

April 21, 2009
18000 Bentley Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Phil Andrews, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland, 20850

RE: ZTA 09-01

Dear President Andrews,

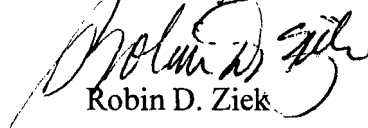
I am President of the Bentley Road Civic Association. Everyone I have talked with is supportive of this Amendment, but as we have not had a formal meeting, I will speak on my own behalf.

I ask you to support the proposed amendment. This provides a much-needed refinement of the *Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan*, which you adopted in 1998. Since then, some have struggled with the concept of "Rural Village" that is promoted in the *Master Plan*. However, through various reviews over the past 11 years, we have all come to better understand of this concept as it applies to future growth and development in Sandy Spring. Small size and scale, with shopkeepers who become committed to the community, and uses that serve the needs of the local community are all facets of our Rural Village.

The Rural Village concept is crucial to maintain the historic character of Sandy Spring. We are an important component of the County's history and of the historic preservation program in general. Through efforts of private homeowners, business owners, and county agencies such as Park and Planning, we are the focus of several important county programs. This includes the Rachel Carson Trail, with our segment that focuses on important contributions to the Underground Railroad as people fleeing slavery passed through Sandy Spring. This also includes Woodlawn, the Red Door Store, and the Friends Meeting House, as well as the numerous private historic homes. Each site is linked with our historic roads such as Norwood Road, with the 1820s home of that name. Even with MD 108, a state road with a lot of traffic, our *Master Plan* required minimum road widening so that it can still serve as our Main Street.

Our history is very important to us, and the 1998 *Master Plan* reflects an understanding that future growth should reinforce what everyone loves about Sandy Spring - that it is small and personal. This was distilled to the concept of "Rural Village" and we strongly support that concept today, as we look forward to more commercial growth in Sandy Spring. This proposed amendment will go a long way to clarifying the intent of the adopted *Master Plan*. Please give this your support.

Yours truly,



Robin D. Ziek