

Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony as a Montgomery County resident. We live at 13546 Travilah Road where we also operate a small woman owned Day Care Center supporting our community. We do not have an immediate desire to change our sewage system. We are filing for a sewer category change to allow flexibility in the future in the event of a septic system failure to allow continuity of an existing business.

In 2015 and 2016 Mr. Hanson informed us of his plans to sell his property for development by Toll Brothers. In late 2016 we attended a Mt Prospect Farm community meeting and spoke with the Toll Brothers lead representative Tom Mateya. Plans at that meeting identified a main roadway and septic system running right behind our property at 13546 Travilah Rd where we live and operate a small woman owned business. Following the meeting we engaged Mr. Mateya about the possibility of connecting to that sewer system. He indicated a likely ability to do so asked us to follow up with separate correspondence.

After 3 emails to Mr. Mateya between NOV 2016 and MAR 2017, he responded that he had not forgotten about our request and indicated an intention to remind RCI and Toll Brother Engineers of our request. There was indication of an intention to follow up with us, which did not happen.

We subsequently filed for a sewer category change. We registered to testify at the planning board meeting on 4JUN20. During the meeting the planning board indicated that the designed low-pressure sewage system could not handle additional any load. We were present for a virtual meeting, but not allowed an opportunity to testify.

We doubt the determination that a newly installed sewer system has zero capacity for expansion and are disappointed if any design prevents such expansion when we clearly expressed this desire to the builders years ago. Due to the limited time between the boards determination and the county hearing we do not have any additional evidence to refute the boards recommendation. At a minimum we request the opportunity to provide an independent engineering evaluation in the future to reconsider this determination.

We are certainly not septic experts, but as a citizens of Montgomery County, it is extremely disappointing that calm, constructive feedback during community development meetings and requests to participate in county planning board meetings fell on deaf ears. As citizens we have had zero opportunity to input to this process. We request direction from the planning board to provide objective quality evidence of the capacity of the low pressure sewage system behind our property and the projected addition of our property to that system prior to denial of our request.

Very Respectfully,  
Ben Gompf and Renee Shuman