



P.O. Box 142 — Sykesville, MD 21784

VIA EMAIL

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Julia W. Gouge, Commissioner
The Honorable Dean Minnich, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael Zimmer, Commissioner
The Carroll County Office Building
225 North Center Street
Westminster MD 21157

RE: 2008 Freedom Area Citizens Council Priorities

Dear Commissioners Gouge, Minnich and Zimmer:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom Area Citizens Council (FACC) to set forth our group's priorities for 2008. You may recall that we provided a similar letter last year.

FACC is thankful for some of the accomplishments in Freedom over the last year that were concerns of our residents. For example, working with FACC and holding public meetings on the South Carroll Master Plan.

Permit me to reiterate some of the priorities from past years that as of yet remain unfinished business:

1. **Infrastructure Improvements.** FACC recommends the creation of a water board representing the interests of those on the public water systems, namely the residents of the Freedom Area. The citizens of Freedom need to know how water rates are decided. We want accountability and transparency in this process.
2. **Traffic.** Increased development in the Freedom Area has caused major traffic concerns. Most recently, our neighbors have been concerned about increased traffic on Mineral Hill Road with the construction of the new South Carroll Senior Center. In recent years, residents of Carrolltowne have expressed concerns about traffic on MacBeth Way, a proposed connector road, and Ridge Road, home to the Security Development Corporation's plan for Kali Drive. With new development on Londontown Boulevard, we strongly urge the County to reconsider a connector road at Georgetown Boulevard to alleviate the congestion surrounding Eldersburg

Marketplace. The County should educate communities and developers on their options for traffic calming, and make resources available to speak to these residents at community association meetings. FACC supports safety improvement and funding for connector roads.

3. Economic Development. As stated for the past three years, the Warfield complex should be the County's number one site for the South Carroll area for jobs as well as industrial/office expansion. It is possible that this site could grow with additional state surplus (e.g. Martin Gross property). However, we have seen plans for other commercial development throughout Freedom, decentralizing the economic growth in the area. The County needs to refocus on Warfield.
4. Representation. FACC would like to see greater representation to the Freedom Area. FACC urges the creation of five commissioner districts, as decided by voters. We support Map Option 2 for the following reasons: The Freedom Area would have two commissioners, consistent with FACC's request for more representation in our area; and this Option was recommended by the Redistricting Committee. In 2006, this issue died in the legislature. In 2007, it was completely ignored. In 2008, it is being resurrected in the form of Map Option 1, the same proposal that was unsuccessful in the past. We urge the Commissioners to keep this issue at the forefront, and resolve it well before the next election.

In addition, FACC would urge upon the County a few additional priorities that have come to light over the last year, particularly with respect to the planning conferences that the County has been so kind to host, especially in relation to the master plan process:

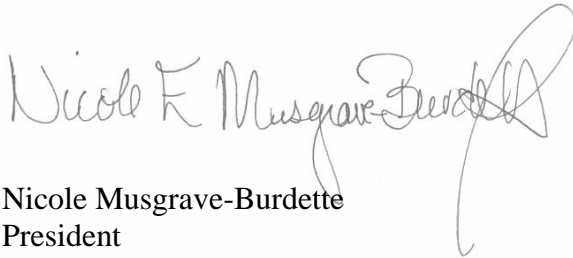
1. Master Plan. In connection with the master planning process, FACC would like to see the County adopt a set of principles or guidelines for future development, particularly along main corridors in Carroll County such as Routes 26 and 32. We would encourage the County to utilize the Gateway Committee's recommendations made a number of years ago during the tenure of the last Board of Commissioners as a starting point. The County should also consider development in line with current zoning districts and consider new mixed-use zoning that would not jeopardize the already stressed school system, road system, and water supply. As discussed with the County Planners, FACC is also interested in seeing more green development. With water being a limited resource, developers should be encouraged to conserve.
2. Law Enforcement. Recently, there have been hearings and information sessions on the creation of a County Police Force. FACC cannot support the proposed ordinance for a County Police Force with the limited information we have at this time. Freedom is the largest unincorporated area in the County. We have no

municipal police force to rely upon during a transition. Already, we have too few law enforcement officers for the area. Having less would jeopardize our safety. FACC has been happy with the support and cooperation we received from the Sheriff's Department. FACC supports expanding the Sheriff's Department in lieu of a County Policy Force.

Before we could support such a proposal, we would need more information on how a County Police Force could benefit our unique community. As we have indicated in our prior communications, FACC hopes to facilitate further discussion between the community and the Board.

Once again, we hope that you will favorably consider these priorities for the Freedom Area.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole E. Musgrave-Burdette". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Nicole Musgrave-Burdette
President

cc: Mr. Frank Johnson, Director, Government Relations
Mr. Steve Powell, Chief of Staff
Mr. Steve Horn, Director, Planning
Del. Susan Krebs
Sen. Allan Kittleman
The Carroll County Times
The Eldersburg Eagle
The Gazette
The Advocate
The Baltimore Examiner
FACC Board & Membership