

September 14, 2020

To: Members of the Montgomery County Council
From: Vincent Russo, MCPS parent, Rockville resident
Re: Public testimony to County Council on 2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy

I ask the Council to support each of the Chapter 4, School Element Recommendations in the Subdivision Staging Policy before you. I especially support recommendations that eliminate the application of residential construction moratoria outside of the proposed Greenfield Impact Area. Policies that restrict the supply of housing, especially near our transit centers, are counterproductive.

The Council must be mindful that in order to maintain public support for less restrictive growth policies it must devote resources to address school capacity. As a parent of three MCPS students, I am sensitive to concerns about overcrowded schools. However, the data clearly show that new construction accounts for a relatively minor share of enrollment growth so I do not support restrictions on building, especially in Infill Impact Areas.

I served as a resident representative on the Schools Technical Advisory Team (STAT 2020). I live in the Twinbrook neighborhood in the City of Rockville where we face the same dilemma about managing growth in the face of crowded schools. I was pleased to bring that perspective to the work group.

I applaud Montgomery Planning staff for the extensive outreach they did at multiple forums throughout the process. I saw firsthand how the recommendations they put forth incorporated community feedback.

Thank you,
Vincent Russo
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