

Kemp Mill Civic Association

**614 Hillsboro Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902
president@kempmill.org
www.kempmill.org**

May 7, 2009

Mr. Ike Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

I am writing to let you know that the membership of the Kemp Mill Civic Association (KMCA), which represents about 1600 households, recently discussed the issue of the Wheaton Regional Library and overwhelmingly voted in favor of supporting the renovation of the library in its current location and opposed relocating it to the Central Business District (CBD). Given the declining physical condition of the library, we urge you to include funds for full renovation of the library in the County's 2010 Capital Improvement Plan. A partial renovation to "stabilize" the library does not seem to serve the goals of either relocation or full renovation, but merely seems to delay the ultimate decision to the detriment of library patrons while the County hopes for a better economic climate. The KMCA would like to be actively involved in developing ideas for the library's renovation.

The current location is in a residential area with easy access by bus, foot, bicycle, and car. It is readily accessible to public transit with a bus stop right outside the front door as well as another bus stop across the street. It is located at a major intersection on Georgia Ave., just a few blocks from the Metro. Therefore, if there are many library patrons who are expected to arrive by metro as has been suggested at public meetings, the riders could simply transfer from the Metro to the bus and arrive at the doors of the library.

In addition, there is ample free parking already available without the need to build a costly parking structure. Indeed, the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) noted at their meeting on March 17, 2009, that "relocation would cost more than renovation...the cost doubles, in part, because we will need to build a parking structure." The higher cost of relocating the library rather than simply renovating it in place does not seem fiscally responsible.

The KMCA also supports the revitalization of the Wheaton central business district (CBD). Creating a vibrant downtown Wheaton will benefit nearby neighborhoods such as Kemp Mill as well as the entire County. At a recent KMCA meeting, residents engaged in a productive discussion about the redevelopment process with Rob Klein from the Wheaton Redevelopment Office. We believe that downtown Wheaton can be revitalized without moving the library there. Other options exist for stimulating development, such as an arts and cultural center, major book store, or technology center.

President: Dr. Gabriel Kengni

Vice President: Ariel Winter

Treasurer: Marilyn Lawlor

Secretary: Gail Javitt

Directors: Michael Auslin, Adrian Black, Jonathan Fink, Jim Priestley, Selena Snow

Kemp Mill Civic Association

614 Hillsboro Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902
president@kempmill.org
www.kempmill.org

We look forward to working with you on both the renovation of the library and the redevelopment of downtown Wheaton. Thank you for your strong leadership on behalf of our County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabriel Kengni
President

cc: Natalie Cantor
Rita Gale
Rob Klein

President: Dr. Gabriel Kengni

Vice President: Ariel Winter

Treasurer: Marilyn Lawlor

Secretary: Gail Javitt

Directors: Michael Auslin, Adrian Black, Jonathan Fink, Jim Priestley, Selena Snow