

E&R 2011-002

Environment and Recreation Committee Resolution, July 10, 2011

Whereas, there is too much litter and trash in the streams and along the roadways of the Mount Vernon district;

Resolved, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations send a letter drafted by the E&R Committee to request help with litter prevention of landscaping and builders' associations in Fairfax county:

“We are requesting your help to prevent littering in Fairfax County. We want to reduce trash in our community and believe that your organization can help achieve this goal.

Members of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations have observed that some work crews from the building and landscaping industries buy carryout food and beverages for breakfast and lunch, eat their meals in or near their work truck, and discard food wrappers, food containers, beverage containers, cigarette debris and butts on the ground or streets. The amount of trash discarded in public places is enough that we think these observations warrant your attention.

Littering is unsightly, impacts the environment, and degrades our property values. The 2011 Potomac River watershed cleanup sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation removed 228 tons of trash from 613 sites in five states, including Virginia. At Little Hunting Creek, a small tributary of the Potomac River that forms the historical boundary of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 66 volunteers picked up 255 bags of bottles, cans, and litter. We expect you would agree that this trash should not have been there in the first place, and therefore should not have required a clean-up at all. All this litter does not enhance the attractiveness of our community to tourists or to new residents.

The MVCCA has three requests. We ask that you urge your member companies to:

- Provide trash bags for employee and company vehicles
- Inform employees and contractors that under Virginia law, littering is a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and/or a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,500
- Ask their crew supervisors to more stringently supervise their employees and contractors in order to prevent littering on public and private properties.

The MVCCA appreciates your consideration of these requests and looks forward to working with you to improve our community. If you wish to discuss our requests or have suggestions for additional ways to address this problem, please contact Elizabeth Martin, Chair of MVCCA's Environment and Recreation Committee, at 703-360-0691 or betsy@folhc.org.”