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April 19, 2016

Montgomery County Board of Education
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Board of Education Members:

The Mayor and Council of Rockville strongly support Philip Kauffman's letter to the Board of Education (BOE) dated April 8 on the interim solution for the Shady Grove Transportation Depot, and commend him for his leadership on this critical issue. We also agree with the surrounding community that the impact of using the Carver site as a bus depot for 101 buses – whether as a temporary or permanent use – is detrimental on many levels. We therefore urge you to pause and consider input from our community members.

In November 2002, the Mayor and Council designated the original school building plus a one-hundred foot envelope around the building and a viewshed to Mannakee Street and Hungerford Drive as a Historic District. The noise, visual, and air quality impacts from bus depot operations on the College Square Community would be severe as several townhomes are only 50 to 100 feet from the site. Many other homes in this community are also very close to the proposed depot. We also have concerns about traffic impacts on MD 355 and neighboring streets as well adding hundreds of bus trips across the street from the Montgomery College bus ranks. Furthermore, the project runs contrary to the City's Master Plan which recommends that new uses of the Carver site should respect the significant views of the historic viewshed.

The Mayor and Council value the Board of Education as a key public partner in providing our residents with excellent educational services. We ask that the BOE support Mr. Kauffman's proposal at its April 19 meeting and send a letter to the County Executive and County Council requesting that the Council delay their Declaration of No Further Need on the Shady Grove Transportation Depot until all concerns in his April 8, 2016 memorandum are clarified and resolved; and that the BOE work with County and City elected officials to further explore all interim and final options in conjunction with the community and the City of Rockville, especially if any are in or are in close proximity to the City of Rockville.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on a resolution to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bridget Donnell Newton
Mayor

cc: Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Montgomery County Council

MAYOR
Bridget Donnell Newton

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