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**Siok, Pat**

**From:** danhoffman123@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 2:48 PM  
**To:** Ike Leggett; mcp-chairman@mncppc-mc.org; Crystal.Myers@mncppc-mc.org; Berliner, Roger  
**Subject:** Elementary School Location for the White Flint Sector Plan

Honorable Royce Hanson  
 Chairman  
 Montgomery County Planning Board  
 8787 Georgia Avenue  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Chairman Hanson:

The Randolph Civic Association (RCA), representing over 1300 homes, is the local community association for residents of the following communities: Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Montrose Park, Hilltop Square and Franklin Park. The RCA is a community-focused organization, updating residents about Montgomery County information, current events and legislative and regulatory changes. RCA also represents the community in local regional organizations, such as Montgomery County Civic Federation and North Bethesda Congress. RCA is proud to also have representation on the White Flint Sector Plan Advisory Group, and looks forward to remaining active in the process.

One of the most important aspects of the White Flint Sector Plan, from the perspective of RCA, is the location of a new elementary school. This topic has been brought up in sector plan advisory meetings, and the advisory group provided input on the two locations currently being suggested by the planning board staff. There was broad consensus among the advisory group, consisting of residents and developers, that **neither of the two currently proposed locations are desirable**. In fact, no one from the advisory group spoke in support of either location. A member of the planning board staff dismissed our concerns and stated that these locations would remain in their proposal. RCA specifically has been requesting that Rocking Horse Center, a MCPS facility located less than a half mile from the White Flint Sector boundary line, be considered as a potential location. It would provide 18 acres, in a quiet residential area, as opposed to three acres wedged between major roads. A new elementary school at Rocking Horse Center could also serve to take pressure off of Viers Mill Elementary, which is currently over 140 students *over* capacity. The two currently proposed locations would also take green space away from the sector, something the advisory group is against.

The primary justification for the selection of the two locations is that they are within sector boundaries; however it appears these boundaries have also been drawn somewhat arbitrarily to begin with. The RCA is concerned that the planning board staff are recommending school locations without sufficient research and community input. The location of new schools should be based on the best possible location for the children of the county, not based on arbitrary boundaries and political concerns. **We feel the planning board should adopt no position regarding the location of potential schools until alternative sites have been fully vetted.**

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We have been satisfied with the planning process thus far, and hope that the desires of our community are taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hoffman  
 Randolph Civic Association  
 Member, White Flint Sector Plan Advisory Group

B-00 REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

CC:  
 Honorable Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
 Honorable Roger Berliner, Councilmember

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