

**Interviews**

MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2019

TO: County Council

FROM: Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq. *MDL*  
Clerk of the Council

SUBJECT: Interviews - Montgomery County Planning Board

Councilmembers should bring their June 11 staff report/packet  
to the June 13 interviews

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611\\_8.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190611/20190611_8.pdf)

The Council received 24 applications to fill the two upcoming vacancies on the Montgomery County Planning Board. Seven applicants were selected for interviews. Applicants were advised that the Council will designate a new Chair in conjunction with the appointment process by designating either an appointee or another sitting Boardmember to be the Chair. If a current member of the Board is selected as Chair, both of the new appointees will serve as Boardmembers. All applicants were asked whether they were interested in serving as Chair only, Boardmember only, or whether they were interested in either position. Responses are noted below.

**Background**

The Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires that no more than three members of the Planning Board be from the same political party. Members serve four-year terms and are limited by State law to two full terms. Mr. Anderson is eligible to reapply as Chair per Section 15-102 of Land Use Article of Maryland Code. Members of the Planning Board may continue to serve until their successors are appointed and have qualified.

Current Boardmembers are Casey Anderson (Dem), Chair; Norman Dreyfuss (Rep); Natali Fani-Gonzalez (Dem); Gerald Cichy (Rep); and Tina Patterson (Unaffiliated).

The following applicants will be interviewed beginning at **2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11** in the 3rd floor Council Hearing Room:

Casey Anderson (Dem) *as Chair* ©1  
Julian Haffner (Dem) *as Member* ©73

On **Thursday, June 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** the Council will interview the following in the 3rd floor Council Hearing Room:

William Kirwan (Dem) *as Member* ©95  
Charles Kauffman (Dem) *as Member* ©77

On **Thursday, June 13, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** the Council will interview the following in the 3rd floor Council Hearing Room:

Jennifer Russel (Dem) *as Member* ©112  
Partap Verma (Dem) *as Member* ©121  
Brandy Brooks (Dem) *as Chair or Member* ©53

**ADDENDUM**

AGENDA ITEM #1

June 13, 2019

**Interviews**

MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2019

**TO:** County Council

**FROM:** Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq. *ML*  
Clerk of the Council

**SUBJECT:** Interviews – Montgomery County Planning Board

Attached are additional letters of endorsement for the two vacancies on the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Anderson



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800, Rockville, MD 20850  
301-738-0015 phone | 301-738-8792 fax | www.mccc.md.com

June 10, 2019

Nancy Navarro  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: MNCPPC Planning Board Chair Appointment

Dear President Navarro and Council Members:

**The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports the reappointment of Casey Anderson as Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission/Montgomery County Planning Board. He has exhibited the thoughtful, steady leadership needed for that position. And he stands in fine company for reappointment, which is something that has not occurred in that position thus far in this century.**

Given that circumstance, it is germane today to observe that during Montgomery County's tumultuous 1970's through 1990's, we evolved from a largely white, suburban place to a largely diverse, urban and suburban place. During that 30-year period, County and MNCPPC policies made possible the citification of Bethesda and Silver Spring, the Agricultural Reserve, the Growth/Subdivision Staging Policy, the Adequate Public Facilities and MPDU Ordinances, 12 Metrorail Stations and the Ride On System, Life Sciences Center and I-270 Technology Corridor, Intercounty Connector and Silver Spring-Bethesda Transitway/Purple Line, the much enlarged and reimagined Gemantown and Clarksburg with a planned Corridor Cities Transitway, a revised County General Plan and greatly expanded parks system.

In all these innovative, interconnected place-making initiatives, MNCPPC was led by four Chairmen – Royce Hanson, Norman Christeller, Gus Bauman, Bill Hussmann – who, as with Mr. Anderson today, provided thoughtful, creative, steady leadership that was deserving of four consecutive reappointments. And four County Councils did just that by unanimous votes.

But since the turn of this century, it must be noted that no Chair has yet to be reappointed in Montgomery County. Fortunately, Casey Anderson's successful record as the Chair offers a welcome break with our more recent history of continual turnover at the top.

Chairman Anderson's creative leadership over the past four years has earned his reappointment by the Council. As the County continues in its demographic and development trends, he provides the

*To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*

①



kind of calm, thoughtful leadership our highly diverse and growing County needs. He understands we cannot act as an island but are part of a region of over 6,000,000.

As pressures keep building over how we are to maintain and, most critically, grow an economically vibrant community, when both our jobs and housing creation are falling behind those of neighboring jurisdictions, threatening our tax base and thus way of life, Chairman Anderson has demonstrated the requisite grasp of the necessary economic and regulatory considerations.

Accordingly, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the reappointment of Casey Anderson as Chair of the MNCPPC/Montgomery County Planning Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Georgette Godwin".

Georgette Godwin  
President and CEO

cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Montgomery County Delegation

Anderson

Hello Councilmembers,

I wish to express misgivings in regard to granting Casey Anderson another term as chairman of the Planning Board.

In his major advocacy for the Bicycle Master Plan he supports a mode of transportation that represents 1/2 of 1% of commuters &

has a cost of \$3 billion plus the cost of right of way acquisitions. His position on this matter shows a lack of concern about the

disproportionately huge cost for a minute segment of travelers. It must be pointed out that he resides 2 blocks from his office &

walks to work. Also, since 2% of commuters walk to work as well, they represent 4 times the number that bicycle. Again, to devote

\$3 billion + to a segment of commuters smaller than the segment that walks, makes no sense at all. His poor judgement on this

matter should lead you to choose someone else to lead the Planning Board.

Another theme he has publicized deals with his attempt to show that new developments do not generate many students as

compared to older neighborhoods. The reason for his effort on this is to support a plan to overcome the regulation that places

a moratorium on allowing development in school zones where there is overcrowding. The number of students that will be generated

by a development is based on estimates & past experience & is not an exact science. Also, Casey Anderson's point in regard to

older neighborhoods generating more students than new developments is not a startling revelation. Stop for a moment & consider

the situation. Residents in new developments are exercising good judgement in planning for family additions when their economic

situation is more well established. Or, on the other hand, they may be in circumstances that allow for children to attend private

school. By the way, MCPS has informed me that 25,000 school age children attend private schools. So, for Mr. Anderson to dwell

on the subject tells us that he sides with developers who do not wish to have moratoria of any kind interfering with their development

plans. To have a Planning Board chair exhibiting this type of pro-developer attitude, rather than the impartiality that should be a

chair's pre-eminent characteristic, should bar him from being granted another term as chair.

To sum up, exhibiting poor judgement as well as bias, are both bars to another term for Casey Anderson.

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Sincerely,  
Max Bronstein



D1N.org

*Bringing community voice to county decisions*

June 4, 2019

Dear County Council Members:

District 1 Neighbors (D1N) strongly endorses Brandy Brooks for the County's Planning Board. She is uniquely suited for the job, with technical skills in planning and architecture that will bring creativity and vision to our planning processes.

D1N initially formed to elect officials who would address specific challenges in Montgomery County—namely, growth and urbanization outpacing supporting infrastructure, employment opportunities, affordable housing, and budgeting. While these issues don't fall directly under the purview of the Planning Board, they are inextricably entwined with development and where and how it is approved. Brandy Brooks demonstrated concern and even passion to address infrastructure and housing needs, and sees planning as a means to increase equity. What sets her apart from all of the other candidates is her conviction that residents bring value to the planning process and are indispensable to building successful, inclusive and thriving communities. It is a common complaint that residents from all over the county feel ignored or, worse, dismissed by the Planning Board. Appointing an individual who values community members would help repair confidence in the planning process. We hope to see diversity on the Planning Board, not only in race, gender, age and socioeconomic status, but also diversity of philosophy, approach and ideas.

With her organizing mindset and experience she will bring residents together to solve our County's challenges. The current planning processes often wedge groups and interests against one another when they could facilitate stronger and more diverse coalitions and cohesiveness among county residents. Brooks understands the value of inclusive processes and knows how to design them based on her own experience with effective community-driven planning in Massachusetts. Brooks is the only candidate who specifically advocates for resident-led planning and development.

Brooks has a nuanced and informed position on how to address affordable housing shortages—acknowledging that there is no one solution but rather a suite of tools that must be used to ensure that everyone can participate in the County's growth and success. She advocates for more diverse types of housing to address the diversity of housing needs in our community, and recognizes that it can't be left to market forces alone.

Brooks is the only candidate who has acknowledged resident concerns about the current misalignment between development approvals and county infrastructure. Her support of the building moratorium is a key differentiator as it shows that she has heard resident concerns and seeks to address the infrastructure challenges as an urgent priority, rather than continuing to exacerbate the problem with additional development approvals. Those in opposition acknowledge the intent of moratoria had no alternatives to offer.

At her core, Brooks has profound respect for residents, both those who live here now and those who seek to join our community to enjoy the opportunities our County offers. Brooks demonstrates incredible passion for this job and will bring a critical perspective to the discussion.

Please give residents the opportunity to work with Brooks to bring creative solutions to our County's planning and development. The next general plan is upon us and Brooks is the right person to lead that effort with residents to make sure that Montgomery County is an inclusive, livable, and equitable community for the years to come.

Sincerely,

District 1 Neighbors

*D1N is an independent volunteer group representing thousands of Montgomery County voters who value balancing growth and infrastructure in ways that make the County a great place for both residents and employers. We value transparency and inclusion in government processes and advocate for citizen driven planning and development so that residents can collaboratively develop solutions to our County's challenges.*



Dear Council President Navarro,

We the undersigned are representatives of the Montgomery County Coalition for 80% by 2027. Our coalition was formed in the wake of the passage of the Climate Emergency Resolution by the County Council in 2017, and our name comes from one of the greenhouse gas emissions targets adopted by the Council in that historic resolution. Our organizations represent thousands of County residents and dozens of religious congregations who are deeply concerned about the climate crisis and urgently want our County to take the emergency actions needed to fight climate change and to prepare our communities for climate impacts.

We are writing to you regarding your upcoming decision on appointments to the Montgomery County Planning Board, in particular the seats being vacated by Mr. Norman Dreyfus and Mr. Casey Anderson. On behalf of ourselves and our various organizations, we urge you to appoint Brandy Brooks to one of these open seats on the Board.

The decisions made by the Planning Board have huge impacts on the range of options that the County can take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In creating and adopting General and Master Plans for future development and growth in the County, the Planning Board makes decisions that affect the County's ability to plan for low-carbon transportation options and to create a built environment that incentivizes low-carbon lifestyles and business models. As climate change impacts worsen across our region, we need planners who will demand solutions that both protect our current County infrastructure from climate impact and make it as easy as possible to move our local economy away from fossil fuel dependence. It is also crucial that planning consider the needs of communities in our County that will bear the brunt of climate impacts, in particular low-income communities and people of color.

Brandy Brooks comes before the Council with strong qualifications for this position as a planner and community organizer. She brings a philosophy of community involvement in planning, and of ensuring that we plan for the impacts of future growth in a responsible way that put sustainability at the forefront of decision making. She also knows that

proper management of our parklands is a key part of planning for climate impacts, and she will be an excellent steward of our park system as a member of the M-NCPCC Board.

Most importantly for our coalition, Brandy has repeatedly stated the truth: that the climate emergency is real and that every decision we make in planning for our County's future must prioritize leadership in both reducing emissions and in planning for climate resilience. We are confident that Brandy will be a strong voice on the Planning Board for climate, and will be an ally in helping the Council as you work to meet the Climate Emergency Resolution goals. As an advocate for racial and social justice, we believe that Brandy will make sure that justice and equity will become a greater part of our planning process.

The Planning Board is a crucial part of our County government with considerable power to shape our response to climate change. We urge you to support Brandy Brooks' candidacy for Planning Board either as a Member or as Chair.

Sincerely and on behalf of our organizations,

Jeffrey Weisner, 350 Montgomery County (350MoCo)

Nancy Wallace, Montgomery County Green Party

Ed Fischman and Stefani Olsen, Our Revolution Montgomery County

Jim Driscoll, The Climate Mobilization - Montgomery County Chapter

Walter Weiss, Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC-FACS)

Lauren Greenberger, Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Brooks

## Email Viewer

<b>Message</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Attachments</b>	<b>Headers</b>
<b>Source</b>			

HTML

From: "MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov"  
 <MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov>  
 Date: 6/10/2019 1:38:21 PM  
 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com"  
 <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Brandy Brooks for Planning Board - Submitted By:Dr Lisa Spain - (Attn: All CMS, Council Webform)

Dear Councilmember,

I am writing to you regarding your upcoming decision on appointments to the Montgomery County Planning Board, in particular the seats being vacated by Mr. Norman Dreyfus and Mr. Casey Anderson. On my own behalf, and as a member of Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, I urge you to appoint Brandy Brooks to one of these open seats on the Board.

The decisions made by the Planning Board have huge impacts on the range of options that the County can take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In creating and adopting General and Master Plans for future development and growth in the County, the Planning Board makes decisions that affect the County's ability to plan for low-carbon transportation options and to create a built environment that incentivizes low-carbon lifestyles and business models. As climate change impacts worsen across our region, we need planners who will demand solutions that both protect our current County infrastructure from climate impact and make it as easy as possible to move our local economy away from fossil fuel dependence. It is also crucial that planning consider the needs of communities in our County that will bear the brunt of climate impacts, in particular low-income communities and people of color.

Brandy Brooks comes before the Council with strong qualifications for this position as a planner and community organizer. She brings a philosophy of community involvement in planning, and of ensuring that we plan for the impacts of future growth in a responsible way that put sustainability at the forefront of decision making. She also knows that proper management of our parklands is a key part of planning for climate impacts, and she will be an excellent steward of our park system as a member of the M-NCPCC Board.

Most importantly for our county, Brandy has repeatedly stated the truth: that the climate emergency is real and that every decision we make in planning for our County's future

(9)

must prioritize leadership in both reducing emissions and in planning for climate resilience. We are confident that Brandy will be a strong voice on the Planning Board for climate, and will be an ally in helping the Council as you work to meet the Climate Emergency Resolution goals. As an advocate for racial and social justice, we believe that Brandy will make sure that justice and equity will become a greater part of our planning process.

The Planning Board is a crucial part of our County government with considerable power to shape our response to climate change. We urge you to support Brandy Brooks' candidacy for Planning Board either as a Member or as Chair.

Sincerely,

Lisa Spain  
Kensington resident  
Citizen  
Member of Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC-FACS)

**Close**

*Brooks*

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[HTML](#)

From: "MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov"

<MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov>

Date: 6/10/2019 11:09:20 AM

To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com"

<county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>

Cc:

Subject: Brandy Brooks for Planning Board - Submitted By:Ms Rosanne Skirble - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

I am an executive member of the Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, a coalition of (40) faith communities that work together on climate issues in Montgomery County.

I am writing to state that I stand by the coalition behind Brandy Brooks for appointment to the Montgomery County Planning Board, in particular the seats being vacated by Norman Dreyfus and Casey Anderson.

Brandy Brooks comes before the Council with strong qualifications for this position as a planner and community organizer. She brings a philosophy of community involvement in planning, and of ensuring that we plan for the impacts of future growth in a responsible way that put sustainability at the forefront of decision making. She also knows that proper management of our parklands is a key part of planning for climate impacts, and she will be an excellent steward of our park system as a member of the M-NCPPC Board.

Please use your vote to put her on the board. She previously ran for County Council and I was impressed with her at that time. She is a committed citizen to the issues of our day and would put the citizen's best interests first.

Regards,

Rosanne Skirble

Close

Brooks

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 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com"  
 <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Appointing Brandy Brooks to Planning Board-In Support - Submitted By:Ms  
 Michael DeLong - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

Dear Councilmembers,

I writing to you regarding your upcoming decision on appointments to the Montgomery County Planning Board, in particular the seats being vacated by Mr. Norman Dreyfus and Mr. Casey Anderson. I urge you to appoint Brandy Brooks to one of these open seats on the Board. The decisions made by the Planning Board have huge impacts on the range of options that the County can take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In creating and adopting General and Master Plans for future development and growth in the County, the Planning Board makes decisions that affect the County's ability to plan for low-carbon transportation options and to create a built environment that incentivizes low-carbon lifestyles and business models. As climate change impacts worsen across our region, Montgomery County needs planners who will demand solutions that both protect our current County infrastructure from climate impact and make it as easy as possible to move our local economy away from fossil fuel dependence. It is also crucial that planning consider the needs of communities in our County that will bear the brunt of climate impacts, in particular low-income communities and people of color.

Brandy Brooks comes before the Council with strong qualifications for this position as a planner and community organizer. She brings a philosophy of community involvement in planning, and of ensuring that the County plans for the impacts of future growth in a responsible way that put sustainability at the forefront of decision making. She also knows that proper management of our parklands is a key part of planning for climate impacts, and she will be an excellent steward of our park system as a member of the M-NCPPC Board.

Additionally, Brandy has repeatedly said that the climate emergency is real and that

(12)

every decision we make in planning for our County's future must prioritize leadership in both reducing emissions and in planning for climate resilience. I am confident that Brandy will be a strong voice on the Planning Board for climate, and will be an ally in helping the Council as you work to meet the Climate Emergency Resolution goals. As an advocate for racial and social justice, I think that Brandy will make sure that justice and equity will become a greater part of our planning process. The Planning Board is a crucial part of our County government with considerable power to shape our response to climate change. I urge you to support Brandy Brooks' candidacy for Planning Board either as a Member or as Chair.

**Close**

Brooks

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:13:12 PM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Brandy Brooks for Planning Board

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**From:** Michelle W  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:04 AM  
**To:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; councilmember.glass@mountgomreycountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Brandy Brooks for Planning Board

Dear President Navarro, Vice President Katz, and members of the County Council,

Equity matters and for too long the voices of everyday residents in our county have been overlooked when it comes to development and housing. As the Council hears updates on its racial equity and social justice initiative, I wish to share my enthusiastic support for Brandy Brooks for the Planning Board.

Brandy is a committed resident who seeks to give all in our county a voice on issues related to housing and development. Brandy brings years of experience in urban planning, community development, and creating equitable housing solutions. We need Ms. Brooks's voice on the Planning Board to ensure the interests of all residents are considered when making decisions. I know Brandy is one who will serve with integrity and an open door policy to listen to the community. Through her dedicated participation in the community, she has earned the support of local and regional environmental, justice, and community groups.

Personally, I want to see our boards and commissions reflect our people, not special interests. You all have a unique opportunity to appoint someone who will bring more equity to our board for everyday residents and create a more open climate to respond to the needs of residents. **Brandy Brooks is the right choice for Planning Board and a smart choice for chair as well.**

I want to add that after listening to 6 of the 7 candidates at the LGBTQ+ forum last week, I was very impressed with Brandy and Julian Haffner. I was also concerned and offended by the remarks made by Charles Kauffman that seemed flippant towards the audience -- particularly people of color and religious minorities. I know there were about two dozen candidates who applied for the Board, the final choice should **reflect the best ideas, the most innovative approaches to planning, and the most culturally competent.** Again, this makes Brandy Brooks a standout among your choices.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,  
 Michelle Whittaker

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Brooks

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[HTML](#)

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 Date: 6/10/2019 4:32:32 PM  
 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com" <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Appointment to Planning Board - Submitted By:Mr Brenton Hull - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

Dear Council-member:

I'm writing to ask that you appoint Brandy Brooks for an open position on the Montgomery County Planning Board, either as a member or as the Chair.

I am really concerned about how the climate is changing and believe that we need people who will plan solutions that will mitigate the impacts to our County infrastructure. We need a strong voice who will treat the changing climate as a real emergency and prioritize planning that focuses on sustainability and climate resilience. Brandy is also an advocate for racial and social justice and will be a great asset in helping you to meet the Climate Emergency Resolution Goals.

Thank you,  
-Brenton Hull

**Close**

(15)

Brooks

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From: "MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov" <MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov>  
 Date: 6/11/2019 9:54:08 AM  
 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com" <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Planning Board in MoCo - Submitted By:Ms Sabine Dohrn - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

I am writing to you to urge you to support Brandy Brooks to become a member or the Chair of the Planning Board. She has an excellent track record as a community organizer who understands the climate emergency and will help holding the county council to its goals in reducing greenhouse gases.

We need people like her that are on top of climate issues as well as being a strong social justice advocate to protect our disadvantaged communities from undue and unjust hardships.

Please support her for the Planning Board.

Respectfully

Sabine Dohrn

**Close**

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Brooks

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From: "MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov" <MCCouncil@App.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov>  
 Date: 6/10/2019 10:26:35 AM  
 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com" <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Brandy Brooks for Planning Board - Submitted By:Mrs Nanci Wilkinson - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

Please support Brandy Brooks who has the experience, knowledge and energy to be an outstanding Planning Board member. Thank you. Nanci Wilkinson

MCFACS  
 TCM MOCO  
 Cedar Lane UU Church

**Close**

Brooks

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 Date: 6/10/2019 10:17:08 AM  
 To: "county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com" <county.council@mccouncilmd.lmhostediq.com>  
 Cc:  
 Subject: Brandy Brooks for the Planning Board - Submitted By:Mr Bill Christeson - (Attn: All CMs, Council Webform)

HOUSTON  
 ELLICOTT CITY  
 PARADISE

WIND + SOLAR  
 =  
 LIFE

**Close**

Kirwan

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 9:05:21 AM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: In praise and support of William Kirwan

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**From:** Kate Simpson  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 7:13 PM  
**To:** Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** In praise and support of William Kirwan

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council:

We would like to recommend William (Bill) Kirwan for the open seat on the Montgomery County Planning Board. We have known Bill as a friend for nearly 20 years, but I (Kate Simpson) have also hired him to design my DC office suite and relied on him for his professional judgment as an architect and preservationist on more than one occasion. Throughout this time, he has consistently impressed us with his integrity, his commitment to the community of Silver Spring and the County, and his lucid and insightful judgment on many matters affecting our built and natural environment,

His background is extensive in support of the County. Here are just some examples:

- He is a life-long resident of Montgomery County.
- He is a product of Montgomery County Public Schools.
- He is the parent of MCPS students.
- He is an architect with a 31-year career focused on a community based practice in Montgomery County.
- He is a certified U.S. Green Building Council Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP).
- He was a member of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for the past 10 years (as Chairman the last 5 years).
- He is an active member of his Sligo Park Hills civic association.
- He is a strong advocate for public outreach and participation and the critical and indispensable role they play in good decision-making.

Bill is the kind of leader that this County needs to ensure that its future takes into account the needs of all of its residents. You could not have a person more dedicated to the County's betterment than Bill Kirwan. We hope you give Bill your full consideration for this open seat.

Sincerely,

Kate Simpson & spouse Stuart Grossman

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**Kate Simpson | President**

(19)

**academic**

travel abroad

1155 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20036

202.349.7332 | [www.academic-travel.com](http://www.academic-travel.com)

20

Kirwan

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 9:06:59 AM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Recommendation for William (Bill) Kirwan for the open position on the Planning Board


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**From:** Jennifer M. Kirwan ·  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 8:20 PM  
**To:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Recommendation for William (Bill) Kirwan for the open position on the Planning Board

Dear Council President Navarro,

As a small business owner who lives and operates her business within Montgomery County, I would like to recommend William (Bill) Kirwan for the open seat on the Montgomery County Planning Board. As you can see, his background is extensive, he is uniquely suited for the position, and has had a lifetime commitment to the County in numerous ways.

-As an architect with a **31 year career** focused on a community based practice in Montgomery County.

-As a certified U.S. Green Building Council Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED  AP**). It seems imperative for at least one person on the Planning Board to be LEED certified and who understands how to build and design cities in a way that is sensitive to our environment.

-As a member of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for the past **10 years** (as Chairman the last 5 years), that is an advisory commission to the Planning Board.

-As an active member of his Sligo Park Hills civic association.

-As a strong advocate for public outreach and participation and the critical and indispensable role they play in good decision making.

-As a life-long resident of Montgomery County.

-As a product of Montgomery County Public Schools.

-As a small business owner whose business is located within Montgomery County (Muse Architects).

-As a parent of three (3) MCPS students.

I also have the privilege to know Bill personally, he is my husband and friend. Knowing him as I do, I see his dedication, his commitment, his keen ability to quickly narrow in on and understand important issues, his thoughtfulness and fairness, and his unique professional qualifications for the position.

You could not have a person more dedicated to the County's betterment than Bill Kirwan. I know that if offered the position, Bill will make a serious and positive contribution to the future of our County.

I hope that you give Bill your full consideration for this open seat.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Kirwan

**Jennifer Menassa Kirwan, AIA**  
 Menassa Architecture, LLC

(21)

Russel

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:07:05 PM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Jennifer Russel for the Planning Board



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**From:** Jean Casey <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:01 PM  
**To:** Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Jennifer Russel for the Planning Board

Craig and Gabe,

I am so pleased to write to you as former Black Rock Center for the Arts Board members about the candidacy of Jennifer Russel for the Planning Board.

I know you are both aware of her extraordinary leadership as a Black Rock Board member herself and how much time and successful effort she has put forth for fundraising throughout the years. What you may not know is that her ability to gain corporate sponsorships and recruit a vibrant Gala committee (and a top-notch auctioneer) this year meant a record-breaking bottom line for Black Rock. That is a significant feat.

However, it is not only her volunteer efforts, but also her work record and extensive planning background which makes her ideally suited to be on the Planning Board. Planning and transportation have always been both her career and her passion. She never tires of learning, discussing and working towards goals that have benefited the infrastructure of Montgomery County. Her voice is always well-researched, thoughtful and clear.

While her expectations of herself and others are high, she is an excellent listener and mediator. She knows how to bring divergent groups and opinions together. She helps others to see commonalities in their viewpoints and to focus on the greater good.

You have an opportunity to appoint a hardworking, smart and effective member to the Planning Board. I hope you know that Jennifer Russel is the right person to fulfill that role.

Jean Casey  
 Former Black Rock Board President

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Russel

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 2:05:35 PM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Candidate for Planning Board

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**From:** smckreutershan@aol.com <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Candidate for Planning Board

June 11, 2019

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Jennifer Russel for the Montgomery County Planning Board seat soon to be vacated by Norman Dreyfuss.

Among the candidates for consideration, Ms. Russel stands out as uniquely qualified to become a successful member of the Planning Board. She is a professional planner by education and experience and processes a unique skill set and perspective. Ms. Russel worked as the lead Planner for the City of Gaithersburg for many years; as the Clarksburg Ombudsman mediating a serious and high-profile problem in the Clarksburg community, the County, and the developers; as a working member of the Zoning Advisory Panel during the comprehensive rewrite of the County Zoning Ordinance; as a planner with Rogers Consulting; and as a leader in numerous volunteer positions in community organizations within the County. She has worked in various planning-related positions within the County for over 30 years.

As the Council is aware, members of the Planning Board must have a working knowledge of the diverse geographic and demographic areas of Montgomery County; an understanding of the complexity and nuances of the County zoning and land use processes; and the ability to work collaboratively with the professional planning staff, community members, and government officials and employees. Ms. Russel has proven herself over the years to be a smart, hard-working, and dedicated individual in each of these arenas. If appointed to the Planning Board, Ms. Russel could **hit the ground running** on her very first day on the job.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to appoint Ms. Russel to the Planning Board.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Susan Reutershan

(23)

Russel

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 3:10:46 PM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Planning Board in Montgomery County

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**From:** Ann Myers <info@clarksburgchamberofcommerce.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Planning Board in Montgomery County

Dear County Council Members,

The Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce would like to highlight the experience and qualifications of Jennifer Russel for the open seat on the Planning Board.

Over the years we have witnessed Jennifer's deep understanding and advocacy on planning and transportation related issues. We have witnessed her work to bring residents, businesses, and property owners together to have a seat at the table. She has the necessary skills to bring people together and coalesce around the tough issues facing our county.

As you may know, Jennifer was the ombudsman for Clarksburg. The concerns of our citizens and businesses in the Upcounty region do not always appear to be considered in housing, transportation, transit and land use policies and we believe Jennifer's background and experience gives her the insight and perspective that would benefit our citizens.

We ask that you strongly consider Jennifer Russel for this very important seat on the Planning Board. She has superior skills in bringing people together, vast experience in planning, and has feet on the ground experience here in the Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Ann Myers,

President, Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce

(24)



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
 51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800, Rockville, MD 20850  
 301-738-0015 phone | 301-738-8792 fax | www.mcccmd.com

Russel  
 Verma

June 10, 2019

Nancy Navarro  
 President, Montgomery County Council  
 100 Maryland Avenue  
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: MNCPPC Planning Board Commissioner Appointment

Dear President Navarro and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the selection of the next Commissioner of the Montgomery County Planning Board. MCCC members reviewed the application letters and conducted interviews with seven of the finalists. Our community is fortunate to have so many qualified candidates with integrity and experience who would be able to fulfill the duties of this position.

As you make your selection, we encourage you to consider the qualities required to be a successful Planning Board member. Ultimately, MCCC's recommendations are based on the perspective that it is vitally important for our County's economic viability to support business success through the planning and land use process. Therefore, we are interested especially in a candidate's approach to economic development and needed transportation improvements, both roads and transit. In addition, knowledge of relevant planning and development issues as well as a thoughtful, open-minded and deliberative approach to managing the process are important.

Based on careful study of the application letters and the in-depth interviews we conducted, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce recommends the following:

- **Commissioner Recommendation – Jennifer Russel or Partap Verma**

Both Jennifer Russel and Partap Verma bring positive experiences in community building and working collaboratively with disparate interests to achieve this County's land use, housing, and transportation goals.

Warmest regards,

Georgette Godwin  
 President and CEO

cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive  
 Montgomery County Delegation  
 Gus B. Bauman and Bob Elliott, Infrastructure and Land Use Committee Chairs

*To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*



Verma

**From:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:53:37 AM  
**To:** Council President  
**Subject:** FW: Sierra Club recommends Partap Verma for Planning Board

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**From:** Dave Sears  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** dmichalfreedman@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Sierra Club recommends Partap Verma for Planning Board

Dear Council President Navarro and County Councilmembers:

The Sierra Club Montgomery County Group is pleased to recommend Partap Verma for appointment to the Montgomery County Planning Board.

To arrive at our recommendation, we distributed a questionnaire on qualifications, transportation, smart growth, and other climate/ environmental issues to the applicants selected by the Council for interviews. We received responses from all six of the applicants, whom we then interviewed.

We identified a few broad criteria to help evaluate candidates for the current opening on the Board: (1) extensive knowledge and experience with the Montgomery County planning process, especially in terms of land use and transportation practices and policies; (2) a commitment to, and experience with, engaging populations for whom there are often barriers to participation in the planning process; and (3) a vision of the County that is responsive to the climate threat and that prioritizes smart growth so as to focus new development in attractive, high density, walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-served communities, with plenty of parks.

While all of the applicants we talked with impressed us with their thoughtfulness, congeniality and commitment to public service, Partap Verma stood out for several reasons.

First, Partap has solid substantive credentials for the position. He has long-standing and successful experience in promoting public transit for his mixed-income residential community and elsewhere in the County. He has promoted civic engagement among his neighbors in Forest Glen, leading community planning and advocacy efforts. Among other efforts, he has organized well-attended charettes, and large community events to bring neighborhoods and local businesses together, started the blog ♦Finding Forest Glen, ♦ established ♦Friends of Forest Glen and Montgomery Hills, ♦ successfully advocated for transit infrastructure (CIP funds were accelerated for second Metro entrances at Forest Glen and White Flint), played a leadership role on the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board, and served as a volunteer mediator in HOA disputes.

Second, as a first generation immigrant who grew up poor in Prince Georges and Montgomery counties, Partap is aware through personal experience of the unmet needs of many segments of the County, including the need for good transit services and for affordable housing located in attractive, high density, transit-served

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neighborhoods. Partap also has experience with ways to make the planning process more inclusive and informed by a broader range of perspectives. In addition, he has demonstrated an ability to communicate complex land use and transportation dilemmas to non-professionals -- he has written on planning issues to engage and inform the general public, and contributed to the Forest Glen Redevelopment Report, which is posted on the Planning Board website.

Third, Partap clearly has thought a great deal about the needs of our County residents and the land use and transportation policies that would promote a flourishing Montgomery County. He presents an articulate vision of how public transit, sidewalks, mixed use and mixed-income, inclusive and transit-oriented places can mesh together to offer more choices to residents, greater equity, a stronger economy, and environmental sustainability.

To be transparent, the Sierra Club Montgomery County Group notes that Partap Verma is currently a member of the Group's Executive Committee. He, of course, did not participate in any deliberations related to our recommendation above; and he will step down from the Executive Committee if appointed to the Planning Board.

On behalf of the Sierra Club Montgomery County Group, for the many reasons set forth above, we believe that Partap Verma would be an excellent addition to the Planning Board.

Sincerely,

David W. Sears and Michal Freedman  
Montgomery County Group  
Sierra Club

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