

August 28, 2014

Subject: CCT

Mayor Katz,

I have been a resident of Gaithersburg for the past 32 years. I have lived in Washingtonian Woods since the neighborhood was first built (24 years) and I am proud of the city and neighborhood where I reside. My address is 421 Upshire Circle, so I live in a home that backs up to Great Seneca Highway. For all these years, I thought the upper most portion of my backyard (a matter of feet) inside the fence line, was owned by our HOA. After meeting with Rick Kiegel (MTA representative) to get an update on the plans for the CCT, I discovered that the upper most portion of my backyard belongs to the City of Gaithersburg. I need clarification on this. This is the property inside the neighborhood fence.

With the proposed bus lanes going along the side of Great Seneca Highway which abuts my property, this is a huge concern of mine. Per the drawings and blueprints displayed by Rick Kiegel, my property is actually the closest property to the proposed bus lanes. The back corner of my home would be 40 feet from the proposed jersey wall. The proposal will remove all trees that currently exist along Great Seneca Highway in our section of the plan and no plans shown to our neighborhood indicates there would be any room left for even a single row of trees. Since the motto of Gaithersburg is trees (as seen on all your city signs) this is unacceptable to me. Noise studies are being done to study the impact of the new lanes, but the true impact will not be evident until all those trees are gone. The "line of disturbance" will dip drastically into my yard. MTA promises to get everything disturbed during construction back to original condition, but I don't know how this can happen when you are talking about 24 year old trees in my yard.

Currently the county and state are duking it out with proposals and plans, but the City of Gaithersburg needs to be involved because you also have property at the edge of Washingtonian Woods that will be impacted. I invite you to visit me and I would be glad to show you the area I am referencing. My husband and I actually installed a very attractive water feature in our back yard that runs constantly in an attempt to drown out the existing noise from the highway. I shudder to think what the sounds will be when trees are removed and the traffic is 48 feet slower to our backyard.

As a community, we are planning a meeting with the MTA on Sept 30th. @7:00 PM. We are planning to invite various community leaders including you. Please make Washingtonian Woods a priority and get involved.

Thank you in advance and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Doris Fejka
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