



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

**Robert K. Sutton**  
*Chair*

**May 23, 2024**

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Friedson and Members of the County Council,

On March 6, 2024, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) received a briefing from Planning Department's Midcounty and Historic Preservation Office staff on the *Great Seneca Plan*. The HPC regularly provides comments to the Planning Board and County Council on master plan updates which impact historic resources, recommend resources for designation, or include significant historical elements. As part of the HPC's role and responsibilities under Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code, I am pleased to offer the Commission's recommendations to the Planning Board. The HPC indicated its support of all historic preservation related plan elements as presented to the Planning Board for consideration as part of their public hearing process.

The HPC continues to be supportive of this Plan and finds that it does not conflict with the preservation of the area's existing character. The Belward Farm, a designated Master Plan Historic Site, is the historic property which will be most impacted by the Life Sciences Center-centric plan elements. Staff have reiterated preservation goals from previous planning efforts for this property. These robust recommendations will preserve the integrity of the site, and provide opportunities for the public to continue to enjoy the hallmark farming context central to the area's history when the site is adaptively reused at a future date. In addition, the historic context and Historic Preservation Appendix in the Plan provide an updated and inclusive framework for understanding the history of the plan area. The Planning Board reviewed these recommendations, supported each of the historic preservation elements, and forwarded them for your consideration without any changes.

The Historic Preservation Commission requests your continued support of these plan elements. We look forward to working with you as this Plan progresses and are available for any questions during the public hearing and worksessions.

Sincerely,

Karen Burditt, Vice Chair  
Historic Preservation Commission

Cc: Members, Historic Preservation Commission

Artie Harris, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Jason K. Sartori, Planning Director  
Pamela Dunn, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council