



Gaithersburg
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

November 14, 2006

Mr. Bruce Romer
Chief Administrative Officer
Montgomery County Maryland
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Bruce:

I received your letter of November 13, 2006 and I am very disappointed by its tone, lack of acknowledgement of the City's efforts, and its assertion that the City, "is attempting to wash its hands of this issue and push the day laborers outside of City border." This is simply not the case. We have been acting in good faith to resolve this difficult issue and will continue to do so.

I also read with interest the chronology of events contained in your letter. There was no real mention of the tremendous effort our task force and staff put, over many months, into studying this matter and formulating plans to address it. Nor did you acknowledge the exhaustive site search we undertook where we considered any location that had a potential of meeting the task force criteria.

My letter to you last week concluded with my thought that an employment center can be effective and a true benefit to all residents if established in the right location. We are trying to be practical here. The letter communicated that we were not likely to find a spot within the City and recommended that the County commence a search in a heavy commercial or industrial area in order to move forward and attempt to solve the problem. These areas are not available within the City.

While I understand that you believe that the best location for an employment center is in the City's Olde Towne, the Mayor and City Council disagree. The Mayor and City Council have made it clear that neither 17 North Frederick Avenue nor 415 East Diamond Avenue are appropriate locations for a center for many reasons, including their proximity to residential neighborhoods and schools, traffic issues, and public safety concerns.

I would like to address your points concerning the current gathering spot at 17 North Frederick Avenue. We have been asking you to terminate the lease there for over a year and have indicated our willingness to sit down with you and resolve this matter. I understand you will be meeting with the property owner to negotiate termination of the lease. I would like to meet with you as soon as possible thereafter to discuss this matter.

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CITY MANAGER
David Brangman

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In closing, I do not think that we advance a solution to the day laborer situation by continuing to exchange letters that point fingers at one another. Instead, I hope that we can continue to dialogue with you and other stakeholders to redefine a partnership that achieves the objective of creating an employment center that will serve the needs of day laborers in the City and other parts of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Humpton".

David B. Humpton
City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council
Tony Tomasello