

**Patricia Woodward
Rockville, MD 20850**

February 27, 2008

Hon. Raymond Skinner, Secretary
Dept of Housing & Community Development
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

NOTE: This letter was voted on at an Executive Board Meeting of WECA (no information on how many West End citizens were present at that meeting).

Most WECA members were not aware of the project, nor that this letter was being sent from their Citizens' Association.

Dear Secretary Skinner:

I am writing in my capacity as President of the West End Citizens' Association (WECA) to share our endorsement of the Beall's Grant II application for funding from your Department.

The West End of Rockville is comprised of 1550 homes and includes a large and active group of residents. We are a stable community of longtime residents that tends to be outspoken and active. It is often true that neighborhoods act in a "NIMBY-like" fashion, opposing any new development nearby. I am proud to say that this is most assuredly not the case regarding this community.

Beall's Grant was bought and renovated by Montgomery Housing Partnership over ten years ago. In that time, they have been good neighbors who create no problems or disruptions from our special part of the city we love. Montgomery Housing Partnership has been a responsible partner, whose staff is committed to being responsive to any concerns we have ever raised. Questions regarding school numbers, parking spaces, and environmental impact have all been answered in a timely and thorough manner.

For all of these reasons, WECA voted **unanimously** at its February 21st meeting to support the expansion of Beall's Grant in our neighborhood to include 109 units. We are writing to communicate this strong endorsement to both our Mayor and Council and to the Department in hopes that the City, County, and State will help the process and funding of this important creation of additional workforce housing that will be an asset to the stores and businesses in Rockville's Town Center.

Please feel free to call me if I can provide you with any additional information about WECA or our experience with Beall's Grant.

Sincerely,

Patricia Woodward
President, West End Civic Association

cc: Rockville Mayor & Council
Rockville City Manager
County Executive Ike Leggett
District 17 Legislative Delegation
Montgomery Housing Partnership
Jan Balkam, WECA Recording Secretary