



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Storck
Mount Vernon District Supervisor
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Supervisor Storck,

Aug 5, 2021

Ref: Single Adult Homeless Shelter Resolution

The MVCCA's resolution regarding the complicated issue of building a singles adult homeless shelter at 2801 Beacon Hill Rd collocated with the new Fire station is attached.

As you noted during the MVCCA General Council meeting where this issue was discussed, there are many voices and opinions. Our democratic process voted to approve this resolution. Furthermore, the vote within the Planning and Zoning committee was overwhelmingly in favor of this resolution.

We look forward to continued interaction with you and the county staff on this matter. And look forward to an outcome that is positive and beneficial for all concerned.

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward
Cochair
MVCCA

Attached: MVCCA Resolution- Finding a location for the single adult homeless shelter

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA) RESOLUTION PZ-2021-05 FINDING A LOCATION FOR THE SINGLE ADULT HOMELESS SHELTER AND LOCATING A NEW FAMILY HOMELESS SHELTER AT 2801 BEACON HILL RD AND RICHMOND HIGHWAY (OLD HYBLA VALLEY NURSERY SITE)

1. WHEREAS, Fairfax County has an urgent need of affordable Housing, Workforce Housing and Supportive Housing; and the communities in the Mount Vernon District are economically and ethnically diverse;
2. WHEREAS, the county used bond money to purchase the property at 2801 Beacon Road for the express purpose of building a new fire station to replace fire station #11 on Hulvey Terrace;
3. WHEREAS, in 2016, Fairfax County residents passed a bond to fund the replacement of the aging Eleanor Kennedy Shelter with a new shelter; the county then started to look for a new site for the Kennedy shelter;
4. WHEREAS, in 2020 County staff, without notification or consultation with neighboring communities, proceeded to plan to utilize the property at 2801 Beacon Hill Rd to relocate the Eleanor Kennedy homeless shelter and co-locate other housing there;
5. Whereas, On 6 November 2020, Supervisor Storck formed an advisory committee to provide feedback on proposed project including on the appropriate housing solution for 2801 Beacon Hill Rd;
6. Whereas, During the first four meetings (November 2020 – February 2021) of the newly formed advisory committee, which did not include all neighboring communities, members were presented with details of a draft block design for a replacement Kennedy shelter, other supportive housing and the fire station;
7. Whereas, questions about the proposed relocation of the Eleanor Kennedy shelter to the Beacon Hill Rd site began to be raised by citizens, the neighboring community of Spring Bank was invited to join the advisory group, and Supervisor Storck agreed to meet with the Spring Bank community to hear their concerns;
8. WHEREAS, One Fairfax Policy requires that "all residents... hav[e] the opportunity to participate in the region's economic vitality", that "everyone feels safe to live, work, learn, and play in any neighborhood of Fairfax County" and the County will work to "protect existing stable neighborhoods";
9. WHEREAS, Supervisor Storck on June 29, 2021 indicated no decision has been made and the County is still open to other sites for the Kennedy Shelter; however, at that meeting staff rejected other sites for various reasons and continued to state that they were continuing to work on the designs for the Beacon Hill property;
10. WHEREAS, at the June 29th meeting the Assistant Fire Chief stated that members of the Firefighters' union who will occupy the Beacon Hill Rd station did not support the single adult shelter at this site due to safety concerns;
11. Whereas; based on the Firefighters' concerns and neighbors' concerns that this location is not well suited for the single adult homeless shelter;

12. WHEREAS, a family shelter is compatible with existing, stable neighborhoods and there is a need for a better family shelter in the Mount Vernon area;

13. WHEREAS, the Beacon Hill Rd site is more appropriate for a new family shelter; and there are funding sources for a family shelter which should be pursued immediately;

A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that Supervisor Storck, County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors diligently locate another site for the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter single adult shelter and not continuously reject sites presented to them;

B. FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that they move quickly to locate a more suitable site for the Kennedy single adult shelter and provide appropriate funds for a new and expansive family homeless shelter at the Beacon Hill Rd site.

C. FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that County staff conduct a transparent, public, inclusive and thorough investigation of alternative locations for emergency housing in Mt Vernon and Lee Districts; and

D. FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that the County provide the results of the "equity tools" required by One Fairfax policy demonstrating that the County considered "whole community benefits and burdens, [and] identify[ied] strategies to mitigate negative impacts, and promot[ed] success for all people in planning and decision making".

E. FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA supports co-locating a family emergency shelter, affordable and workforce housing at 2801 Beacon Hill Rd and opposes including the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter there.

Approved by the MVCCA General Council at the July 28, 2021, General Council Meeting