville's development standards and its neighbors will regard it as an agreeable addition to the community. If so, the project should make a significant addition to Rockville's affordable housing stock..

Please feel free to call our City Manager, Scott Ullery, if you need any additional information about our experience with Montgomery Housing Partnership in general or about Beall's Grant in particular.

Sincerely,

Susan Hoffmann, Mayor

John Britton, City Councilmember
Piotr Gajewski, City Councilmember
Phyllis Marcuccio, City Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins, City Councilmember

cc: Scott Ullery, Rockville City Manager