



Gaithersburg
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

September 20, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Romer:

Bruce

I am in receipt of your letter dated September 19, 2006 concerning the day laborer situation in Gaithersburg. As you know, the property owner of the shopping center at 117 North Frederick Avenue has withdrawn his consent to allow the workers to gather at this site, and has formally requested that the City initiate enforcement action.

As your letter indicates, the City has determined that the property Montgomery County leased at 17 North Frederick Avenue is not a suitable location for an employment center. In fact, there was a formal motion that was approved unanimously by the Mayor and City Council on September 5, 2006 stating that 17 North Frederick Avenue was not an appropriate site for an employment center.

It is our understanding that some of the workers intend to start gathering at 17 North Frederick Avenue to seek employment each morning. This is not acceptable to the City because it is not an appropriate location, and it does not have the necessary zoning approvals. Accordingly, I am requesting that the County, as lessee of 17 North Frederick Avenue, grant limited agency to the Gaithersburg City Police Department to enforce trespassing at this location.

I would like to assure you that finding a suitable location for a County supported employment center in the Gaithersburg area remains a key priority to the City of Gaithersburg, and that I will continue to work with County officials to secure an appropriate site. Once we locate an appropriate site, it is our understanding that Montgomery County will fund the lease of the property as well as the operation of the employment center.

Until such time as we secure an appropriate site, we have suggested that the workers gathering in Gaithersburg go to the existing County facilities in Silver Spring or Wheaton. Another alternative suggested to the workers is to utilize the Labor Ready facility in Rockville.

Your ongoing assistance is appreciated. If you should have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me at 301-258-6310.

Sincerely,

David B. Humpton
City Manager

dbh/sp

cc: Mayor and City Council
Paul Folkers, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2098
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • TTY 301-258-6430 • cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov • www.gaitthersburgmd.gov

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