

From: Rob Lever [REDACTED]
To: Howerton, Leslye
Cc:
Sent: Wed 10/15/2014 2:29 PM
Subject: Red: Bethesda Downtown plan (Sacks Association)

Ms. Howerton,

I'd like to add a couple of remarks to my earlier comments, since I did not address the question of density in the new plan.

I know this has been a sensitive subject in our neighborhood here given our recent history. But I don't think it has to be viewed as an all-or-nothing proposition. There could be lower-density development which might be palatable to many people -- and I think the county survey suggested many people like this option.

While I love this neighborhood the way it is, I believe there is some frustration over the fact that some of us are now living (literally) in the shadow of higher density developments, and the old quiet neighborhood is not coming back.

If the county is developing a 20-year plan, we need to understand that a lot of things can change in that time frame. We might like things the way they are now, but our views (or the views of our heirs and successors) may change over the next 10-15 years. So it could make sense to have a more flexible plan, which does not lock in the County or homeowners.

This is a middle-class district which finds itself surrounded by a lot of high-end development. We may or may not be able to preserve things the way they are. But given the fact that conditions are changing so quickly, I would suggest a flexible approach to zoning.

Rob Lever
[REDACTED]