

**Reston Citizens Association
P.O. Box 2851
Reston VA, 20195**

July 31, 2006

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins
Hunter Mill District Governmental Center
North County Governmental Center
12000 Bowman Towne Drive
Reston, VA 20190-3307

Dear Supervisor Hudgins:

I am writing, first, to thank you for arranging the recent briefing on impending changes in Reston's planning and zoning. Mr. Zook's presentation made it clear that the next months will mark a watershed in Reston's history and that, indeed, the changes contemplated in Fairfax County's zoning ordinance will shape Reston's development for at least the next generation. The Reston Citizens Association wholeheartedly agrees with you that it is essential that all elements of the Reston community have ample opportunities to learn about these changes and to participate in developing them.

The Reston Citizens Association (RCA) is concerned, however, that, even now, at the early stages of re-writing the zoning ordinance, the Reston community needs additional information. Mr. Zook described possible changes in several parts of the zoning ordinance, all of them complex and largely unknown to most Reston residents. Mr. Zook also indicated that he and his staff have in mind various steps extending over a considerable period of time, but did not provide a clear timetable. Presumably some steps involve soliciting information and opinions from the Reston community.

The Reston Citizens Association is planning to sponsor, in association with other Reston groups, a community forum on the impending changes in planning and zoning. The forum's principal aim would be to educate the Reston community about the planning and zoning issues that have prompted the County staff to contemplate rewriting of the zoning ordinance. It is critical that a learning process precede drawing up positions on any proposed changes. We would note, however, that recent newspaper articles indicate that some Reston residents and groups have already begun to take positions.

For a community forum to succeed, we need definitive information, in writing, about the County's plans. We need, at a minimum, a description of the planning and zoning issues that the County staff is planning to address and a timetable for the actions that the County staff plans, in particular, the steps intended to solicit community input. We would appreciate your requesting the County staff to provide RCA and the community with this information. We would also appreciate some indication from you about the methods you intend to use to enable meaningful community participation in the revision process. In our view, there needs to be structured participation of residents from all around Reston, including interested citizens who may not be professional planners or architects but who have an abiding interest in the community and its future.

We would, of course, welcome your participation and the participation of County staff in our upcoming community forum on planning and zoning. The RCA forum planning committee consists of Mike Corrigan, Jim Hubbard, and John Lovaas. We would be happy to meet with you or County staff prior to the forum, should you desire.

I look forward to working with you and the County staff towards a planning and zoning ordinance that is consistent with Reston's founding principles and that will add character and beauty to Reston in the coming decades.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Mike Corrigan
President - Reston Citizens Association

cc: Mr. Jim Zook
Reston Press (Reston Times, Connection and Observer)