

**Comprehensive Map Amendment
Digest of Public Commentary
November 10, 2025**

Comments Regarding the Comprehensive Map Amendment

ID #	Name / Organization	Date of Comment	Page Number
CMA-1	Lisa Yim	04/11/2025	1
CMA-2	Karlton Jackson	04/12/2025	2
CMA-3	Jeanne Paderofsky	04/25/2025	3
CMA-4	William Meyer	04/26/2025	4
CMA-5	Phyllis and Samuel Blum	04/25/2025	5
CMA-6	William Meyer	05/02/2025	6
CMA-7	Susan Hoffman	05/04/2025	7
CMA-8	Mark Wetterhahn	05/04/2025	10
CMA-9	Michael Dutka	05/05/2025	13
CMA-10	Zachary and Jacqueline Kohn	06/24/2025	16
CMA-11	Kyle Browning	07/03/2025	18
CMA-12	Patricia Harris	07/24/2025	19
CMA-13	Anne Lucas	07/27/2025	25
CMA-14	Shellhorn Rockville, LLC via Matthew Gordon	07/31/2025	26
CMA-15	Jesse Chou	08/13/2025	30
CMA-16	Montrose Civic Association	08/19/2025	40
CMA-17	Alex Belida	09/10/2025	46
CMA-18	Susan Klein	09/10/2025	47
CMA-19	Daniel Solomon	09/11/2025	48
CMA-20	Zari Karimian	09/15/2025	49
CMA-21	Amanda Innes	09/16/2025	50
CMA-22	Wing Pokrywka	09/16/2025	51
CMA-23	Natalie Lotuaco	09/17/2025	53
CMA-24	Pat Reber	09/19/2025	55
CMA-25	Julia Binder	09/21/2025	57
CMA-26	Aileen Goldstein	09/21/2025	58
CMA-27	Peter and Laurie Krug	09/21/2025	59
CMA-28	Vladimir Gurevich	09/24/2025	61
CMA-29	Deborah Mesmer and Henrik Olsen	09/26/2025	63
CMA-30	Natalie Nelson	09/27/2025	66

CMA-31	Ron Tipton and Rita Molyneaux	09/30/2025	67
CMA-32	Julia Binder	10/03/2025	68
CMA-33	Maria Sol Pikielny	10/08/2025	69
CMA-34	Pat Reber	10/11/2025	71
CMA-35	Bill Holdsworth	10/13/2025	76
CMA-36	Helene Dubov	10/19/2025	77
CMA-37	Martin Reiss	10/22/2025	79
CMA-38	Jonathan Ferguson	10/23/2025	80
CMA-39	Adam Schuster	10/27/2025	81
CMA-40	Mikaela Ober Schuster	10/27/2025	82
CMA-41	Ann Reiss	10/31/2025	84
CMA-42	Ann Reiss	11/02/2025	85
CMA-43	Pat Reber	11/03/2025	86
CMA-44	Phyllis and Samuel Blum	11/04/2025	87
CMA-45	Jeanne and Daniel Paderofsky	11/04/2025	88
CMA-46	Maryam Pishdad	11/04/2025	89
CMA-47	Katherine Pishdad	11/04/2025	90
CMA-48	Samuel L. Scheib	11/06/2025	91
CMA-49	Kyle Browning	11/07/2025	92
CMA-50	Ansalan Stewart	11/07/2025	93

15100 Interlachen Drive
Apt 425
Silver Spring, MD 20906

April 11, 2025

Dear Councilmember Myles,

As a member of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant (JMP) United Methodist Church congregation, I am requesting that our zoning for the two Beall Avenue properties remain MXT instead of being rezoned to R-60. In addition, I am requesting that the Wood Lane properties remain MXT instead of being rezoned to RO.

It has been a long-term vision for the church to expand on our properties. The new R-60 and RO zoning would create barriers to our growth and development in the community we have resided in for 190 years.

As a member of the church's Leadership Team, I am committed to serving the Rockville community in any way that we can.

I would like to see my church grow and develop for the benefit of the community without the limitations of the R-60 and RO zoning.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Yim

Lisa W. Yim

Margot
Routed To:

☒ Council

☐ City Clerk

☒ City Manager

☐ City Attorney

☐ Council Support Specialist

☐ Other

RECEIVED

APR 15 2025

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

JIM WASILAK
KATIE GEORGE

RECEIVED

APR 15 2025

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Routed To:

☒ Council

☒ City Clerk

☒ City Manager

☐ City Attorney

☐ Council Support Specialist

☐ Other RICK BARKER

JIM WASILAK

ARTIE
DEBB

April 12, 2025

Dear Mayor Ashton,

As a member of the Jerusalem Mt-Pleasant (JMP) United Methodist Church congregation, I am requesting that our zoning for the two Beall Avenue properties remain MXT instead of being rezoned to R-60. In addition, that the Wood Lane properties remain MXT instead of being rezoned to RO.

It has been a long-term vision for the church to expand on our properties. The new R-60 and RO zoning would create barriers to our growth and development in the community we have resided in for 190 years.

I was born and raised in Rockville, and joined Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant, formally know as Jerusalem United Methodist Church, as child, where my parents were also members. I have been at JMP for 84 yrs.

I would like to see my church grow and develop for the benefit of the community without the limitations of the R-60 and RO zoning.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karlton Jackson

Judy Penny

From: Jeanne paderofsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 4:27 PM
To: mayorcouncil

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear City Council Members & Planning Department

Our neighborhood- Markwood has just received information that the vacant land (approx. 5 acres) between [1201 Potomac Valley Rd](#) and the Nursing /rehab vacility at [1235 Potomac Valley Road](#) is up for Auction... <https://redf.in/76vN4k>

PLEASE DO NOT rezone it from R-90 as it is now.

We are a quiet neighborhood and wish to remain so.
Thank You

Jeanne Paderofsky
1194 Potomac Valley Rd, Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Jim Wasilak <jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 4:30 PM
To: Holly Simmons
Cc: Katie Gerbes
Subject: FW: Zoning map revision

FYI

From: Bill Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2025 12:55 PM
To: mayorcouncil <mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov>
Cc: Jim Wasilak <jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov>
Subject: Zoning map revision

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Mayor and Council;

Jim Wasilak gave a very informative presentation on the ZOR and Map amendment process to the Hungerford Civic Assn. this morning.

The Map amendment is proposing to rezone a 27 acre parcel of Woodmont CC property next to Wootton Parkway from R-400 to RMD-25. Jim said that the map amendment process does not address future access points to rezoned parcels.

When Wootton Parkway was approved in the late 1980's, staff recommended that future curb cuts be kept to a minimum. Existing streets Fleet and W. Edmonston were accommodated as well as future Tower Oaks and Preserve Parkway.

The city allowed the rear access to the Wintergreen shopping center and when it was forced to purchase the cut off parcel that became the Wootton Oaks townhouses, access had to be provided.

During your work sessions with staff please have them explore limiting this map amendments future access points from Wootton Parkway to the existing curb cuts. (W. Edmonston and Wootton Oaks Ct)

Can the city require Woodmont CC to build the Jefferson Street extension before allowing this potential development?

Regards,
William Meyer

Judy Penny

From: Ruby Moone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:25 AM
To: PHYLLIS BLUM; cpds; HCD; mayorcouncil
Subject: Re: Concern about auction of land between 1201 Potomac Valley Road & 1235 Potomac Valley Rd

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Thank you.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

On Friday, April 25, 2025, 2:00 PM, PHYLLIS BLUM [REDACTED] wrote:

1. City of Rockville

111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: 240-314-5000

Dear City Council Members & Planning Department

Our neighborhood- Markwood has just received information that the vacant land (approx. 5 acres) between 1201 Potomac Valley Rd and the Nursing/rehab vacility at 1235 Potomac Valley Road is up for Auction... <https://redf.in/76vN4k>

PLEASE DO NOT rezone it from R-90 as it is now.

Thank You

Phyllis & Samuel Blum
Markwood Citizens
1201 Potomac Valley Rd
Rockville, MD 20850

[REDACTED]

Judy Penny

From: Bill Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 9:52 AM
To: mayorcouncil
Cc: Jim Wasilak
Subject: Re: Zoning map revision

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Has the M&C received this request and will it be discussed during their work session on May 5?

On Apr 26, 2025, at 12:55, Bill Meyer [REDACTED] wrote:

Mayor and Council;

Jim Wasilak gave a very informative presentation on the ZOR and Map amendment process to the Hungerford Civic Assn. this morning.

The Map amendment is proposing to rezone a 27 acre parcel of Woodmont CC property next to Wootton Parkway from R-400 to RMD-25. Jim said that the map amendment process does not address future access points to rezoned parcels.

When Wootton Parkway was approved in the late 1980's, staff recommended that future curb cuts be kept to a minimum. Existing streets Fleet and W. Edmonston were accommodated as well as future Tower Oaks and Preserve Parkway.

The city allowed the rear access to the Wintergreen shopping center and when it was forced to purchase the cut off parcel that became the Wootton Oaks townhouses, access had to be provided.

During your work sessions with staff please have them explore limiting this map amendments future access points from Wootton Parkway to the existing curb cuts. (W. Edmonston and Wootton Oaks Ct)

Can the city require Woodmont CC to build the Jefferson Street extension before allowing this potential development?

Regards,
William Meyer

Judy Penny

From: Susan Hoffmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:27 PM
To: mayorcouncil
Subject: Rezoning of Mixed-Used Commercial (MXC) and Mix-Use Transition (MXT) Properties-
West End

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I write to you today as a person proud to call Rockville my home, as a resident who has and continues to serve our fellow Rockvillians, and as an activist concerned with a matter before the Mayor and Council.

During the period of time I had the honor to serve as both Mayor and Councilmember, the mixed-use retail and residential Rockville Town Center was developed. The Town Center got off to a strong start and thrived. Over the ensuing years, Town Center experienced some ups and downs, including the Great Recession. The internal-facing design proved to be a challenge. The market has shown that the ratio of residential housing to retail proved to be less robust than was required for Rockville Town Center to thrive.

In recent years, attention has been paid to the declining economic health of Town Center. Community outreach conducted by the Mayor and Council, City staff, and HMOs and citizen associations throughout Rockville have shed a light on this important investment made by the City. In summary, the overwhelming consensus, underscored and highlighted during our most recent election, supports the need for additional residential housing adjacent to Town Center and along Rockville Pike/Route 355. Personally, I am delighted at the clarity with which my fellow residents understand the issue and are prepared to move forward.

However, the proposal now before the Mayor and Council does not reflect the most recent zoning decisions in support of Rockville

Town Center, nor the recommended solutions developed to strengthen the economic wellbeing of Town Center. In fact, it will result in a failure to improve its economic viability and will return Rockville to its weakened anti-business reputation.

In particular, I am very concerned about the rezoning of Mixed-Used Commercial (MXC) and Mix-Use Transition (MXT) Properties in the West End area to a new Mixed-Used Residential Office (MXRO) Zone (or ANY Zone) which could apply either height transition requirements or layback slopes to adjacent Rockville Town Center properties. This rezoning and application of either height transition requirements or layback slopes to adjacent Rockville Town Center properties will be most problematic because it will reduce the use of Rockville Town Center properties for the residential density which the Mayor and Council has already established for these Town Center areas/zones. These height transition proposals seek to weaken the great work the Council and City staff have done to plan for the future of Rockville Town Center. I also am very concerned about any expansion of height transition requirements or layback slopes to adjacent Rockville Town Center properties where no such setbacks or layback slopes exist under the current code. We cannot take steps forward towards increasing the necessary density of Rockville Town Center but then only take steps backward through expansion of height transition requirements or layback slopes to adjacent Rockville Town Center properties. I question whether we need either height transition requirements or layback slopes at all. I do know that they certainly should not apply to Rockville Town Center properties, especially in that they are not residential properties any longer, and are not directly adjacent to the exclusively residential zone.

Finally, I wish to make clear my opposition to the downzoning of properties that are currently permitted as commercial or residential. In this current economic climate, why would Rockville want to send a message to existing property owners that we would

limit their use of their own property and deter people from investing in Rockville?

I respectfully urge you to oppose this rezoning.

--

With every good wish,

Susan R. Hoffmann

Judy Penny

From: Mark Wetterhahn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 4:22 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Issues associated with the 10 acre School Board Site
Attachments: letter to Mayor and Council 5 4 2025.pdf

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Mayor and Council

Please accept the attached input in lieu of an appearance at the public forum relating to the May 5, 2025 Mayor and Council Work session. Thank you.

Mark Wetterhahn
2 Don Mills Court

**Mark Wetterhahn
2 Don Mills Ct
Rockville MD 20850**

May 4, 2025

Mayor and Council
City of Rockville
City Hall
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Via Electronic Distribution

**Re: Written input in lieu of an appearance at the public forum relating to the May 5, 2025
Mayor and Council Work Session**

Mayor and Council members;

My name is Mark Wetterhahn. I live at 2 Don Mills Court in Rockville. I have been living at this address for 52 years. The 10-acre property which lies directly south of my home is being considered for rezoning from an R-90 to an RMD-25 Zoning District. The site is colloquially known as the "School Board Site" since it once was proposed for that use. These comments are mine alone. Other neighbors of mine may have differing views. Furthermore, New Mark Commons Homes Association may develop its own views, e.g., determining whether any new homes in this property should become part of New Mark Commons.

The history of the property is extremely complicated and involves lawsuits, settlements and multiparty agreements, including one involving the Mayor and Council. There are also been changes over time which resulted in draft agreements to which the named parties have thus far adhered to, but which may have no legal effect. Complicating this situation is the fact that access to the site is extremely limited and would not support the infrastructure necessary for an RMD-25 zoning. The only realistic access is from the south from Wooten Parkway. Even if it were not prohibited by binding agreements, access from Don Mills Court, the only other alternative, is simply unrealistic. It is a cul-de-sac designed for the nine houses on it. Traffic through New Mark Commons would surely rise to unacceptable levels. On top of these issues, large portions of the School Board site have already been dedicated to other uses and not available for development. Examples are portions dedicated to wetland mitigation for previous development of Tower Oaks. The site also contains the Don Mills Court Infiltration Basin developed by the City.

My neighbors, Martin and Ann Reiss, and I have reached out to City Staff involved in the rezoning effort to schedule a meeting with interested neighbors to focus on the School Board Site to gather what are likely to be disparate views and assure that the City and its counsel have all key documents. As necessary, I would ask that the Mayor and Council set aside some time to hear interested parties on this development which will likely affect a large number of citizens of Rockville.

Thank you for the opportunity to have these issues and my views placed before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Wetterhahn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Wetterhahn.

Judy Penny

From: Michael Dutka [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:58 AM
To: mayorcouncil
Subject: County level rent stabilization policy is having a profound negative impact
Attachments: Screenshot 2025-05-05 at 9.43.19 AM.png

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I know it can be tough to resist the loudest voices at city council meetings, but I thought I would point out the rent stabilization policies embraced by County Executive Marc Elrich are having a real impact on the real estate industry here:

"Mark Parrell, CEO of the Chicago-based real estate investment trust (NYSE: EQR), made the statement during the company's first-quarter earnings conference call Wednesday when asked by an analyst.

"We only have one property subject to those rules, but we are unlikely to invest further in that area in that state," he said of Montgomery County. "The political climate has become quite poor from a landlord perspective."

...

"This kind of capital flight is exactly what opponents of rent control have warned about, Doug Firstenberg, a principal of Bethesda-based developer Stonebridge, told me in an interview. He and others have long argued that constraining returns harms owners' and developers' ability to attract investment and lending, and thus to build and sell rent-controlled buildings. Investors don't care about geography, Firstenberg and others argue: They'll just send their money somewhere else with a similar demographic profile that doesn't constrain potential returns.

As in the present case of Equity Residential, "the money is speaking, and as a result, we're not getting the additional housing that we need," Firstenberg said. "The debate is still the debate, but the facts are the facts."

source: <https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2025/05/02/montgomery-equity-residential-rent-control-housing.html>

The consequences of this misguided policy are manifesting in reality, it's not theoretical. The capital flight is real. By contrast the consequences of refraining from implementing a rent control policy will not be felt by the overwhelming majority of current tenants because average market rate rent increases are well below the allowed cap (see attached figure). For multifamily investors, the existence of a cap is just an additional risk factor that they'd rather not have to deal with, it doesn't matter what the cap actually is. There are so many other places to invest money besides Montgomery County and Rockville there's

very little cost for avoiding us entirely.

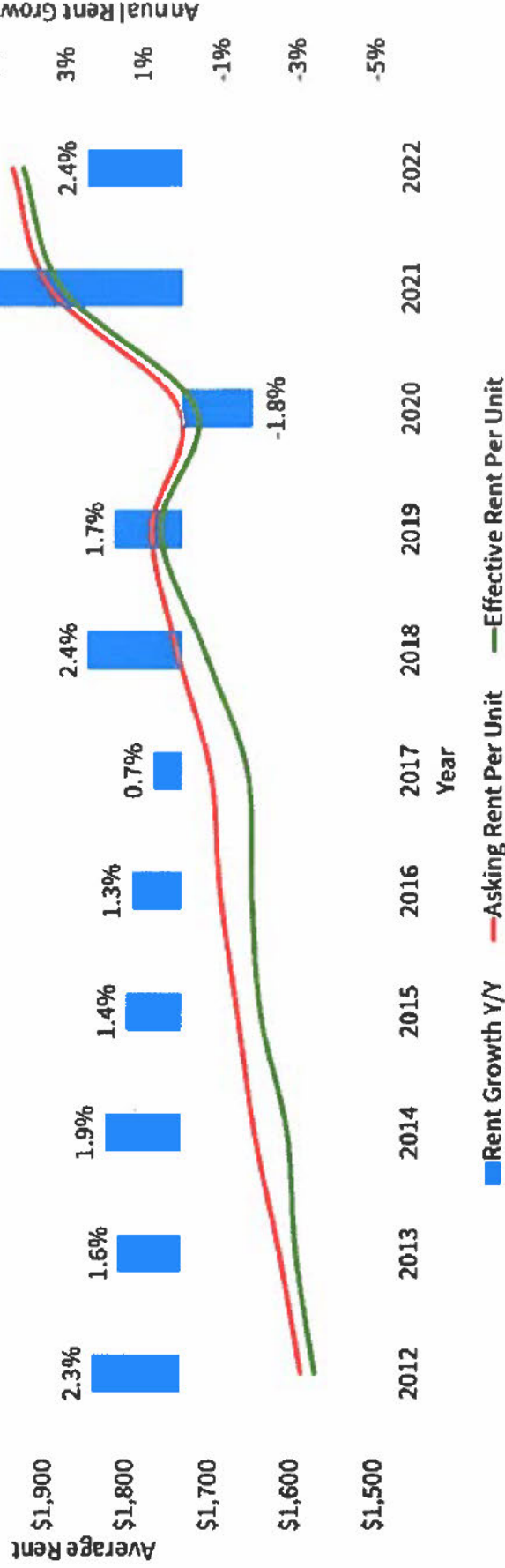
This is proving to be a policy where the costs are vastly exceeding the benefits. I urge councilmembers to continue holding off on implementing any sort of rent stabilization policy. Remember without private investment we can't fix any issues that we might have with our current built environment, like segregated neighborhoods, auto dependency, scarce housing, disinvested neighborhoods the list goes on.

--

Michael S. Dutka
713 Shetland Street
Rockville Md 20851

Market Rent Per Unit & Y/Y Rent Growth

- 10-year rent growth average of 2.1%
- The county experienced declining rent growth in 2020, high rent growth in 2021, but mostly came back in line with past trends in 2022.
- Concession rate is low (was 0.7% in 2022).



Overview of Rental Housing in Montgomery County, MD

Holly Simmons

From: Jacqueline Kohn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 3:34 PM
To: zoning; Zachary K
Subject: Fwd: Zoning Concerns in New Mark Commons - Planning Zone 12

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Hello,

Forwarding a message we sent to Mayor Ashton regarding our concerns regarding Planning Zone 12. We would appreciate a response.

Jackie Kohn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Zachary K [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 8:53 PM
Subject: Zoning Concerns in New Mark Commons - Planning Zone 12
To: <mashton@rockvillemd.gov>, [REDACTED]

Good Evening Mayor Ashton,

My wife and I are residents of New Mark Commons. We have resided here for 5 years. I am an attorney and partner at an immigration law firm in Washington, DC and my wife is a nurse practitioner at a neurosurgery group in Bethesda, MD. We are parents of two small children ages 2 and 1 years old. We both voted for you in the last election.

We and our neighbors are extremely distressed about Planning Zone 12. My wife attended this evening's zoning re-write meeting and received cryptic and minimized responses about the possibility of a 250 unit building being built behind our home.

This change would create significant environmental and noise pollution. The increased traffic is also a safety concern for my children who I hoped would grow up to be able to easily cross the street and go to the playground.

It is my understanding that this could be finalized in December of this year and construction would happen in 2026. We would appreciate it if your administration would do everything possible to promptly put this to halt and would like your assurance that you would fight for your constituents.

Thanks for your time and prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Zachary and Jacqueline Kohn

Holly Simmons

From: Kyle Browning [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 7:59 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Support rezoning for denser housing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

I am writing to express my support for rezoning proposals that would create opportunities for more and denser housing in Rockville. I live in New Mark Commons and specifically support the proposal to rezone the parcel adjacent to our neighborhood that is currently zoned for commercial. Though a housing development in this area would likely increase traffic and noise in our neighborhood, I believe the need for more housing in Rockville is greater than any downsides to our specific community.

I support the city's (and Montgomery County Council's) efforts to create more housing in the "missing middle." We need a city and a county welcoming to residents at all income levels. The most important way to achieve this is to build more housing, and a key way to do that is to rezone land to allow for more density.

Thank you.

Kyle Browning
503 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville, MD 20850



Patricia A. Harris, Esq.

July 24, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Mayor Ashton and Members of the Council
City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Rollins Park – Zoning Classification

Dear Mayor Ashton and Members of the Council:

We represent Congressional Towers and Rollins Park partnerships, the owner (“Owner”) of the 51.92-acre Rollins Park community in the northwest quadrant of the Rollins Avenue and East Jefferson Street intersection. On behalf of the Owner, we closely followed the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan effort as it pertained to the future development potential of the Property and are now very interested in the City’s Zoning Rewrite effort as it relates to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations. In this regard, we recently met with City Planning Staff to discuss the future zoning of the Property which will have a significant impact on the Property’s future development potential. As discussed below, while we are appreciative of the establishment of a residential high density (RHD) zone for the Property, we are concerned that the proposed development standards relating to height and density for the RHD Zone do not take full advantage of the potential yield of housing units that could be provided by the Property and will fail to incentivize the stated objective of long term redevelopment of the Property. As a result, the development standards will not further the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and the housing objectives of the City. Consistent with standard urban design practices, and as discussed in more detail below, a high-density residential zone should allow up to 100 units per acre.

Given that the public hearings on the Zoning Rewrite are not scheduled until early 2026, it was important for us to bring our concerns regarding the proposed development standards to you at this time so that, assuming you agree with our conclusions, there is sufficient time for you to request Planning Staff to further analyze the RHD Zone and reevaluate the proposed height and density development standard recommendations.

I. Background

By way of brief background, the majority of the Property is currently zoned RMD-25 and developed to a density of 25 units per acre as allowed by the zone, with a variety of garden apartments, townhouses, and four seven-story multi-family buildings that are located along the

northern boundary of the Property. A 5.3-acre portion of the Property currently improved with the Rollins-Congressional clubhouse and pool is zoned R-75. The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Policy Map ([Attachment A](#)) recommends the following for the Property:

- CRM (Commercial and Residential Mix) for the East Jefferson frontage of the Property
- RM (Residential Multiple Unit) for the balance of the Property.

In designating the majority of the Property RM, the Comprehensive Plan notes: “A new higher-density residential zone, limited to residential uses, is appropriate for the remainder of the site *to permit new investment and upgrades*, though it should not result in residential displacement.” (Emphasis added).

In connection with the Zoning Rewrite, Planning Staff is recommending the new RHD Zone for the Property that would allow 50 units per acre and a maximum height of 75 feet, except that those portions of the Property within 100 feet of single unit housing are limited to a maximum height of 45 feet. As noted, we are concerned that these recommendations will not foster the desired redevelopment of the Property and as explained below, believe that an increase in allowable density and heights (in selected areas) is appropriate for the proposed RHD Zone. Critically, the Property is the *only* site in the City with an RM land use designation and a recommendation for a higher density residential zone and as a result, the Property is the *only* site in the City recommended for the proposed RHD Zone.

II. Considerations for Increased Density and Height

In addition to being the only site in the City subject to the RHD Zone, we believe that the following features associated with the Property justify consideration of an increase in the density and height:

- The Property is located less than 2,000 feet from the Twinbrook Metro Station and is within the “walkshed” of the Metro Station, as well as along RideOn Routes 5 and 26. As the City evaluates where additional needed housing should be located, it is locations such as the Property, that are served by existing infrastructure and adjacent to substantial commercial services, that are most logical.
- The northern portion of the Property where the multi-family buildings are located abut the 457-acre Woodmont County Club. The distance between the multi-family buildings on the Property and the closest single-family homes (located north of Wooton Parkway) is more than 3,800 feet. Between the buildings and these homes is the wide, undeveloped expanse of the County Club property.
- The Rollins Park community was constructed in 1962 and 1963 and is very well maintained. Nonetheless, given the age of the improvements, the Owner’s anticipate that within the next ten to twenty years, decisions will need to be made as to whether to commence a phased redevelopment of the Property or instead make significant investments into the maintenance and upkeep of the existing improvements.¹ By way of

¹ Within the past five years, the Owner’s invested more than \$15 million to improve the HVAC Central Plants, door and lock replacements, elevator renovations, corridor and lobby renovations and apartment renovations throughout the Property.

example, because this development was built before current requirements for stormwater management, any redevelopment will entail significant costs that cannot be absorbed by a moderate replacement of density. Thus, anticipated redevelopment will only be pursued with the appropriate height and density incentives.

As it relates to the proposed heights for the RHD Zone, it is important to first emphasize that we agree with the proposed development standard that limits the height on the Property to 45 feet within 100 feet of the single-family residents. The Rollins Park community and the nearby single-family residences have co-existed in a compatible manner since the development of both communities in the early 1960's, and the 45-foot height limit ensures that any future development of the Property will continue to be compatible with the adjacent uses.

At the same time however, the Property is generously sized at 52 acres and significant portions of the Property are located more than 100 feet away from single unit housing. With these characteristics, we believe that there are areas of the Property where heights above 75 feet are appropriate and can be provided without adversely impacting the surrounding area. More specifically, it is one-third of a mile (1,620 feet) from the Property's southern boundary (which is across Rollins Avenue from the single-family homes) to the northern boundary adjacent to the Woodmont County Club. This is a significant distance, and the RHD Zone could be drafted to allow the opportunity to selectively increase allowable heights above the proposed 75 feet as one moves further away from single unit housing, with the greatest heights being allowed in the most northern portions of the Property adjacent to the Country Club. The RHD Zone could also be drafted to incorporate design requirements such as upper story setbacks, to the extent necessary to ensure that increased building heights are less perceptible from the ground plane. Importantly, allowing additional height above 75 feet provides the opportunity to increase the number of housing units and can be accomplished in a manner that does not create any additional impacts on the area surrounding the Property than would heights of 75 feet. Further, increased heights allow for smaller building footprints such that redevelopment can proceed with minimal displacement. The result is a gradual phased development wherein new units are created to supplement the existing residences.

As it relates to the proposed density, the RHD Zone proposes a maximum density of 50 units per acre. While this density represents a doubling of the density that was approved when the Property was developed more than 60 years ago, it nonetheless, based on the Owner's economic analysis, does not provide enough additional density to make the redevelopment of the Property, as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan, financially feasible. Consultation with current active developers and land planners has confirmed our view that at 50 units per acre, the highest and best use for the property would be the development of for-sale townhouses. This is not consistent with the Owners long term objectives, nor those set forth under the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Nor does it advance that Plan's stated goal of concentrating additional density within Metro transportation nodes. Without sufficient allowable density (in the 100 unit an acre range²) to support the redevelopment of the Property, the existing status quo of the Property will continue for the foreseeable future. Multi-family podium, courtyard, and hybrid residential buildings range in density but typically provide well over 50 units per acre thereby

² By way of comparison, the six-story multi-family building at 1900 Chapman Avenue has a density of 110 units per acre.

providing flexibility and diversity of housing between the highest density Rockville Pike Corridor and the lower density missing middle housing across from the detached-house neighborhoods to the south and west. The proposed development standards represent a significant missed future opportunity, given that the Property is ideally located to support additional housing, including affordable housing, in furtherance of the City's goals.

In considering this increased density it is important to emphasize that the Property, at 52 acres, has the benefit of being able to support increased density in a flexible and varied manner. The allowable maximum density will be averaged across the entire Property, with some areas, such as the northern portions of the Property where the multi-family buildings are currently located, having a considerably higher density per acre than the southern areas of the Property near the existing single-family homes. Moreover, increasing the allowable height above 75 feet (in those areas located away from the single-family residences), will increase the yield of desperately needed housing and provide the development flexibility needed to incentivize redevelopment. In addition, while it is unknown what building materials and technologies will be available in the upcoming decades, even current strategies for urban design and architecture show that higher-density, walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods have a reduced environmental footprint per unit. The proposed higher density and height will allow pursuit of these options through a full public entitlement process, thus ensuring that compatibility and sustainability are incorporated in the design.

III. Conclusion

This Property's ownership is local in nature and committed to the community and market they have served since the acquisition and development of the Property in 1959, when Rockville Pike was just two lanes wide and the area was largely undeveloped. Looking ahead, all future improvements associated with the Property must remain relevant and reflective of community and market needs, just as the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan envisions. The Owner demonstrated its commitment to this approach when it redeveloped the existing standard swimming pool on the Property into a complex of pools and a community center in 2007, at a cost of \$7,000,000. The Owner expects that there will come a time when phased redevelopment will be the only economically feasible approach to ensure that the Property remains relevant to the evolving market and an asset to the surrounding community. Thus, the Owner continues to take the long view in terms of the Property's future enhancement. As such, the zoning, use and density will be key to that evolution, as reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. Recognizing that the Comprehensive Plan has a horizon of approximately 20 years, it is essential that the appropriate zoning development standards are in place to accommodate the phased redevelopment of the Property so that it never loses its position as an asset to the community and its residents.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our concerns regarding the proposed RHD Zone. It is our hope that based on our explanation you will request that Planning Staff reanalyze the proposed height and density development standards of the Zone with the intent of ensuring that they align with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan and the City's housing goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

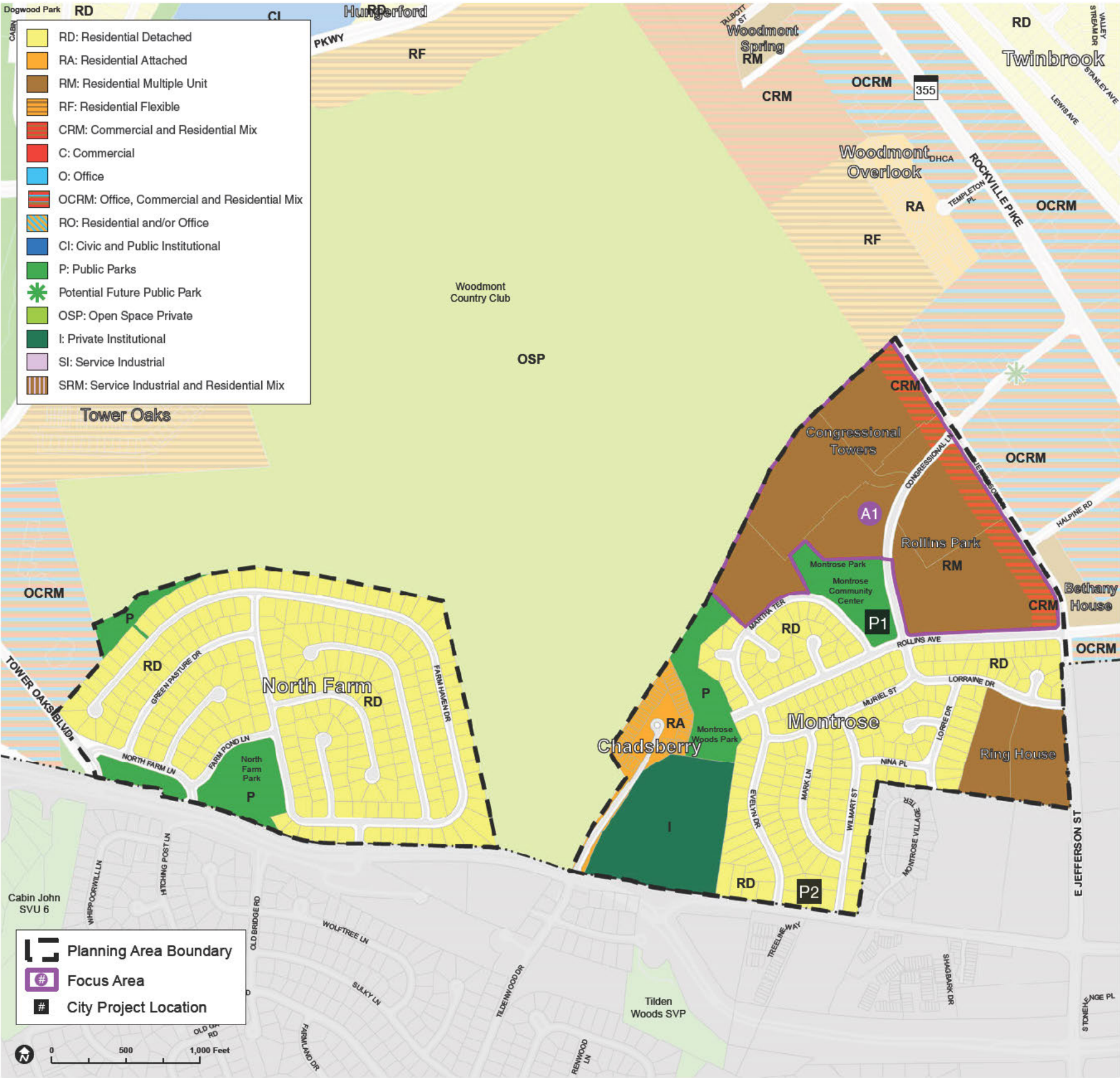


Patricia A. Harris

cc: Ms. Holly Simmons
Mr. Jim Wasilak
Mr. Kenneth Becker
Mr. Arnold Polinger
Mr. Anthony Rakusin
Mr. Josh Sloan

Encl.

Figure 67: Land Use Policy Map of Planning Area 10



Holly Simmons

From: Anne Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2025 7:42 PM
To: zoning
Subject: Comment for rezoning 1000 Twinbrook Pkwy

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Zoning people

I have been a resident of Twinbrook Forest for over 25 years. I am providing comment to a proposed rezoning of 1000 Twinbrook parkway. The data from your website indicates that there is a proposal to change the zoning for that property to increase density:

file:///C:/Users/Anne%20Lucas/Downloads/RFP%2014-23%20Appendix%20b%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20Planning%20Areas.pdf

* Twinbrook and Twinbrook Forest Focus Area A7 PROPERTIES AT BALTIMORE ROAD AND TWINBROOK PARKWAY
Rezone 1000 Twinbrook Parkway from R-60 (Single Unit Detached Dwelling) to RMD-15 (Residential Medium Density).
The remaining properties are not recommended to be rezoned

However, earlier in this document it is stated:

"Maintain the residential character of the planning areas" for the Twinbrook and Twinbrook Forest Areas

By rezoning that particular property at 1000 Twinbrook Pkwy to increase density, you are not maintaining the residential character of the neighborhood.

Additionally, that corner (Twinbrook and Baltimore Rd) can be extremely congested especially when school is in session. Both the elementary school and high school are very near. Increasing the density of that specific lot will increase the congestion, create further parking problems in that block, and increase the probability of pedestrian/car accidents.

I am opposed to the proposed rezoning. I am writing in the hope that the voice of the residents of the area carry at least the same weight as those of the wealthy developers

Sincerely
Anne Lucas
1606 Gruenther Ave

July 31, 2025

VIA Email

Mr. James Wasilak
Chief of Zoning
City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: City of Rockville Comprehensive Map Amendment (the “CMA”); Shellhorn Rockville LLC’s written comments regarding 1460 and 1488 Rockville Pike

Dear Mr. Wasilak:

On behalf of Shellhorn Rockville LLC, an affiliate of Quantum Companies (“Quantum”), the owner of the shopping center (1488 Rockville Pike) and neighboring auto repair facility (1460 Rockville Pike) located approximately 1/10th of a mile to the north of the intersection of Rockville Pike and Congressional Lane (the “Property”) in the South Pike area, please accept these written comments to the City of Rockville’s (the “City”) recommended rezoning of properties in the vicinity of Twinbrook Metro Station.

By way of background, the Property is improved with approximately 29,874 square feet of retail uses and ancillary surface parking spaces and is located approximately 0.40 miles to the northwest of the Twinbrook Metro Station entrance. An aerial image showing the Property’s proximity to Twinbrook Metro Station is attached as Exhibit “A”. The Property is presently zoned MXCD and located immediately to the south of the Twinbrook Quarter mixed-use redevelopment. In this respect, the Property is appropriately positioned for redevelopment with additional density, height and a mix of uses. To this end, we respectfully request that the City rezone additional properties in the South Pike area to further the approved Rockville 2040: Comprehensive Plan Update (the “Comprehensive Plan”) recommendations, including to “continue to develop the Twinbrook Metro Station area and the south Rockville Pike area as a major activity and growth center.” *See* page 32, land use element.

Quantum supports the City’s recommendations to rezone many of the properties to the south of the Property, on the east side of Rockville Pike, to a new MXTD-235 Zone. However, Quantum respectfully requests that the City also recommend that the Property and surrounding sites to the north and west that are within ¾ mile of Twinbrook Metro Station be rezoned to the MXTD-200 Zone. These properties are transit-oriented with strong pedestrian access to both the Twinbrook Metro Station and planned BRT on Rockville Pike. Many of these properties are developed with low-rise commercial buildings and an abundance of surface parking, which do not represent their highest and best use.

The CMA designates areas to the south of the Property for MXTD-255 zoning based upon a framework developed as part of Rockville Town Center Plan (the “Town Center Plan”). The Town Center Plan designated properties as MD-355 Corridor Character Areas (MXTD-255 zoning), Core Character Areas (MXTD-200 zoning), and Edge Character Areas (MXTD-85 zoning). Significantly, properties evaluated as part of the Town Center Plan that are more than 0.80 miles from the Rockville Metro Station were designated as Core Character Areas and recommended for rezoning to MXTD-200 as part of the CMA. Map 19 from the Town Center Plan is attached as Exhibit “B” for context. In this respect, the City should use the same methodology in the South Pike area to recommend properties that are located within ¾ mile of Twinbrook Metro Station, but outside the limits of properties recommended for MXTD-255 zoning, be rezoned to MXTD-200 through the CMA.

Quantum’s request that the City expand the limits of properties recommended for rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan’s recognition that “thousands of people walk or bike from Twinbrook Metro Station to residences, offices and shops,” and “the land use plan provides flexibility for the future, allowing a mix of high intensity office, residential, and commercial uses through the Office Commercial Residential Mix (OCRM) land use designation for the majority of land in the south Pike area.” See page 32, land use element. As a result, we respectfully request that the City expand on its initial recommendations for the South Pike area in the CMA to include additional properties to the north and west, which will ensure that market-responsive zoning is in place for the continued revitalization of this important section of Rockville Pike.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the CMA and look forward to continuing to work with staff and other interested stakeholders to achieve the Comprehensive Plan’s vision along this important corridor in the City.

Very truly yours,

Matthew Gordon

Matthew Gordon

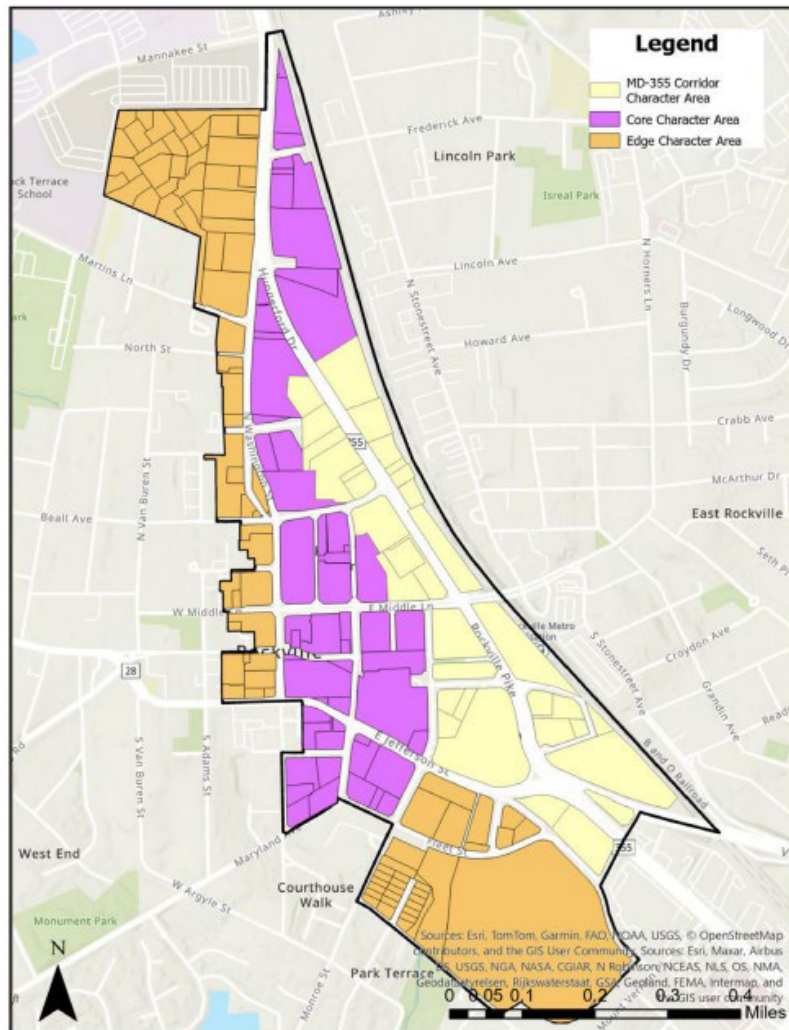
cc: Ms. Holly Simmons
Mr. Alex Forbes
Mr. David Sullivan

Exhibit "A"
1488 Rockville Pike Aerial & Vicinity



Exhibit “B”

Map 19: Town Center Character Areas



Holly Simmons

From: JC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:24 PM
To: zoning
Cc: Monique Ashton; Kate Fulton; David Myles; Barry Jackson; Izola Shaw; Marissa Valeri; Adam Van Grack
Subject: Opposition to Rezoning Victoria Condominium Area to MXTD-200

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mr. Wasilak and Zoning Division Staff,

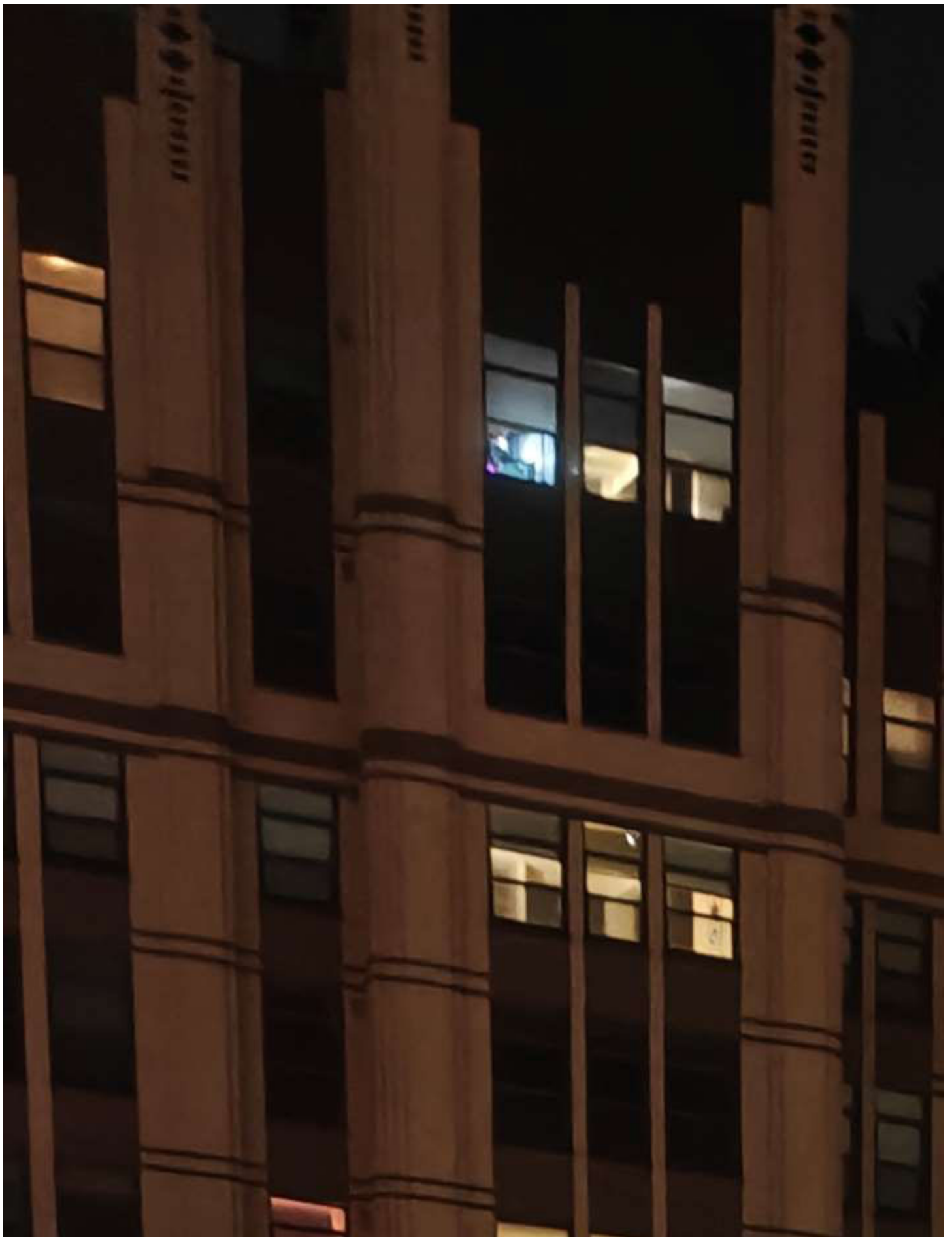
I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of the Victoria Condominium area to MXTD-200, which would enable large-scale developments such as the 41 Maryland Avenue – Duball 3 project directly beside our building. As the Victoria Condominium since 1992, and a licensed insurance agency owner with over 35 years of experience in risk management and property & casualty insurance, my wife and I strongly support new housing development projects in our city and county. However, it must not come at the cost of safety, health, or stability of existing communities. Please keep this letter as part of the official record. I will also be sharing this with our City Council members and the Mayor.

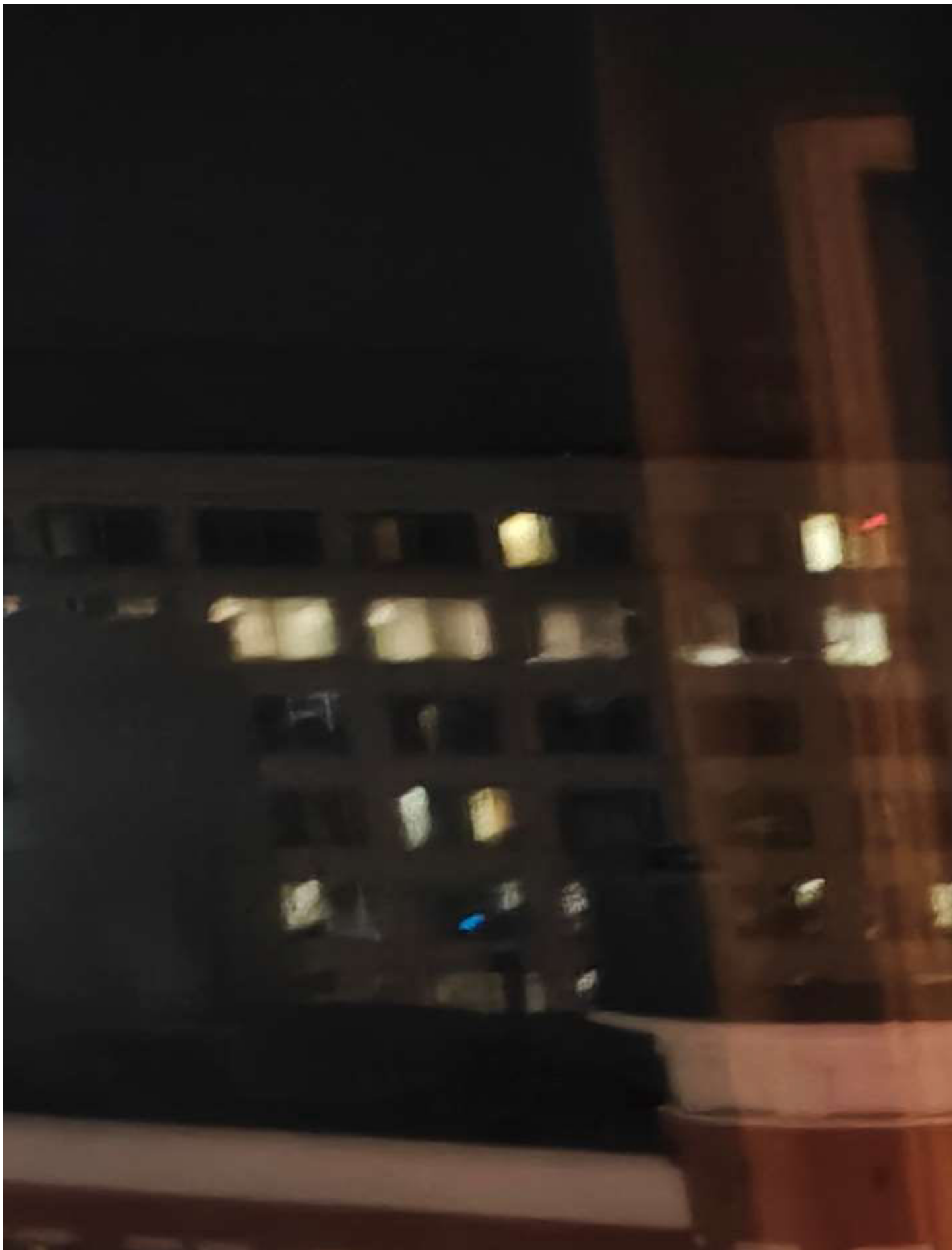
1. Why Rezoning Is Not in the Best Interest of Victoria or Town Center?

Rockville Town Center is already a dense, high-traffic environment with heavy pedestrian activity, limited street capacity, and overburdened public infrastructure. Changing our zoning to MXTD-200 would open the door to taller, denser construction without adequate space or resources to absorb the impact. For Victoria residents, this means more crowding, less safety, and diminished quality of life.

2. Fire Safety Risk:

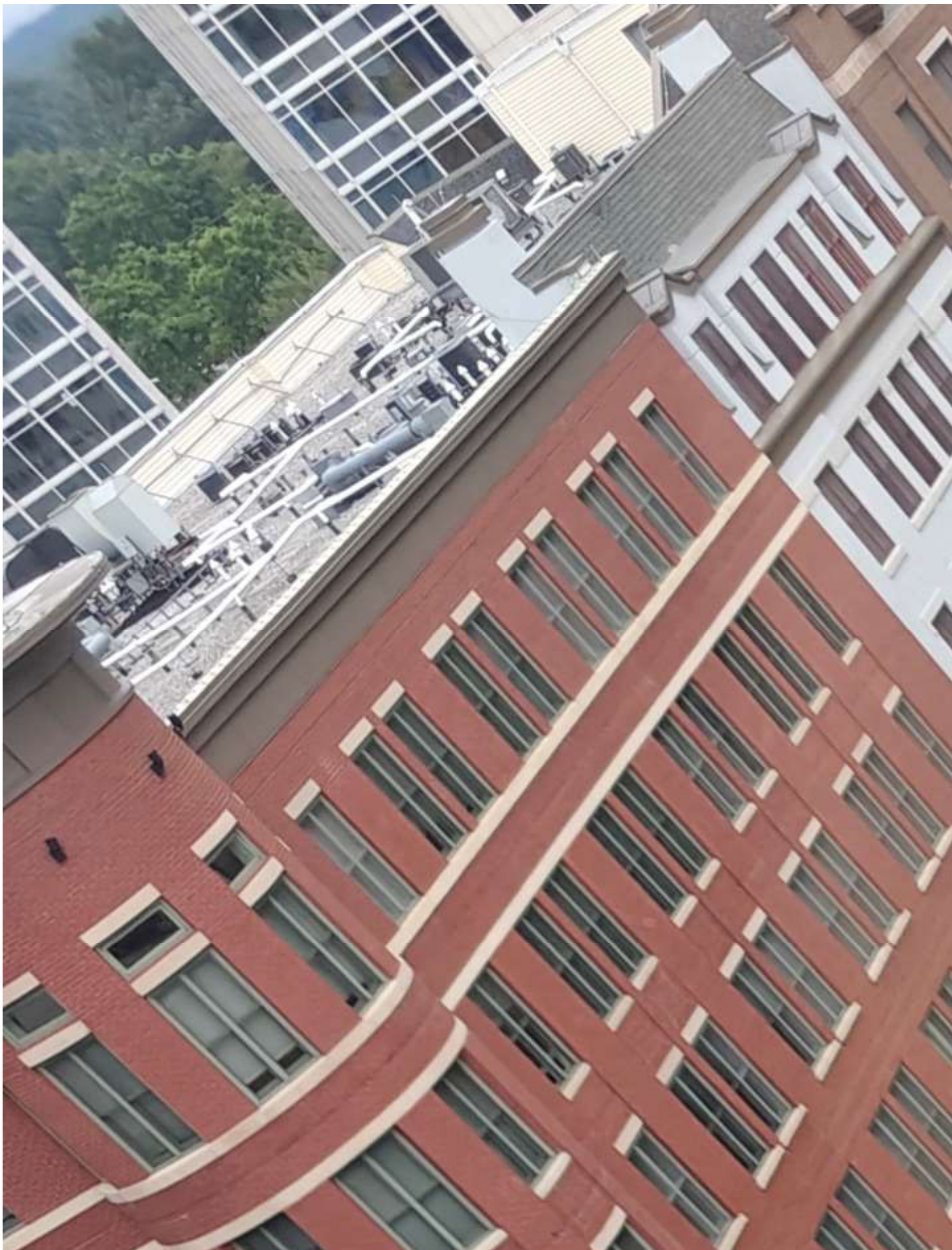
Fire incident at the Cambria Hotel Rockville, located across from the Victoria Condominium on April 12, 2025, which more than 10 fire trucks were required to control a nearby emergency, which serves as a warning. Duball 3 would be built only twelve feet from Victoria, with very little separation, a fire could jump between buildings in minutes. Narrow lanes would also slow firetruck access, making a dangerous situation far worse.





3. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Risk:

Duball 3 has requested a parking waiver, meaning no on-site parking for its 147 units. Residents will depend on nearby public garages, increasing the number of pedestrians and cyclists crossing already congested, single-lane streets. This raises the risk of accidents involving vehicles, especially for seniors, children, and people with limited mobility.

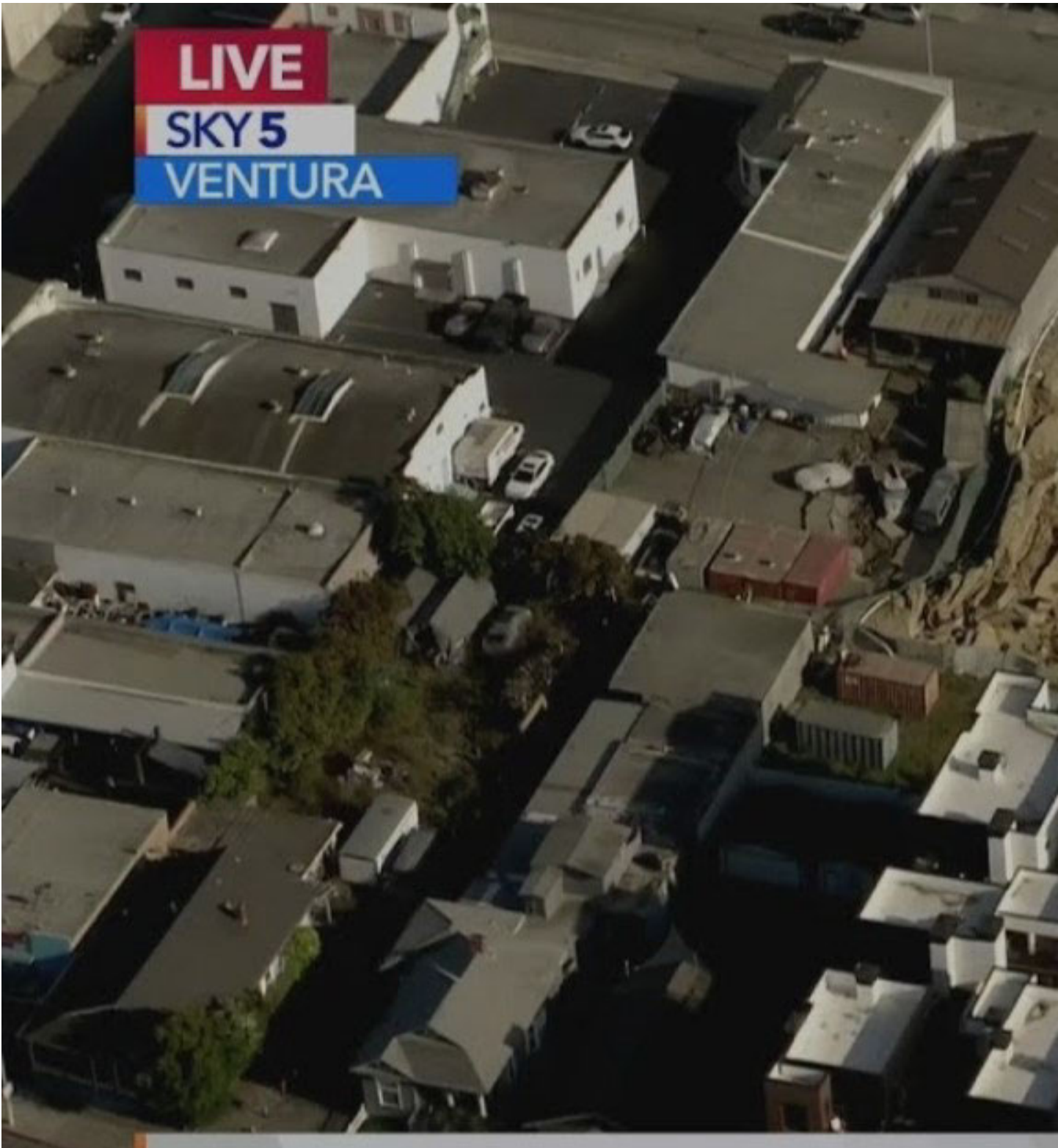


4: Sinkhole and Construction Concerns:

ABC News with David Muir, KTLA, and LA Times reported a dramatic incident occurred in Ventura, California on May 30, 2025, where a 25-foot sinkhole abruptly opened beside a construction site for a new apartment complex . Vehicles were swallowed whole, structures adjacent to the site were damaged, and at least one commercial and one residential property were officially red-tagged by city authorities . The city later confirmed the cause was a failure of temporary shoring systems, possibly aggravated by excessive groundwater pumping and soil disruption . Despite zoning approval, oversight at the construction phase was evidently inadequate—shoring and drainage safeguards were ignored or under-reviewed, resulting in catastrophic ground collapse.

Relevance to Rockville

Both Victoria Condominium and the proposed development share limited underground infrastructure (water mains, drainage, sewage) buried under decades-old soil. Our building was constructed in 1992; the subsurface soil structure and pipe integrity may now be fragile. Excavation or construction stress nearby could accelerate soil collapse or flooding, raising structural stability risk akin to human-induced sinkhole phenomena. If the developer constructs deep foundations or reroutes utilities without independent geotechnical review, we face elevated risk of soil destabilization, pipe failure, and potential structural collapse. Shared infrastructure issues further amplify legal liability for both structures.



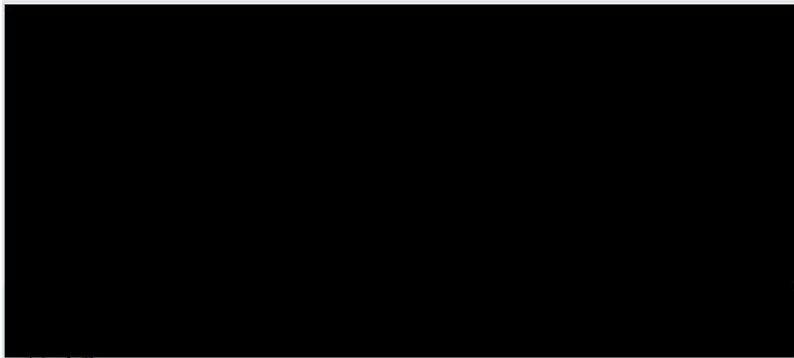


News reference: KTLA & ABC News with David Muir Report on Ventura Sinkhole

[Sinkhole near Ventura construction site opens up](#)



**Sinkhole near Ventura construction site
opens up**



up

<https://youtu.be/LfDsmZBc1K8?si=BKR-5WtJ745Ss5cp>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-30/ventura-sinkhole-takes-down-a-shed-and-two-vehicles-sends-people-scrambling>

5. Health Risks: Dust, Noise, and Psychological Stress:

The Victoria Condominium is home to a large senior population, with over 50% of residents over age 65. Many chose this location for its healthcare access, especially Kaiser Permanente, and walkability. A two-year construction project of this scale will inevitably cause significant air pollution (including dust that can cause or worsen lung cancer, asthma, and chronic bronchitis) and high-decibel noise levels that deeply affect elderly residents' mental health and sleep.

The risks from this proposed construction include:

Airborne dust known to cause lung cancer, COPD, and cardiovascular issues;

High-decibel construction noise, a source of mental stress, insomnia, and hypertension;

Long-term exposure to dust and noise can be fatal or severely reduce quality of life for medically fragile individuals.

These health hazards, over such a prolonged period, could result in legal liability to developers and the City should residents experience worsening conditions.

Approving this rezoning would bring more density and hazard to an area that is already operating at capacity. It risks both the safety of Victoria residents and the long-term livability of Rockville Town Center. I respectfully urge the City of Rockville to carefully review, and reject this rezoning to preserve our current zoning protections.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I look forward to speaking at the public hearing when it is scheduled.

Sincerely,

Jesse Chou

Mei Chi Fan

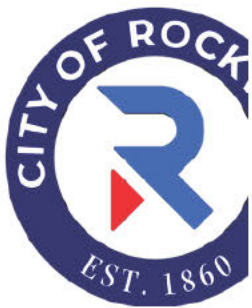
Resident, Victoria Condominium
24 Courthouse SQ, #809
Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Jeff Mihelich <jmihelich@rockvillemd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:38 AM
To: Jim Wasilak; Holly Simmons
Cc: Barack Matite; Ricky Barker; Mary Grace Sabol
Subject: FW: Letter for the Mayor and Council Regarding Proposed Zoning Changes for the Montrose Neighborhood August 2025

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI and thanks.



Jeff Mihelich – ICMA-CM
City Manager
City Manager's Office
P. 240-314-8102
www.rockvillemd.gov



From: Montrose Civic Association

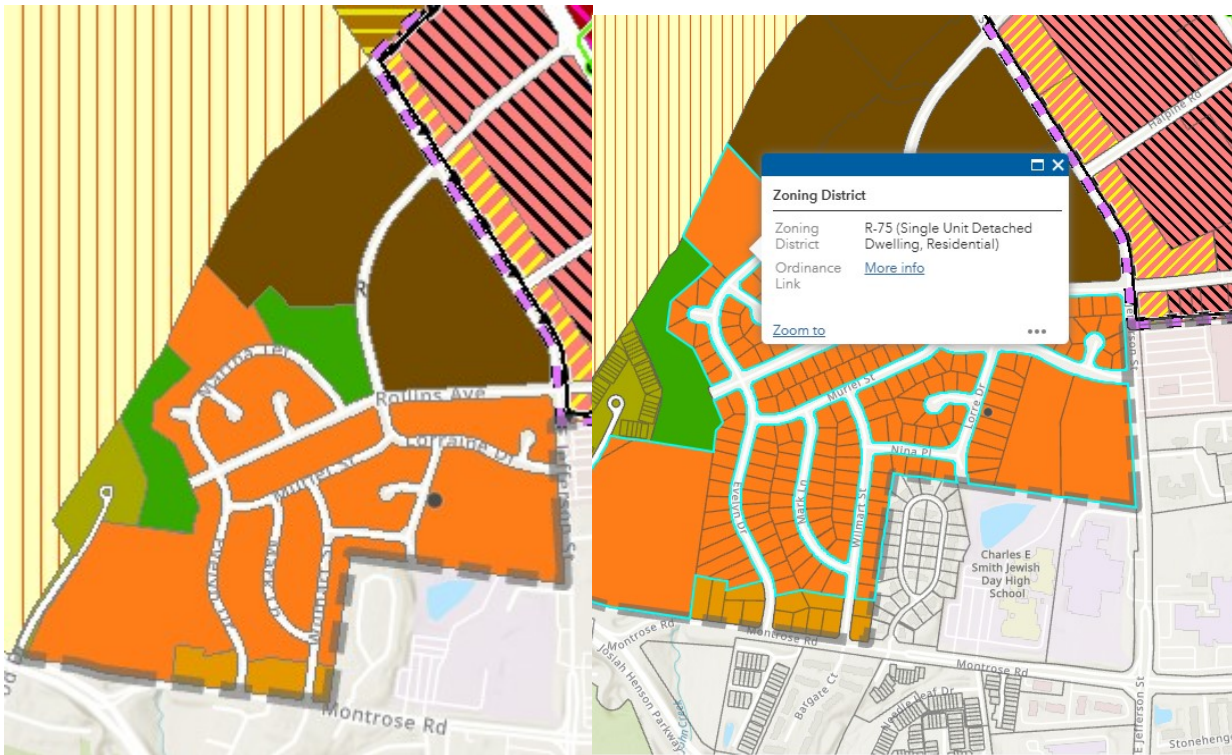
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:24 AM
To: mayorcouncil <mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov>
Subject: Letter for the Mayor and Council Regarding Proposed Zoning Changes for the Montrose Neighborhood August 2025

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

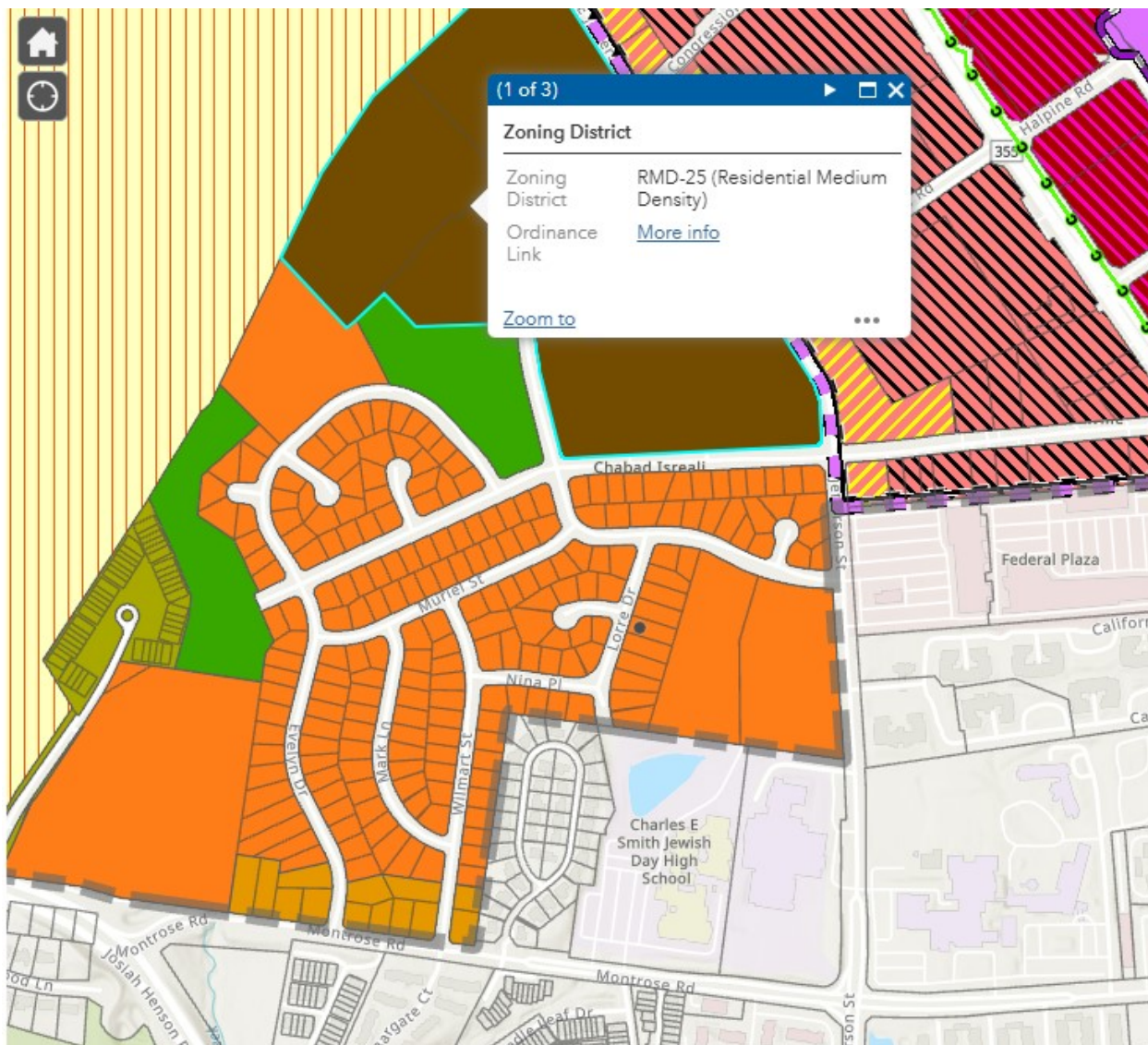
Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to share more about our opposition to proposed zoning changes in the Montrose Neighborhood in Planning Area 10 MONTROSE AND NORTH FARM in the City of Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Montrose Neighbors have given testimony at many City Council meetings regarding our concerns. We would now like to share specific feedback about the change in zoning to the parcel on Martha Terrace.

The parcel we are referring to is currently zoned as R-75 and shown in orange in the map below like the rest of the single family homes in the Montrose neighborhood.

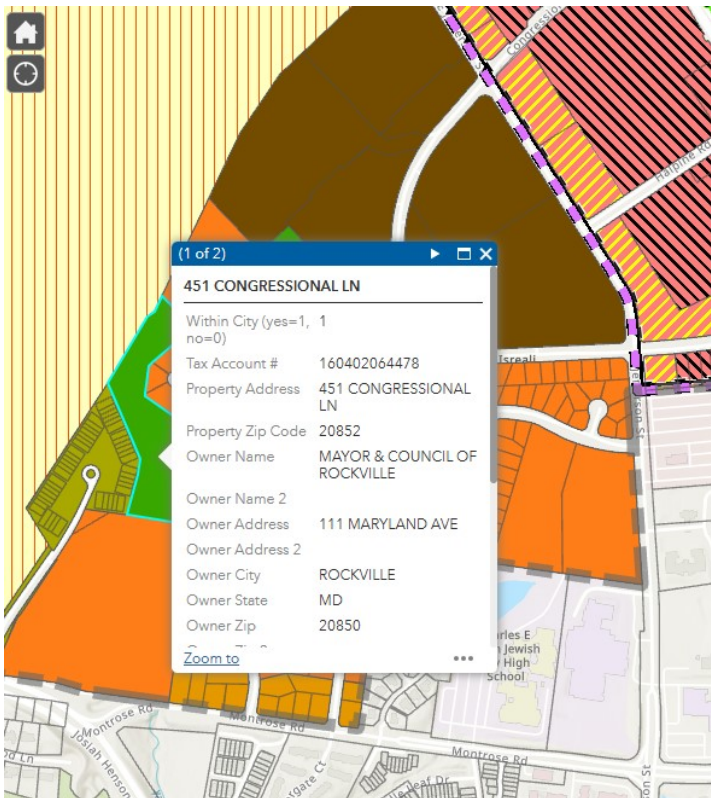
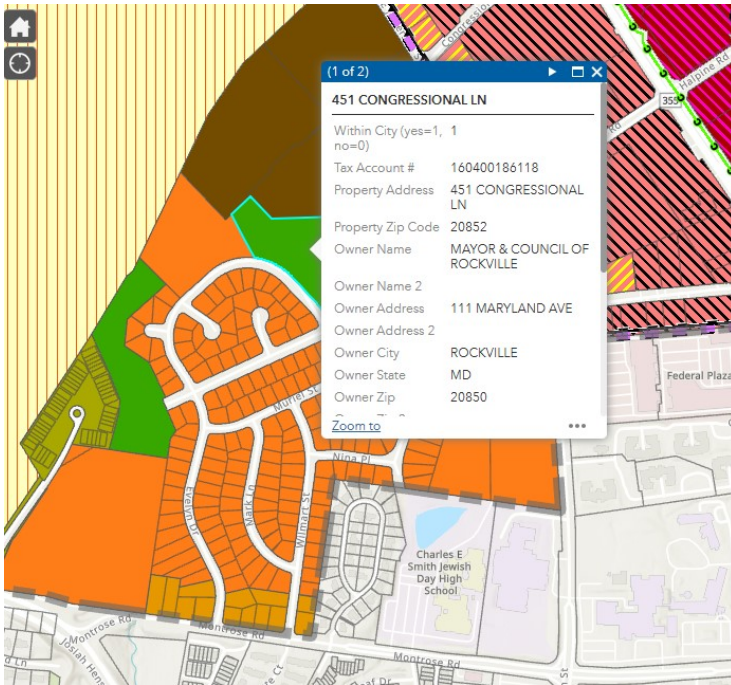


The Mayor and several City Council members have visited the Montrose neighborhood to gain a better understanding of how this parcel is part of our single family home neighborhood and distinctly different from the parcels shown in brown on this map. The area in brown is currently zoned as RMD-25. Currently, the orange parcel houses the Rollins Congressional Clubhouse with community rooms for party rentals and recreational classes, a fitness center, a community swimming pool and two parking lots of the facilities. This community facility is open to the residents of the Rollins Congressional rental community, the neighborhood and the pool is accessible to anyone for a daily fee of \$10.

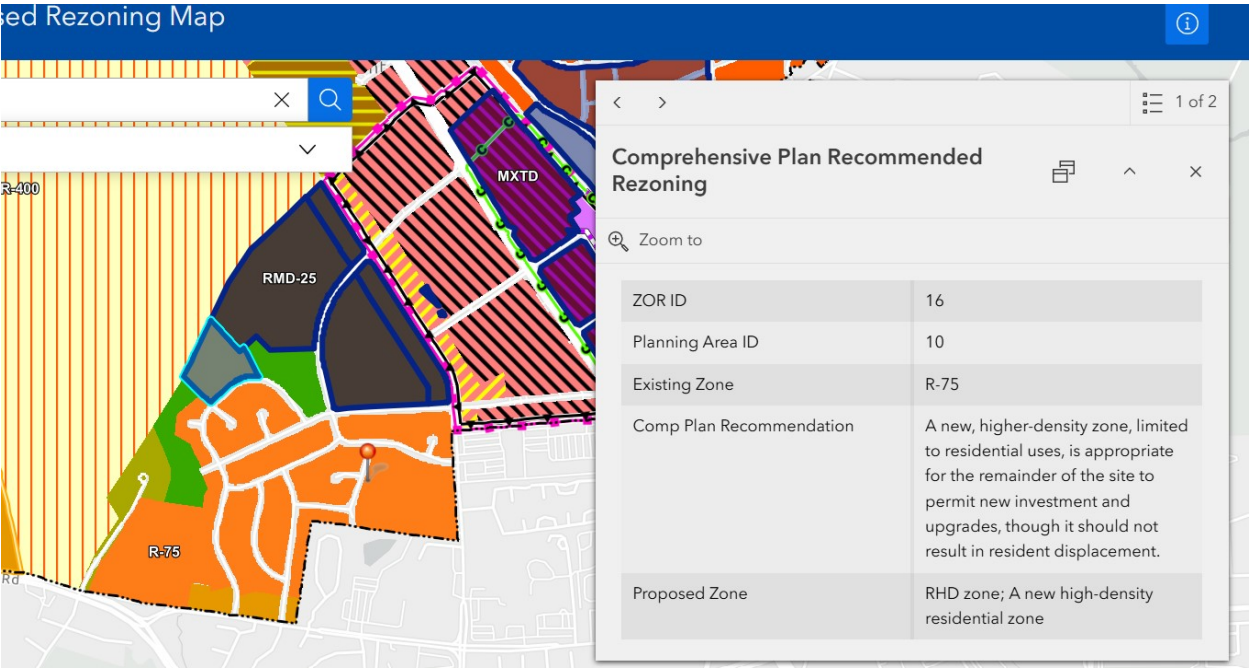
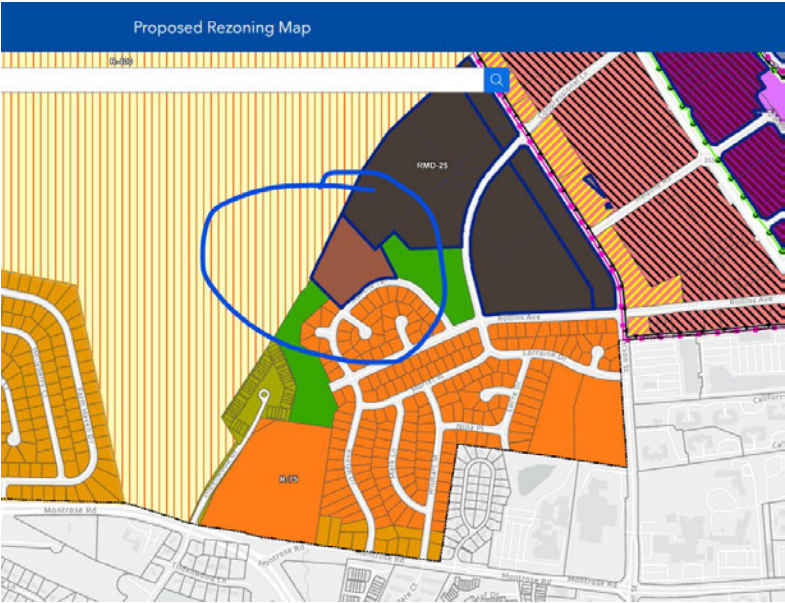


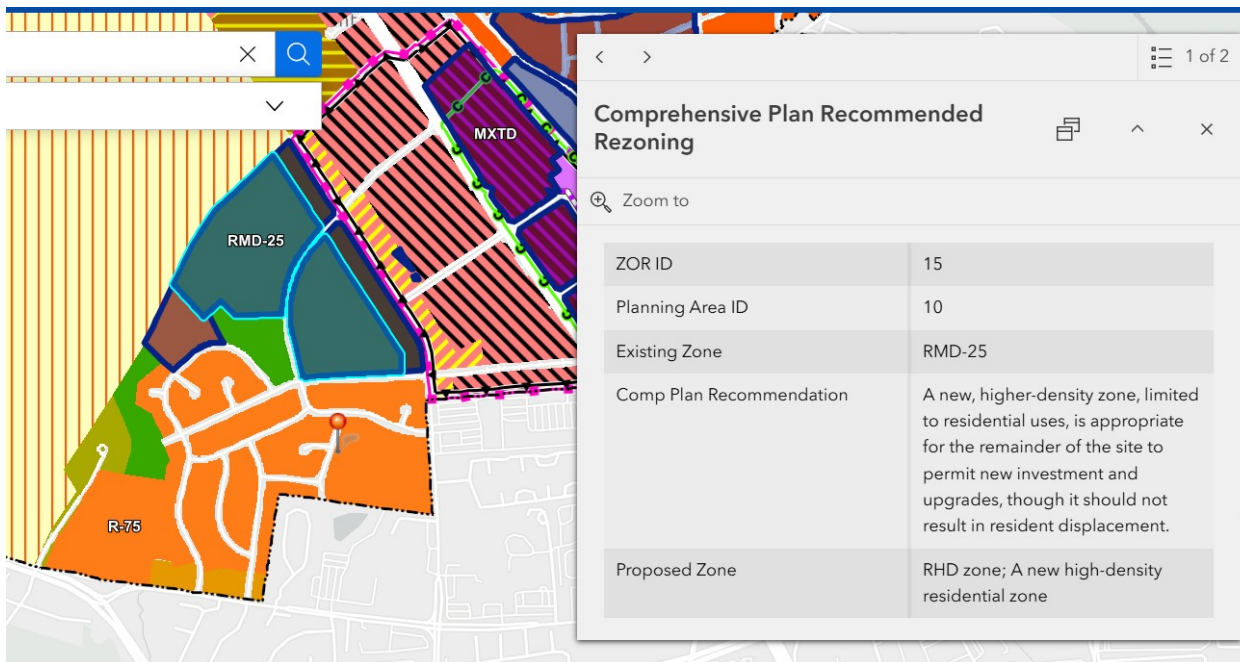
While it is challenging to understand from this map, the area is not appropriate for the increased zoning that is proposed for the brown areas. It is distinctly separate from the high-rise apartments that line the northwest edge of the brown area on the left. Those high-rise apartments are not visible from inside the Montrose neighborhood. The residents who live there use streets that empty onto East Jefferson Street and Congressional Lane. Both East Jefferson and Congressional Lane are wide streets capable of accommodating this volume of traffic. Martha Terrace is a narrow, neighborhood street that is not capable of accommodating increased traffic.

The parcel on Martha Terrace is bordered by Montrose Park and another parcel of City of Rockville land.



We want to convey that this parcel on Martha Terrace is distinctly different from the other parcels that are proposed for changes. The Montrose neighborhood wants the zoning on this parcel to remain unchanged at R-75. The proposed new zoning for the parcel would have it zoned RHD zone. This is the same zone proposed for the other dark brown parcels. The whole area would be one zone - RHD zone, a new high density residential zone. It is not appropriate for this parcel to be zoned RHD zone.





In summary, we have several concerns.

As mentioned, the parcel on Martha Terrace currently houses a community center that has a gym and party space in addition to an Olympic size swimming pool, lazy pool and toddler splash pool and parking space. Should this parcel be developed, the community would lose an affordable space to rent for weddings, religious gatherings, birthdays, and other events that need more space than their apartments or houses can accommodate. The rents for these are well below those that would be charged in a local hotel. The gym is also at a rate that is competitive and is walking distance from the apartments and homes. The pool is a well used facility that brings together both the home owners and apartment dwellers a unique opportunity for individuals to interact and children to be with their school mates. A loss of any one of these would be sad to lose all to development would be tragic.

The streets that are in the Montrose neighborhood are narrow and cannot support two-way traffic without one car or the other pulling to the side to accommodate the other. Development of this parcel would most likely have cars emptying onto Martha and then Evelyn which currently are burdened beyond their original design. The infrastructure will more than likely not accommodate the influx created by higher density development. The current infrastructure of Martha Terrace and the roads that Martha Terrace empties onto, Evelyn drive, cannot support increased traffic. They are residential, narrow streets designed to be mostly only neighborhood traffic.

We believe that the upper portion of zone 10 has plenty of space for high density development and would be closer to the Metro and Rockville Pike and roads leading to 270 that can accommodate traffic in two directions easily.

Thank you for considering our feedback as you make this challenging decision regarding our neighborhood.

The Montrose Civic Association
 Represented by Neighborhood Leads:
 Natasha Hurwitz, 1708 Lorre Drive
 Susan Zemsky, 1622 Martha Terrace
 Monica Saavos, 1723 Evelyn Drive

Holly Simmons

From: Alex Belida [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 3:47 PM
To: zoning
Subject: Opposition to Zoning Change of Plot South of Don Mills Court

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

As a resident of New Mark Commons, I am writing to express my opposition to changing the current zoning designation of the 10-acre site south of Don Mills Court from an R-90 Zoning District to RMD-25.

The current zoning allows construction of single-unit, detached residential dwellings on 0.2-acre plots, which would be compatible with existing homes in New Mark Commons. The new classification would allow multiple-unit residential dwellings of up to 25 residences per acre. These could be tall multi-story structures incompatible with New Mark homes that would be visible.

Because of terrain features, I would expect pressure to allow access to any new multiple unit construction on the site via Don Mills Court. This would create increased traffic hazards.

Please do not change the current zoning designation.

Alex Belida
705 New Mark Esplanade
Rockville

Holly Simmons

From: Susan B Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:39 AM
To: zoning
Subject: NO TO REZONING NEW MARK COMMONS!

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Hello,

I'm completely against the rezoning of land / neighborhood of New Mark Commons. The housing is already too dense.

Thanks,

Susan Klein

♥ S

Susan AB Klein
9 Watchwater Way
Rockville, MD 20850
[REDACTED]

Holly Simmons

From: Daniel Solomon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 2:49 PM
To: zoning
Subject: Support for new Scandia Way/Don Mills Court development

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear colleagues,

I write to express my support for the proposed new zone in the lot proximate to the New Mark Commons neighborhood. My family has rented a home in New Mark Commons for the last three and a half years, and we have adored raising our son in the neighborhood. We have been interested in potentially settling into the area as homeowners, but we've not been able to find a home to our liking because of the scarcity of new properties.

Although I understand other neighbors' concerns about the implications of new development for livability, environmental issues, and the relationship between New Mark Commons and the I-270 corridor, I would welcome any effort to expand the number of people who are able to live in this beautiful area and take advantage of all that Rockville has to offer.

All the best,
Daniel

--

Daniel Solomon
Pronouns: he / him / his

[REDACTED]

Holly Simmons

From: Zari Karimian [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:28 PM
To: zoning
Subject: 10 acre wooded property behind my house

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Hello:

My name is Zari Karimian, and I have lived in New Mark Commons at 6 Farsta Ct in Rockville for more than thirty years. Our house backs directly onto the 10-acre parcel that the city is considering for development. I understand the need for affordable housing in our community, and I recognize that this land will likely see some building in the future. However, I strongly oppose rezoning it for a mixed-use zone with multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high. The area already experiences significant traffic congestion, and this change would only make it worse while disrupting the quiet character of our neighborhood and the wildlife that we've enjoyed for so long. Please, do not alter the current zoning—let's protect our community as it is.

Thank you

Zari Karimian

[REDACTED]-----
This email and any attached files are confidential and intended solely for the intended recipient(s). If you are not the named recipient you should not read, distribute, copy or alter this email. Any views or opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not represent those of the company. Warning: Although precautions have been taken to make sure no viruses are present in this email, the company cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage that arise from the use of this email or attachments.

Holly Simmons

From: Amanda Innes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 11:06 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Concerns about Rezoning in NMC area

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Good morning,

I am writing to express concerns about the draft zoning change that would increase by more than five-fold the current permitted density of the 10-acre wooded property that borders the New Mark Commons Scandia Way neighborhood and Don Mills Court. The property is currently zoned R-90 (similar to Markwood along Potomac Valley), which allows about 4.5 single detached homes per acre. The proposed new zone RM-25 would allow 25 dwelling units per acre, possibly in the form of multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high and as close as 40 feet to the property line.

The proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site should NOT be adopted into the city's master plan. While development plans have not been filed for the property, the proposed change could in the future allow a significant increase in traffic through our community, impacting safety for the many pedestrians that walk in this neighborhood and along Maryland Avenue, and INCREASE THE DANGER of the already congested and crowded Falls Road and NME intersection at 270 Exit. In addition the added density is not consistent with the rest of the community, and increases burden on natural spaces and existing water management issues.

I am raising my voice strongly against a zoning change that makes no sense. I appreciate and value the work to increase housing density where appropriate in Rockville—this is NOT an appropriate location for this change and there are many others that are MORE appropriate.

Thank you for the space to provide input,

Amanda Innes
Rockville Resident

Holly Simmons

From: Wing Pokrywka [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:24 PM
To: mayorcouncil; cityclerk; zoning; Planning Commission
Cc: Brandon Pokrywka
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Rezoning Near New Mark Commons (10-acre parcel by Scandia Way/New Mark Esplanade/Don Mills Court)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Please find below my written testimony regarding the proposed rezoning of the 10-acre parcel adjoining the New Mark community. I respectfully request that this be entered into the official record.

I am writing on behalf of my entire household to express our strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of the undeveloped 10-acre property adjoining the New Mark community along the southern and southwestern borders.

The proposal would allow multi-family housing units (RMD-25) on this site, abutting Scandia Way, New Mark Esplanade, and Don Mills Court. While no development plans have been filed, adopting this zoning in the city's long-range master plan would dramatically alter the neighborhood's future.

Our key concerns include:

- **Traffic & Safety:** Increased density would significantly raise traffic along New Mark Esplanade and Don Mills Court, where a sharp turn already poses safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, and children.
- **School Crowding:** Bayard Rustin Elementary is already operating with temporary trailers due to overcrowding. Hundreds of new units will further strain already limited school capacity.
- **Environmental Constraints:** The site's steep terrain, wetlands, stormwater challenges, and mature tree canopy make it unsuitable for high-density development and increase flooding and runoff risks.
- **Scale & Compatibility:** Up to 25 units/acre is out of scale with adjacent single-family homes. New Mark Commons is a historic registered neighborhood of only 384 homes. Adding 250 new units would nearly double the population and undermine neighborhood character.
- **Noise, Light & Privacy:** As nearby residents on Vallingby Circle, we are deeply concerned about years of construction noise, rooftop HVAC systems, overnight parking lot lighting, and multi-story buildings up to 75 feet overlooking homes and yards.
- **Cumulative Impact:** The property owners also control 20 adjacent acres. Rezoning this parcel could set a precedent for extensive high-density development across a much larger area.

Beyond these issues, the proposed rezoning fails to meet key planning requirements. It is incompatible with the city's master plan, lacks adequate infrastructure and traffic studies, and poses significant environmental risks.

While I recognize the need to expand housing opportunities, this site is too constrained and environmentally sensitive. On behalf of my household, I urge the Mayor and Council to reject this zoning change, preserve the current designation in the master plan, and explore more balanced approaches to Rockville's housing needs.

Above all, this is about protecting pedestrian safety—especially for children—while also addressing the very real risks of increased traffic and environmental harm.

Sincerely,
Wing Pokrywka
9 Vallingby Circle
Rockville, MD 20850


Holly Simmons

From: Natalie K. Stake [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 3:45 PM
To: mayorcouncil; cityclerk; zoning; Planning Commission
Cc: Xavier Lotuaco
Subject: A Neighbor's Concerns on Proposed Rezoning Near New Mark Commons (10-acre parcel by Scandia Way/New Mark Esplanade/Don Mills Court)

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to provide my written testimony on the proposed rezoning of the 10-acre parcel next to our New Mark community. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opposition to this plan.

I am sending this message not only as a resident but as a neighbor who values the health of our community and our shared environment. The proposal to rezone this parcel to RMD-25 and allow for high-density multi-family housing is deeply concerning. While I support the city's goal of expanding housing options, this specific project is incompatible with our neighborhood and threatens a vital natural habitat.

This undeveloped land is so much more than a site for construction; it is a precious natural space. The existing **mature tree canopy** provides a vital buffer from the noise and sight of I-270. This habitat is also critical for managing stormwater and preventing runoff onto adjacent properties. Adopting RMD-25 zoning would result in the loss of this natural buffer and the elimination of the very trees that protect our community from pollution and noise. Preserving this natural asset is key to maintaining the quality of life we all cherish in Rockville.

High-density development on this sensitive site would be an irreversible mistake. We strongly urge you to reconsider this change and, if development must occur, to find a more balanced solution. A rezoning to **RMD-10 or RMD-15** may offer a sensible compromise, allowing for responsible development while preserving the natural landscape and respecting our neighborhood's character.

In addition, we believe the RMD-25 proposal raises serious concerns regarding:

- **Incompatibility with Our Community:** New Mark Commons is a registered historic neighborhood with 384 homes. Adding 250 new units would be out of scale with our community and erode the unique, established character of the area. I love living in this neighborhood for how special it is in Rockville.
- **Safety and Traffic:** The increased traffic from a high-density development would create significant safety risks on streets like New Mark Esplanade and Don Mills Court, which are not designed to handle such a large volume of vehicles. I have attended multiple community meetings and there is no plan for a road to support this new development should it be built.

- **School Overcrowding:** Our local school, Bayard Rustin Elementary, is already overcrowded. Adding hundreds of new students would place an unbearable strain on our school system.
- **Long-Term Impact:** We are also concerned about the precedent this sets for the other 20 acres of land owned by the same developers, which could lead to an even larger, high-density development in the future. I live directly next to the next parcel that I fear is next for more rezoning and more redevelopment. I am scared for the beautiful and untouched land that is directly behind my backyard.

The proposed rezoning is simply too aggressive for this specific location. We ask that you listen to the concerns of your residents and reject this proposal. Let's find a path forward that provides for future growth while protecting the natural beauty and character of our existing neighborhoods. Please consider my message and the concerns of my fellow neighbors in New Mark Commons.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Natalie K. Lotuaco



Holly Simmons

From: Pat Reber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 12:43 PM
To: zoning
Subject: Asking you to change proposed zoning designation on a property

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

To **City of Rockville Chief of Zoning Jim Wasilak and steff,**

I appreciate the city's efforts to accommodate the need for more residential housing opportunity in Rockville. I met over the summer with Mr. Wasilak along with four of my neighbors who live on Don Mills Court in New Mark Commons to express concern about the following:

I and many of my neighbors are alarmed by the prospect of a zoning change for the 10-acre undeveloped and wooded plot that adjoins New Mark Commons on our southern and southwestern borders. The proposed change would allow residential density more than five times that of our community. New Mark's underlying zoning is R-90, which comes out to about 4.5 dwelling units per acre. This is also the current zoning of the adjacent undeveloped property. The proposal for new zoning for the 10-acre plot is RM-25, which would allow 25 units per acre. Since development on about half of the property appears to be restrained by terrain, the change would encourage concentration of multi-unit buildings up to 75 feet high on the rest of the property; property setbacks of only 40 feet; and a possible drastic increase of traffic through our community if developed at that level. If I understood him correctly, Mr. Wasilak indicated at a briefing to our community on September 4 that in fact, if developed, New Mark Esplanade and Don Mills Court could be the likely means of ingress to the property.

We appreciate the need to provide more residential housing in Rockville, but we hope you will take another look at this proposal. Rockville has other zone possibilities that would not present such a drastic change – R-75, R-60, R-40 and so on. Please consider them for this property instead of RM-25! Your zoning experts have tried to reassure our community that the property is likely never to be developed because it is difficult terrain, steep slopes and wetlands. If that is the case, why is it being rezoned at such a dense level? It seems to us that the RM-25 zone would actually INVITE! dense development, in order to support the Mayor and Council's goal of increasing residential opportunities. We welcome you to come walk our neighborhood and the adjacent land to get a clearer picture of what such

dense development could mean for our neighborhood, its streets and its surroundings – and we offer to lead you on a walking tour of the area one of these fine days!

Thank You, Pat Reber
705 New Mark Esplanade

Holly Simmons

From: Julia Binder [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:39 AM
To: zoning; mayorcouncil
Subject: Rezoning of parcel abutting New Mark Commons

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Planning team:

I am writing to express my concern about the planned zoning change that would increase the current permitted density by more than five-fold of the 10-acre wooded property that borders Scandia Way and Don Mills Court in New Mark Commons. The property is currently zoned R-90, which allows about 4.5 single detached homes per acre. The proposed new zone RM-25 would allow 25 dwelling units per acre, possibly in the form of multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high and as close as 40 feet to the property line. The most obvious access point is from Don Mills Court in New Mark Commons.

The proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site should not be adopted into the city's master plan. While development plans have not been filed for the property, the proposed change could in the future allow a significant increase in traffic through our community, impacting safety for the many pedestrians that walk in this neighborhood and along Maryland Avenue, and increase the danger of the already congested and crowded Falls Road and NME intersection at 270 Exit. In addition the added density is not consistent with the rest of the community, and increases burden on natural spaces and existing water management issues. It also adversely impacts our already crowded and growing herds of deer, for which there is no mitigation strategy.

While I appreciate and value the work to increase housing density where appropriate in Rockville—this is not an appropriate location for this change. Instead, please consider converting the empty office and mixed-use buildings in Rockville town center to residential use.

Sincerely,
Julia Binder
501 New Mark Esplanade

Holly Simmons

From: Aileen Goldstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:07 PM
To: zoning; mayorcouncil; CMO
Subject: Concerns re Draft Zoning Change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor Ashton, Zoning Board, and City Manager Mihelich,

I am writing to express concerns about the draft zoning change that would increase by more than five-fold the current permitted density of the 10-acre wooded property that borders the New Mark Commons Scandia Way neighborhood and Don Mills Court. The property is currently zoned R-90 (similar to Markwood along Potomac Valley), which allows about 4.5 single detached homes per acre. The proposed new zone RM-25 would allow 25 dwelling units per acre, possibly in the form of multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high and as close as 40 feet to the property line.

The proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site should NOT be adopted into the city's master plan. While development plans have not been filed for the property, the proposed change could in the future allow a significant increase in traffic through our community, impacting safety for the many pedestrians (including children and elderly) that walk in this neighborhood and along Maryland Avenue, and INCREASE THE DANGER of the already congested and crowded Falls Road and New Mark Esplanade intersection at 270 Exit. In addition the added density is not consistent with the rest of the community, and increases burden on natural spaces, in particular on existing water management issues.

I am raising my voice strongly against a zoning change that makes no sense. I appreciate and value the work to increase housing density where appropriate in Rockville—this is NOT an appropriate location for this change and there are many others that are MORE appropriate.

With appreciation for your consideration,
Aileen Goldstein
Resident of New Mark Commons

Aileen Goldstein
290 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville, MD 20850
[REDACTED]

Holly Simmons

From: Peter Krug [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 9:50 PM
To: zoning
Cc: CMO; mayorcouncil; Dr. Laurie Krug
Subject: REZONING

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Rockville Zoning Commission, Mayor Ashton and City Manager Minhelich

We are writing to express our thoughts on the rezoning the 10-acre wooded property near New Mark Commons (borders Scandia Way and Don Mills court). We invested our life savings to purchase our townhome in New Mark Commons three years ago so this issue is a major concern.

We have been thrilled to reside in this neighborhood that has a very strong sense of community and strong ties to the town. Our neighbors walk to the town center and we support local businesses. We are a group of professionals and active retirees that participate in many organizations in Rockville. New Mark has a national historic designation, in part because of the novelty of NOT clear cutting trees and intertwining nature with housing when it was designed.

We are certain that placing high density housing abutting New Mark will be harmful for numerous reasons. Rezoning for future developers will dramatically increase the traffic and make our neighborhood less safe for families. The removal of trees will increase noise from the interstate and will harm the wildlife (we have foxes, bats, turkeys, great blue herons, many birds, small rodents, pollinating insects, and of course deer). Development will also increase runoff and impact the quality of the water that flows into our lake that is rich with fish, turtles and birds, another unique feature of our community.

It seems much more reasonable to keep the R-90 zoning as currently is - such a development would bring in much less traffic and obviously maintain more of the precious trees and urban forests that remain in Rockville. Please don't turn it into an asphalt jungle with this rezoning to RM-25. Developers merely want to make money with promises of expanding the tax base. However, they do not care about the ramifications of their developments for the larger community.

The town should protect the current taxpayers that decided to move to the town of Rockville, knowing that they would have to pay additional taxes that folks a few miles away don't pay. Future high density housing will harm the character and relative safety of our neighborhood that keeps property values high and climbing steadily up- that in turn improves tax income.

We urge you not to make zoning decisions that will pave the road in gold for future developers that will negatively impact your current tax base. In this time of uncertainty, it is best to not drive us away.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter and Laurie Krug
322 New Mark Esplanade
Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Mary Grace Sabol <msabol@rockvillemd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Vladimir Gurevich
Cc: mayorcouncil; zoning; Craig Simoneau; Emad Elshafei; Bryan Barnett-Woods; James Woods
Subject: RE: 10 -acres wooded property that bordered Scandia way and Don Mills Court zoning changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Vladimir Gurevich:

Thank you for your email regarding proposed zoning changes. I can confirm that all members of Mayor and Council and key Zoning staff and Traffic and Transportation staff have received your message.

We are grateful for your input, especially as a resident of New Mark Commons and a user of biking infrastructure.

Regards,



Mary Grace Sabol
MANAGEMENT ASST / COMMUNITY SUPPORT ADVOCATE
City Manager's Office
P. 240-314-8106
www.rockvillemd.gov



From: Vladimir Gurevich [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:11 PM
To: mayorcouncil <mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov>
Subject: 10 -acres wooded property that bordered Scandia way and Don Mills Court zoning changes

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Zoning Changes and Traffic Impact

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Vladimir Gurevich, and I am a resident of the New Mark Commons community. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns regarding the proposed zoning changes and their potential impact on our neighborhood.

My primary concern is the anticipated increase in traffic volume, particularly during peak hours and school pick-up and drop-off times. As you may recall, the recent changes to the Maryland Avenue traffic pattern were implemented to accommodate bicycle traffic. While this has benefited those of us who rely on bicycles as a primary mode of transportation, it has also introduced significant traffic challenges for the broader community.

The city addressed the Maryland Avenue situation by simply redrawing traffic lines, and while that may have technically improved bicycle access, it did not address the larger infrastructure or traffic flow issues. If a similar approach is taken with the proposed zoning changes—implementing surface-level solutions without meaningful planning—I would be deeply concerned.

Should these changes be approved without a comprehensive traffic impact analysis and appropriate mitigation measures, I would find it unacceptable.

I respectfully urge the Mayor and Council to consider the long-term implications of these changes and to engage in thoughtful, community-focused planning that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and the quality of life for all residents.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Gurevich

Resident, New Mark Commons

Holly Simmons

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 7:59 PM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning
Cc: Debbie Mesmer
Subject: Response to the proposed rezoning of the parcel in Planning Area 3 adjacent to New Mark Commons

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Rockville Mayor and Council and Rockville Zoning Team:

We are writing to document our opposition to the proposed rezoning of the 10-acre parcel between Don Mills Court and Tower Grove in Planning Area 3 adjacent to New Mark Commons (NMC). The proposed zoning category for this currently undeveloped parcel increases potential residential density from the current, R-90, to RMD-25. The clearest egress point for the parcel, as recently acknowledged by the Rockville Zoning team, is at Don Mills Court within the NMC neighborhood. NMC does not currently have high volume traffic because access for the 384 residential units is limited to two entrances: one at Potomac Valley Rd and the other off Maryland Avenue. Introducing the potential for that many additional persons and vehicles under RMD-25 into the New Mark Commons Community would have a deleterious impact on the resources of the neighborhood and quality and safety of experience for the current New Mark Commons homeowners, as well as create traffic safety concerns for potential new dwellers under the RMD-25 plan. The proposed change to RMD-25 should not be adopted in the City's Comprehensive plan. We are requesting a zoning density lower than RMD-25 for the subject parcel. Our reasons follow:

- It sounds from attending two recent forums generously provided by the Rockville Zoning team on this matter that the complex issues with the subject land parcel are only recently coming to be understood by the Zoning team. We don't understand how information about the complexities of developing the parcel could be new information because we saw the parcel described in an internet-available public record dated January 17, 2001, that acknowledged the City-maintained stormwater drainage facility there. Yet, the rezoning plan proposes to increase the permitted housing density of the parcel by approximately 5.6 times. Because of the geographical challenges on the parcel, including terrain, wetlands, stormwater management, etc., only a fraction of the property appears to be developable. This seems to have been foreseeable and increases the probability that structures approaching the 75 ft height limit permitted under the RMD-25 zoning category would be used to achieve that maximum density.

Such a mid-rise building is not compatible with the current planned development neighborhood of New Mark Commons, approved by the City and awarded for the historical significance of not only

of its structures but also the layout of the community and tree preservation. There are other infill approaches available for Rockville zoning that would be more compatible with our neighborhood.

- New Mark Commons is fortunate to have common amenities as part of the original PRU (planned residential unit) approved by the City which are maintained by NMC homeowners through our HOA dues. We have a Clubhouse and pool which are maintained as locked for use by Association membership. By contrast we have many amenities that are open to pedestrian traffic. These public-facing, yet privately maintained, amenities include Lake New Mark and its bridge, dam, and two piers, the asphalt paths around the lake and through the community, pickleball/tennis courts, a basketball court, a recreational lot for young children, and some private roads and parking lots. These amenities of limited capacity were designed in the context of our neighborhood of 384 homes. New Mark Commons has been historically welcoming to pedestrian traffic through the neighborhood amenities. Notable is the asphalt path we maintain around the lake that also provides a short-cut to school and bus stops for people living in the neighboring community, especially for Julius West students. Nonetheless, Rockville police records show that we do experience visitors who do not abide the posted Association safety rules- especially regarding the lake and no fishing or entering upon the ice. Some visitors mistake the NMC common areas for a public park.

We have concern about creating so much additional pedestrian as well as vehicular traffic in the neighborhood as could result from an RMD-25 zoning category right across the street from New Mark Commons. We anticipate some amenities becoming less available to NMC homeowners and experiencing more wear and tear at the Association's expense. While public recreational facilities are available at Dogwood Park and the playground across Maryland Avenue, NMC amenities will be those of closest proximity to the subject land parcel. We don't have an understanding whether the proposed zoning change could also impact the Association's costs for liability insurance on our open common property.

- Maryland Avenue was recently narrowed to provide for bike lanes. There is already an egress bottleneck accessing NMC at the intersection of New Mark Esplanade and Maryland Avenue. While the loss of a traffic lane slowed traffic, a desirable end, now through drivers on Maryland Ave try to pass NMC homeowners outside the single lane either on the left or even the right while homeowners make the right turn onto New Mark Esplanade. Additional vehicles using this intersection will only make it less safe.

To provide some relief at this intersection in anticipation of more vehicles, it is not hard to imagine a proposal to open the closed access from New Mark Esplanade to Monroe Street. That would also provide direct vehicular access from NMC to Dogwood Park. Imagine the impact on traffic volume/safety in NMC if New Mark Esplanade thus became an access road to I-270.

- The cross-walk at Maryland Avenue and Potomac Valley/Great Falls Road is an important safety access for students walking to Julius West School. Bringing additional vehicular traffic to Potomac Valley Road at the cross-walk would be a significant safety consideration.

We understand that the City's goal is to provide additional residential opportunities in Rockville by increasing density through the rezoning of specific areas; however, we ask that the City not be wed to a proposed zoning plan that appears to consider Rockville residents living in potential future housing more than residents who are currently living in existing housing and currently paying property taxes in Rockville.

We are proud residents of Rockville and thank you for your work on our behalf. Thank you for your kind attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mesmer and Henrik Olsen

170 New Mark Esplanade

Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: natalie nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 2:53 PM
To: mayorcouncil
Subject: !!!! A five fold increase in permitted density allowing units as close to 40 feet bordering Scandia Way and Don Mills Court, and NME !!!!!!!!!!!

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

DEAR Mayor Monique Ashton and Council,

Is this vast increase (a 5 fold increase) really in line with the city?(A five-fold increase In Rockville in ten acres that is being considered? There could be serious problems from increased and unsafe traffic, and environmental impact, AND COMMUNITY CONFLICTS.

Developers may profit but other citizens in the existing developments and future housing citizens may suffer. There are higher profit margins for developers on larger multifamily buildings, that needs to be considered..Present values of homes might go down.

Is this change of density in line with Rockville 's overall plan for the city? Has there been sufficient interaction with the neighbors that will bear the impact of such a major change?

I LIVE at 518 NEW MARK ESPLANADE AND I OPPOSE THIS PROJECT.

Natalie J Nelson

Proposed City of Rockville Zoning Change Next to New Mark Commons

Here are our comments on the potential zoning changes by the City of Rockville that would directly impact the New Mark Commons community.

We have lived together for the past 20 years in New Mark Commons and really enjoy the neighborhood and its status as designated on the National Register of Historic Places. The current City of Rockville zoning rules recognize the value of New Mark Commons by limiting development in the 10 acres adjacent to Scandia Way & Don Mills Court to no more than 4.5 homes.

The proposed new City Master Plan for that area includes an option to increase potential development of the equivalent up to 25 new homes which could include buildings of up to 75 feet in height. That would significantly degrade the character of New Mark Commons life of those living in the 384 town homes and detached homes within NMC.

To be clear we are NOT opposed to all new potential development on these 10 acres. We recognize the great need to provide Rockville and Montgomery County with more affordable housing. At the same time we very much want to preserve the character of New Mark Commons and the quality of life for its residents.

Ron Tipton & Rita Molyneaux
218 New Mark Esplanade

Holly Simmons

From: Julia Binder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Planning Commission; cityclerk
Subject: Rezoning Parcel ZOR ID 17 in Area 12

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Planning team:

I am writing to express my concern about the planned zoning change that would increase the current permitted density by more than five-fold of the 10-acre wooded property that borders Scandia Way and Don Mills Court in New Mark Commons. The property is currently zoned R-90, which allows about 4.5 single detached homes per acre. The proposed new zone RM-25 would allow 25 dwelling units per acre, possibly in the form of multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high and as close as 40 feet to the property line. The most obvious access point is from Don Mills Court in New Mark Commons.

The proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site should not be adopted into the city's master plan. While development plans have not been filed for the property, the proposed change could in the future allow a significant increase in traffic through our community, impacting safety for the many pedestrians that walk in this neighborhood and along Maryland Avenue, and increase the danger of the already congested and crowded Falls Road and NME intersection at 270 Exit. In addition the added density is not consistent with the rest of the community, and increases burden on natural spaces and existing water management issues. It also adversely impacts our already crowded and growing herds of deer, for which there is no mitigation strategy.

While I appreciate and value the work to increase housing density where appropriate in Rockville—this is not an appropriate location for this change. Instead, please consider converting the empty office and mixed-use buildings in Rockville town center to residential use. Please do not change the zoning designation for Parcel ZOR ID 17 in Area 12.

Sincerely,
Julia Binder
501 New Mark Esplanade

Holly Simmons

From: Maria Sol Pikielny [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 10:58 AM
To: zoning; mayorcouncil; cm@rockvillemd.gov
Subject: DO NOT rezone the 10- acre site next to New Mark Commons

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor Monique Ashton, Council, and Zoning Committee,

The City of Rockville is considering a zoning change that would increase by more than five-fold the current permitted density of the 10-acre wooded property that borders the Scandia Way neighborhood and Don Mills Court. The property is currently zoned R-90 which allows about 4.5 single detached homes per acre. The proposed new zone RM-25 would allow 25 dwelling units per acre, possibly in the form of multi-story buildings up to 75 feet high and as close as 40 feet to the property line.

The proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site should not be adopted into the city's master plan because of the following reasons:

- 1- **Traffic & Safety:** Increased density would significantly raise traffic along New Mark Esplanade and Don Mills Court, where a sharp turn already poses safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, and children.
- 2- **School Crowding:** Bayard Rustin Elementary is already operating with temporary trailers due to overcrowding. Hundreds of new units will further strain already limited school capacity.
- 3- **Environmental Constraints:** The site's steep terrain, wetlands, stormwater challenges, and mature tree canopy make it unsuitable for high-density development and increase flooding and runoff risks. These concerns have not been properly addressed before considering the rezoning.
- 4- **Scale and Compatibility:** Up to 25 units/acre is out of scale with adjacent single-family homes and goes against rules and regulations for rezoning. New Mark Commons is a historic registered neighborhood of only 384 homes. Adding up to 75 feet high buildings would dramatically alter the aesthetic of the surroundings making it incompatible with New Mark Commons. Additionally, 250 new units would nearly double the population and undermine neighborhood character.
- 5- **Noise, Light & Privacy:** I am deeply concerned about years of construction noise, rooftop HVAC systems, overnight parking lot lighting, and multi-story buildings up to 75 feet overlooking homes and yards, drastically altering the way of life not only for neighboring houses but also for the entire community.
- 6- **Cumulative Impact:** The property owners also control 20 adjacent acres. Rezoning this parcel could set a precedent for extensive high-density development across a much larger area.

As you can appreciate, the proposed rezoning fails to meet key planning requirements. It is incompatible with the city's master plan, lacks adequate infrastructure and traffic studies, and poses significant environmental risks.

While I recognize the need to expand housing opportunities, this site is too constrained and environmentally sensitive. On behalf of my family and my community as a whole, I urge the Mayor and Council to reject this zoning change, preserve the current designation in the master plan, and explore more balanced approaches to Rockville's housing needs.

Above all, this is about protecting pedestrian safety—especially for children—while also addressing the very real risks of increased traffic and environmental harm.

I want to express my appreciation for your time and consideration while asking that my email be added into the public record.

Maria Sol Pikielny from New Mark Commons.

Holly Simmons

From: Pat Reber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 12:34 AM
To: zoning; mayorcouncil
Cc: Alex Belida
Subject: Concerns Re Rezone Proposal on ZOR ID 17, Area 12 (New Mark Commons)
Attachments: Pat Reber 915 remarks .docx; Pat Reber 929 remarks.docx

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and Council and zoning staff,

We in New Mark Commons appreciate the need for more residential housing in Rockville. But perhaps there's a different way to provide it on a plot of land next to our community that would be more compatible with our neighborhood?

I have attached my comments before Mayor and Council on September 15 and September 29. They outline the concerns of our community about the proposed RMD-25 zone for this 9.75 acre property.

My husband Alex Belida and I have tried to imagine what that level of development would look like and how it would affect our community. We foresee about 250 dwelling units, likely in high rise buildings, on about 10 acres. This compares to our 384 dwelling units on 96 acres in New Mark Commons. The new zone would represent five times the zoned density of New Mark Commons and create twice the traffic on our roads. .

Aren't there other zoning designations that could be considered for this property? I appreciate the efforts the City has made to reach out to residents within 500 feet of this property. My husband and I received the letter on June 3 - the first we knew of this, at the start of an extremely busy summer.

The letter contained a quick reference to zoning districts. For a lay person like myself, other designations came to my attention: MXT; RMD-10; R-60; R-40. Any of these would seem to invite development that would be more compatible with New Mark Commons.

Here are our concerns:

1. If developed at RMD-25, we would anticipate double the amount of traffic on our streets and a reduction in the safety to children - and adults - in our walkable neighborhood. High rise buildings would overpower the ambience and integrity of our neighborhood, which is listed on the National List of Historic Places by the National Park Service. This listing was supported by the Historic District Commission and Mayor and Council.
2. This level of development would be in direct contravention of the City's own 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan, which advocates for development to be connected and compatible with adjacent neighborhoods. On page 367, there are two passages that state this need:

The *Key Issues* section states "a desire for future development that is better connected to the surrounding community."

The *Area 1* section notes that various agreements limit the density of development on this specific property: "Until such agreements expire and, unless the City approves an appropriate development on this site that retains the stormwater management facility and **is compatible** with the adjacent neighborhood, this parcel is likely to remain undeveloped."

Is a RMD-25 zone compatible with New Mark Commons underlying R-90 zone?

3. We have met with Rockville zoning staff. During one meeting, I asked staff if they had ever considered a less dense designation for the property. I was told that the level of development being sought by Mayor and Council "would not be achieved" by other zoning categories on this small plot of land.

4. In its briefing to the New Mark Community on September 4, zoning staff reassured residents that the parcel will likely remain undeveloped. Why, then, is the RMD-25 being proposed? For residents, it did not offer much reassurance, but rather seemed like a request that we accept the RMD-25 without further question.

5. An additional factor about this property is its lack of access to public transport and lack of access by any roads, other than those going down Potomac Valley and through New Mark Commons.

We have invited Mayor and Council to come for a walk through our neighborhood and include that invitation to zoning staff, so you can see our concerns first hand.

Thank you for your service to our community,

Pat Reber



705 New Mark Esplanade

Pat Reber, 705 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville; [REDACTED]

Comments before Mayor and Council

Sept 15, 2025

Hi! I'm Pat Reber, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have lived New Mark Commons off Maryland Avenue since 1985. I and many of my neighbors are alarmed by a proposed zoning change for a 10-acre wooded plot adjacent to us that would allow residential density more than five times that of our community . New Mark's underlying zoning is R-90, which comes out to about 4.5 dwelling units per acre. This is also the current zoning of the adjacent undeveloped property. The proposal for new zoning for the 10-acre plot is RMD-25, which would allow 25 units per acre. It would encourage multi-unit buildings up to 75 feet high, property setbacks of only 40 feet and a drastic increase of traffic through our community. We appreciate the need to provide more residential housing in Rockville, but we are asking Mayor and Council to PLEASE take another look at this proposal before you act on the city wide draft in December. Rockville has other zone possibilities that would not present such a drastic change – R-75, R-60, R-40 and so on. Please consider them for this property instead of RM-25! Your zoning experts have tried to reassure our community that the property is likely never to be developed because it is difficult terrain, steep slopes and wetlands. If that is the case, why is it being rezoned at such a dense level? It seems to us that the RM-25 zone would actually INVITE! dense development, in order to support the Mayor and Council's goal of increasing residential opportunities. We welcome you to come walk our neighborhood and the adjacent land to get a clearer picture of what such dense development could mean for our neighborhood, its streets and its surroundings – and we offer to lead you on a walking tour of the area one of these fine days!

I'm Pat Reber, resident of New Mark Commons since 1985. There are also others here tonight from New Mark – can you wave your hands? We're here tonight to invite you all to gather in our neighborhood before December 1 so you can see why we are worried about the city-wide rezoning proposal you are preparing to adopt that day. If developed at the proposed zoning level, it would drastically affect life in our historic community. Change is a constant of the human condition. It can be good for us, or it can provoke anxiety. Right now Mayor and Council are poised to adopt a plan that UNFORTUNATELY would do the latter. The genius of governance in Rockville and the work you do as Mayor and Council is the protection and nourishment of the integrity of communities like ours around the city. It's what our city is known for – nationally! At issue for us is the 9.75-acre plot adjacent to New Mark. Since the 1980s, we have been reassured through various agreements involving the property owners, residents of Don Mills Court, our HOA AND this very city that any development on this property would be “compatible with the adjacent neighborhood.” This is even stated in the 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan. Yet now we find a proposed zoning change that would INVITE more than five times the density of New Mark and would likely result in 75-foot high apartment buildings and minimal setbacks. We can't see how that would be COMPATIBLE! In 2027, New Mark will celebrate its 60th anniversary. On our 50th, our city's

Historic Commission and Mayor and Council backed our listing on the National Register of Historic Places, recognized for its mid-20th-century architecture and planning. We understand the city's need for more housing. But we hope you will continue to support the integrity of our community by keeping the current zoning of the adjacent property. And we hope we can organize a visit to our community so you can see our concerns first hand. Thank you for listening. Come visit!!!

Holly Simmons

From: Bill Holdsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:49 AM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning
Subject: Rezoning near New Mark Commons

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

I want to applaud the mayor's and council's effort to allow higher density housing. Montgomery County needs more housing. Rezoning should help address the issue.

My support for higher density zoning extends to the Tower Oaks parcel adjacent to New Mark Commons. The proposed zoning of 25 homes per acre may be ambitious. I am confident the review process for any future development would highlight any unworkable proposals.

Bill Holdsworth
10 Radburn Court

Holly Simmons

From: Helene Dubov [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:53 PM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning; Dennis & Kathleen Moran
Cc: Helene Dubov
Subject: New Mark and Rezoning

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor and Council and zoning staff,

I have been living in New Mark Commons for 46 years and came to live here because of its natural beauty and peaceful lake and pathways. I do not live near the proposed rezoning but I do live in a neighborhood sought after for its security of limited entrances, and its being a village, oasis, separate from the hustle and bustle of the city nearby.

Your proposed increased density of habitation for the strip of land and RMD-25 zoning from our current

5 homes per acre to building high rises will change the safety, and quality of our neighborhood. I know this first hand, as I grew up in a densely populated New York City. We currently have 384 separate dwelling units, and we are able to manage our own residents if they violate any City codes, if they do not keep up with our bylaws. We save the City man/woman hours because we do it ourselves. Yes, we are self governing within our City. Introduce an untenable additional 250 dwelling units, and we no longer have the ability to do that. We will have undue traffic with pass through roads that will make it unsafe for our children to play, and as an elderly person, more vulnerable to outside intrusion from others looking for targets for unlawfulness.

In a world that has become increasingly unpredictable and threatening, changing the nature of my buccolic neighborhood into an

impersonal, unsafe, more vulnerable place to live is objectionable, And I object. . If there is a political motivation to "look" good in the eyes of the State and Federal, all I can say is "shame on you" for being part of the problem that plagues us as a nation. Leave the zoning as it, and let New Mark remain as the City of Rockville's hidden gem.

Sincerely,
Helene Dubov
4 Stevenage Circle
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Martin Reiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:24 PM
To: zoning
Subject: RE: ZOR ID 17

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

October 22, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council and zoning staff,

I am writing to request that the mayor and counsel decide that the 9.7 acre undeveloped area (Parcel ZOR ID 17 in Area 12) bordering New Mark Commons NOT have its zoning changed from R90 to RMD25.

The Rockville 2040 comprehensive plan indicates that the acreage cannot be successfully developed unless there is: 1)an acceptable solution to the access problem, 2) an acceptable solution to the wetlands problem, and 3) an acceptable solution that is COMPATIBLE with bordering neighborhood (New Mark Commons).

In order to achieve this the Rockville Mayor and Counsel should require that the acreage remain zoned R90. This then would not create a potential non compatible high rise development with environmental problems (noise and air quality) from excess traffic through the extant community. It will then permit desperately need housing to be added to the area in a harmonious manner.

Martin Reiss
9 Don Mills Court

Sent from my iPad

Holly Simmons

From: Jonathan Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:06 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Rezoning Near New Mark Commons

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Hello,

I am writing because I understand the City is considering rezoning parcels located near New Mark Commons from single family to multi-family units. I urge the City **not** to advance this change.

My family and I have lived in the New Mark Commons neighborhood for about ten years. We believe that this zoning change would negatively impact our lives. A high density development in those areas would greatly increase traffic in our neighborhood and decrease the walkability we enjoy. Cars cutting through the neighborhood may make it unsafe for our children to walk independently on the roads and cross them safely. This is particularly a concern for them to walk to our local middle school, Julius West. Additionally, Maryland Avenue is already quite busy and it is difficult for us to turn left onto Maryland Avenue from New Mark Esplanade. Additional traffic would make such turns dangerous or infeasible.

We generally support the City's goal of increasing population density in some areas, but not in these locations.

Thank you,

Jonathan Ferguson

Judy Penny

From: Adam Schuster [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 9:54 AM
To: zoning@rockville.gov; mayorcouncil
Cc: Adam Schuster
Subject: Opposition to Rezoning at Scandia Way and Don Mills Court

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Good morning. I am contacting you to voice my **opposition** to the rezoning proposal at Scandia Way and Don Mills Court.

While I support the need to increase affordable housing in Rockville, I disagree that this parcel represents the best place to accomplish this goal. New Mark Commons, a national registered historic community, would be adversely impacted by the proposed rezoning. The proposal would allow for the possibility of 75-ft high apartment buildings to accommodate 25 dwelling units per acre. If such development is approved, it could put 250 dwelling units on the 9.75-acre site. In comparison, New Mark's zoning accommodates 384 homes on 96 acres. This substantial increase would threaten the very nature of the historic New Mark Commons community through increased car and foot traffic, no plan for enhancing existing infrastructure (including schooling), and no plan to address community ingress/egress issues if development is pursued.

While it has been communicated that this rezoning proposal has been submitted without an associated development plan, I find it illogical that a rezoning request would be made without a development plan under consideration. To me this seems to mean there is a lack of process transparency occurring directed either at Rockville residents, our elected leaders, or both. If there is truly no current developmental plan, I see no reason for the need to act on a rezoning proposal until a party comes forward with a developmental plan driving the need for the rezoning.

For these reasons, I urge my elected leaders and representatives to **not adopt** the proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site into the city's master plan. Instead, I urge you to adopt a rezoning strategy in alignment to the 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my feedback.

Adam Schuster
25 Welwyn Way
Rockville, MD

Judy Penny

From: Mikaela Ober Schuster [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 10:36 AM
To: zoning@rockville.gov; mayorcouncil
Subject: Opposition

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Good morning. I am contacting you to voice my opposition to the rezoning proposal at Scandia Way and Don Mills Court.

While I support the need to increase affordable housing in Rockville, I disagree that this parcel represents the best place to accomplish this goal. New Mark Commons, a national registered historic community, would be adversely impacted by the proposed rezoning. The proposal would allow for the possibility of 75-ft high apartment buildings to accommodate 25 dwelling units per acre. If such development is approved, it could put 250 dwelling units on the 9.75-acre site. In comparison, New Mark's zoning accommodates 384 homes on 96 acres. This substantial increase would threaten the very nature of the historic New Mark Commons community through increased car and foot traffic, no plan for enhancing existing infrastructure (including schooling), and no plan to address community ingress/egress issues if development is pursued.

While it has been communicated that this rezoning proposal has been submitted without an associated development plan, I find it illogical that a rezoning request would be made without a development plan under consideration. To me this seems to mean there is a lack of process transparency occurring directed either at Rockville residents, our elected leaders, or both. If there is truly no current developmental plan, I see no reason for the need to act on a rezoning proposal until a party comes forward with a developmental plan driving the need for the rezoning.

For these reasons, I urge my elected leaders and representatives to not adopt the proposed zoning change for the 10-acre site into the city's master plan. Instead, I urge you to adopt a rezoning strategy in alignment to the 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my feedback.

Mikaela Ober Schuster

25 Welwyn Way

Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Martin Reiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:07 PM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning
Subject: RE: ZOR ID 17

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

October 31, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council and Zoning staff,

I am writing regarding the proposed rezoning of the 9.75 acre property next to New Mark Commons. It is presently zoned RMD90 (4 houses per acre). The city is now considering changing it to RMD25 (25 dwelling units per acre).

Due to Wetlands problems and access problems the builder would be limited to using a smaller portion of the acreage which could result in densely populated high rise buildings. I understand the need for housing in Rockville, but if developed, this change would result in a massive increase in traffic throughout our community streets endangering our families and children

In the 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan it is stated that any development on this property would be compatible with the adjacent neighborhood. This recommended change would not be compatible with our historic community.

Our community would appreciate keeping the zoning as it is now.. But if this is not possible, a lower density that does not endanger the safety of our community would be preferable.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Ann Reiss
9 Don Mills Court
Rockville, MD.

Sent from my iPad

Holly Simmons

From: Ann Reiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 9:59 AM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning
Subject: ZOR ID 17 - Area 17

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

October 31, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council and zoning staff,

I am writing regarding the proposed rezoning of the 9.75 acre property next to New Mark Commons. It is presently zoned R-90 (4 houses per acre). The city is now considering changing it to RMD25 (25 dwelling Units per acres).

Due to wetlands problems and access problems the builder would be limited to using a small portion of the acreage which could result in densely populated high rise buildings. I understand the need for housing in Rockville but if developed this change would result in a massive increase in traffic throughout our community streets endangering our families and children.

In the 2040 Rockville Comprehensive Plan it is stated that any development on this property would be compatible with the adjacent neighborhood. This recommended change would not be compatible with our historic community.

Our community would strongly appreciate keeping the zoning as it is now. But if this is not possible a lower density that does not endanger the safety of our community would be preferable.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Ann Reiss
9 Don Mills Court

Sent from my iPad

November 3, 2025

Pat Reber - community forum

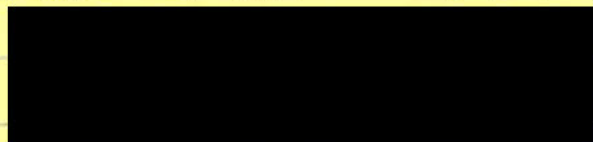
Re: Rezoning plot next to New Mark Commons

Well, I'm here again! Thanks for this opportunity.

We in New Mark Commons appreciate the response we've received so far to our invitation to visit the plot of land we are worried about.

We hope that more of you know you are welcome to come visit so you can see what we are talking about in all our emails! We know you are busy and thank you for ~~the~~ all you do. I've left ~~our~~ contact details with the staff.

Pat Reber - on behalf of our residents.



Holly Simmons

From: PHYLLIS BLUM [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 11:41 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE Deny Proposed RMD-25 Zoning for Parcel ZOR ID 17 (Adjacent to New Mark Commons)

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Begin forwarded message:

From: PHYLLIS BLUM [REDACTED]
Subject: PLEASE Deny Proposed RMD-25 Zoning for Parcel ZOR ID 17 (Adjacent to New Mark Commons)
Date: November 4, 2025 at 11:38:48 AM EST
To: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov

The larger development will negatively impact the residential neighborhoods of Markwood & New Mark Commons & add more traffic to impact the residents of Potomav Valley Nursing & Rehab center

THANK YOU

Phyllis & Samuel Blum
1201 Potomac Valley Rd
Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Jeanne paderofsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:34 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Proposed development of newmark Commons

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

As a long time resident of Newmark Commons / markwood I urge the city not to change zoning to increase the density of our neighborhood.

The area behind Potomac Valley Nursing home and Don Mills Court should be left alone. Our streets cannot handle an increase of traffic and trucks and additional people.

We are a small quiet community and we feel it would be in our best interest to leave it that way. There is absolutely no way that the community can handle apartment buildings or large amounts of housing to pass through Potomac Valley Road and Newmark Esplanade and certainly not Don Mills Court. The disruption to our community would be massive and totally unnecessary. The extra traffic would be detrimental to our wildlife and our ecosystem.

There are enough places to build more apartment buildings and townhouses without disrupting the community.

The number of cars passing through would be enormous and in terms of safety that would be very disruptive to our community.

We have have lived in the community for nearly 50 years and everything has been quiet and undisturbed. Please leave it that way.

Jeanne and Daniel Paderofsky

1194 Potomac Valley Rd, Rockville, MD 20850

Holly Simmons

From: Maryam Pishdad [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:31 AM
To: mayorcouncil; zoning
Subject: Leave our neighborhood alone

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

As a family living in this neighborhood, we don't need the noise or additional buildings!!!! Do not build here!!! We get enough noise from 270 and Maryland ave!!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Holly Simmons

From: Katherine Pishdad [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:33 AM
To: zoning; mayorcouncil
Subject: Do not build here

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

I've lived here my whole life, walking my dog, walking to school and just playing other kids in the neighborhood when I was young, it's safe and quiet for families to grow and create memories. Do not ruin our peace and quiet, pick somewhere else to build.

Holly Simmons

From: Samuel Scheib [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 4:41 PM
To: zoning
Subject: New Mark Commons Rezoning

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Zoning Team,

I am so glad to hear you are considering changing the zoning for the old "school board" site between Potomac Valley and Wooten Parkway to R25. I know NIMBYism is alive and well in my neighborhood and you have heard from some of my neighbors expressing reservations about the higher zoning but I wanted to voice my support. We are in a housing crisis and a neighborhood situated between a major interstate and a metro station is not a rural enclave to preserve but a brownfield site to develop. I look forward to welcoming new neighbors--maybe my next best friend, or a customer for my daughter's babysitting or dog sitting services, new members of our NMC pool who can help us offset costs--and potential customers to make our town center thrive. I hope the mayor and council will not bow to the pressure that will rob the next generation of the ability to own a home in our beloved Rockville.

Sincerely,
Samuel L. Scheib
7 Harlow Court
Rockville, MD 20850
[REDACTED]

Holly Simmons

From: Kyle Browning [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 8:28 AM
To: zoning
Subject: Support for rezoning

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

I am writing to express my support for rezoning the 9.75-acre parcel adjacent to the New Mark Commons community (Parcel ZOR ID 17 in Area 12) to the RMD-25 zone.

Rockville and Montgomery County need more housing, particularly affordable housing, and I support this proposed rezoning in service of that goal.

I understand some of my neighbors have expressed opposition to the proposal, and while I respect and understand their views, but they do not speak for all of us. Many residents of New Mark Commons and the surrounding areas support this plan.

Self interest must give way to the greater good. Rezoning the parcel to RMD-25 to permit dense high-rise development will be a net positive for the city and I urge you to move forward with this and similar rezoning proposals.

Thank you,

Kyle Browning

503 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville

Holly Simmons

From: Ansalan Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 4:14 PM
To: mayorcouncil; Planning Commission; zoning
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rezoning for Multiunit Development in New Mark Commons

WARNING - External email. Exercise caution.

Dear Mayor Ashton, Members of the Rockville City Council, and Rockville Planning Commission,

I am writing as a concerned resident of New Mark Commons to respectfully urge you to reject the proposed rezoning that would allow construction of a large apartment complex or other multiunit building within our single-family community.

Our neighborhood was built in the 1970s with a modern design and a park-like setting that encourages outdoor play, walking, and strong community ties. Many families with young children live here, and the proposed development would fundamentally alter the character, safety, and livability of our community.

The local schools are already operating well beyond capacity. The junior high currently has more than 1,300 students, the elementary school nearly 800, and the high school relies on eight portable classrooms. The school district has indicated that our cluster will not be included in the zoning for the new high school, and there are millions of dollars in unmet repair needs for existing schools. Adding hundreds of new units would only worsen overcrowding without any realistic plan for expansion or relief.

Traffic and safety are also major concerns. Our streets, especially around Potomac Valley Road and New Mark Esplanade, already experience dangerous driving—often from vehicles leaving the nearby nursing home. Adding 250 more housing units would bring a significant increase in traffic, making it even more hazardous for children walking or biking to school and for residents enjoying our sidewalks, playgrounds, and bike paths. Taking such a risk is unnecessary when there are plenty of unoccupied apartment units in Rockville Town Center.

Furthermore, our neighborhood maintains an HOA that invests in our shared spaces and infrastructure—contributions that the proposed multiunit complex would not share, even as its residents would inevitably use those same amenities.

Rockville residents already pay higher taxes than other parts of Montgomery County because we value and work hard to preserve the unique character of our neighborhoods. Approving this rezoning would undermine that quality of life, discourage families from staying, and risk turning Rockville into a more transient community.

I urge you to preserve the integrity, safety, and sustainability of our neighborhood by denying this rezoning proposal. Thank you for your attention and for your continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

Ansalan Stewart
New Mark Commons Resident
Rockville, MD 20850