

**Reston Citizens Association Statement
for the February 15, 2006
RCC Public Hearing**

I'm Mike Corrigan, President of the Reston Citizens Association. Over the past 20 months the RCA has reviewed alternatives for Reston governance, in particular the alternative of a town. We identified many different definitions of "boundaries" for Reston. In particular, we identified the significant differences between the Reston Master Plan boundaries and those of Tax District #5. We publicized these differences, and initially proposed town boundaries the same as those of the tax district. This led to a movement among the "outlier" residents of the tax district – those living outside the Master Plan boundaries. This movement did two things. It opposed a town with the tax district boundaries, and it formed a slate of candidates for the RCC board which endorsed lower costs for the RCC. This concern with costs was based partly on their perception of lower value for their money from the RCC for the "outlier" community.

Based on the arguments of the outlier community that they did not consider themselves part of Reston and that they did not want to be in a town of Reston, we revised the proposed town boundaries to match the Master Plan boundaries. The outlier community made it clear that they would be happy to be removed from the tax district if Reston became a town. So we also proposed that, if a town were created, the tax district should be dissolved and its facilities and functions moved to the town.

Since the outliers do not consider themselves part of Reston, and since they perceive that they derive little benefit from the RCC and do not want to be part of the tax district, we strongly encourage the RCC board to propose revising the tax district boundaries to match the Reston Master Plan.

We believe in the community center and believe it is an integral part of Reston. The best way to keep and enhance the community center is to make it match the boundaries of the community that derives the bulk of its benefits: this is the Reston Master Plan community. The reduction of revenues from the loss of the outlier community appears to be well under 10%. The RCA plan for a town offsets this loss of revenue by integrating the staffs and facilities of RCC and RA. A much larger loss of revenue could occur if the community that does not want to be part of the RCC in the first place determines the RCC finances.

We believe that the "outliers" that ran for, and won, seats as directors on the RCC are genuinely interested in greater efficiency in the RCC and, if they are required to continue paying for RCC, improved communications and services to the outlier community. However, it is clear from the testimony of outlier members of the tax district, both to RCC and to RCA, that their strong preference is to be removed from the tax district from which they perceive little benefit. Change the boundaries to the Master Plan and let them go. The Reston Community Center will benefit from a membership that believes itself to be part of Reston, whether or not Reston votes in a referendum to become a town.