

DRAFT

To be addressed to the County Executive and each County Councilmember.

Dear _____:

At the regular meeting of November 23, 2009 the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville received a presentation from County staff members and the architect on the proposed Judicial Center Annex to be located at 50 Maryland Avenue. Following this presentation there was a great deal of concern expressed with the County's future facilities planned for Rockville's Town Center. The Mayor and Council felt that this was an appropriate time to initiate dialogue with the County Executive and County Council on all future County development projects in Town Center.

The presence of Montgomery County is an integral and important component of Rockville's Town Center. Given the visibility and strategic location of many of the County's facilities, the overall success of the City's vision is reliant upon the contribution of County facilities. The Town Center Master Plan, adopted in October 2001, is an expression of the City's vision for the development of the Town Center. The primary goal of the Master Plan is the creation of an "activity center that is easily identifiable, pedestrian-oriented, and incorporates a mix of uses and activities". This goal is consistent with the best practices utilized nationwide for both transit oriented and urban development. Additionally this goal is consistent with the County's planning efforts in other areas of Montgomery County.

We do not feel that the County's planning efforts in Rockville's Town Center, as expressed in the "Government Core Facilities Optimization Master Plan Study" are consistent with the City's goals. There are certain elements of the siting of these proposed facilities that are of concern, including that the County's Master Plan will create an isolated enclave of government buildings limited in any after-hours or pedestrian activity, and that this section will be disconnected from the rest of Town Center. This disconnection is further exacerbated by the proposed pedestrian bridge across Jefferson Street, connecting the County Office Building with the future garage addition.

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The Mayor and Council are proposing a joint meeting with the County Executive and County Council to discuss implementation of the County's Master Plan Study. In the spirit of collaboration between the two agencies we would like to express our specific areas of concerns as part of an open dialogue with the County. It is our hope that both governments can find solutions that are mutually beneficial.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Marcuccio
Mayor

John Britton
Councilmember

Piotr Gajewski
Councilmember

Bridget Newton
Councilmember

Mark Pierzchala
Councilmember

C: Senator Jennie Forehand
Delegate Kumar Barve
Delegate Luiz Simmons

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Delegate James Gilchrist

Scott Ullery, City Manager

Janet Wilson, President -Americana Center Condominium

John Mohler, President - Courthouse Walk HOA

Margaret Chao, President – New Mark Commons HOA

Martin Feldman, President – Victoria Condominium Association

Susan Prince, President – West end Citizens Association

Jackie Brown, President - Heritage Park Cooperative

Town Center Action Committee (TCAT) Chair