



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

November 9, 2012

Mr. Isiah Leggett, County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Ms. Shirley Brandman, President
Montgomery County Board of Education
850 Hungerford Dr. Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Ms. Brandman:

I am writing to you with regard to the Brickyard Road Junior High School site in Potomac. As you are well aware, the county, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and local residents have been embroiled in a public feud and lawsuits for over a year. This turmoil has not only tainted our constituents' opinion of representative government, but it has also completely shut down communication. Recently, Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Greenberg issued a stay in this matter. As a football fan, I equate this to "half-time," giving both sides the opportunity to take a step back and reevaluate their strategies.

This is a good opportunity for the county and MCPS to reexamine the potential harm and irreversible damage that may come from the decision to repurpose this farmland as athletic fields. Qualifying a parcel of land as certified organic requires painstaking efforts of time and energy, and maintaining that level of quality requires even more care.

As we become more cognizant of the link between nutritional eating and public health, we should proceed more thoughtfully in matters of local sustainable food systems. It is my sincere belief that a compromise can be reached if both sides can agree to search for new solutions instead of reaffirming old positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George L. Leventhal".

George L. Leventhal
Montgomery County Council

CC: Tim Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Joy Nurmi, Office of the County Executive
David Dise, Director, Department of General Services
Gabe Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation
Keith Williams, President, Brickyard Coalition
Sophia Maravell, Education Director, Brickyard Educational Farm
Doug Scheussler, Executive Director, Montgomery Soccer Inc.