

**Community Forum
(March 28, 2022)
Virtual Speakers/Written Comments List**

| | Name | Address/Phone | Topic | Speaking on Behalf of |
|----|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | Speaker by Computer Marissa Valeri | 13302 Midway Ave. Rockville, MD 20851 301-906-6550 marissa.rockville@gmail.com | Seven Locks Detention Center and Restoration Center | Twinbrook |
| 2. | Speaker by Computer Mariana C. Cordier, Esq. President of FallsRidge HOA | 966 Hungerford Drive, 30B Rockville, MD 20850 240-268-0230 maccordier@gmail.com | Restoration Concept Project/Crisis Center | FallsRidge HOA |
| 3. | Speaker by Computer Krystal Putman-Garcia | 1980 Lancashire Dr. Rockville, MD 20854 202-320-5695 krystal.putman@gmail.com | Bus Depot and Crisis Center | Self |
| 4. | Speaker by Computer Steven Polinger | 1029 Willowleaf Way Potomac, MD 20854 301-518-2269 steven.polinger@gmail.com | Bus Depot and Crisis Center | Self |
| 5. | Speaker by Computer Stephanie Fulop | 1138 Halesworth Dr. Rockville, MD 20854 443-239-9594 stephaniefulop@gmail.com | Bus Depot and Crisis Center | Self |
| 6. | Written Comments Dr. Uzi Vishkin | 3 Kettle Pond Court Rockville, MD 20854 301-838-7625 vishkin@umd.edu | | |
| 7. | Written Comments Vincent Russo | 1019 De Beck Dr. Rockville, MD 20851 301-980-3169 Vdrusso1@gmail.com | | |

March 28, 2022

Re: Objection to the MCPS Bus Depot and Restoration Crisis Center at Seven Locks Road

FROM: Dr. Uzi Vishkin, 3 Kettle Pond Court, Rockville, MD 20854, 301-838-7625. vishkin@umd.edu

TO: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I wanted to express my strong opposition to the County Government plans for the properties located along the north end of Seven Locks Road including the MCPS Bus Depot and the Restoration Crisis Center.

- First, no community engagement was done. Given how we were completely ignored by the County Government, this is an urgent call to the City of Rockville to intervene. The County Government clearly does not care about how its plans affect the community and its quality of life.
- This was not an honest mistake by the County Government. Two previous proposals to relocate the bus depot to the MCPS Carver Center parking lot and the WINX property, both in the City of Rockville, were aborted for the same reasons that should, logically and fairly, abort the current proposal: adjacent to residential communities and vociferously objected to by neighbors. The County Government tries to get its plans approved behind our back.
- During the first community forum on this topic, Mr. Dise from the County Government gave us the real reason for the current plans of the county: the County owns the property. However, as the main buildings on this property are due to be demolished, what was completely missing from his argument was the match between using this practically vacated land to the real problems and services that the county seeks to solve and provide. I do not question the importance of these issues and respect the county's role in addressing them. However, the Seven Locks Road location is clearly not a good match for them.
- In fact, the only reason for matching these services with this location is the convenience for the civil servants who were guided by the County elected officials to provide the construction for these services. For them, it is clearly easiest to just match a county property to services, even if this would end up with a poor match for the actual problem that a respective service is meant to provide.
- To weigh how poor the match actually is, I kindly ask the Mayor and City Council to consider:
 - Safety concerns for release from Rehabilitation/Crisis center
 - Lack of proper security or ability to hold/restrain those brought to Rehabilitation/Crisis center

- We are FOR the Crisis Now work, but feel it should be closer to medical facilities (Hospital or Jail complex in Clarksburg)
- Bus Depot traffic on arteries and from single exit point where the millenium trail crosses
- Bus Depot noise (even if electric) and lack of known funding for complete electric fleet. Only 326 electric of 1422 MCPS buses are budgeted to be leased over the next several years and are slated to be distributed to every school
- Recent (and older) issues with those who are released from current (secure) Detention Center (Car Jacking, robbery, attempted car theft, home invasion) and how these can't be "addressed" as they are required by law - which is why MCDC and the Rehabilitation/Crisis center can't be safely near residences
- Transportation is not available beyond sparse buses for those released, forcing them to find ways to get home themselves

Rockville's Comprehensive Plan is clearly in favor of community/residential friendly uses of this land. It should not be considered industrial as it would never be zoned that today given the number of existing and NEW communities going in.

I hope that I explained why the County Government's plans poorly match the Seven Lock Road location.

Dear Mayor Newton and Councilmembers,

The duties for the Education Commission in the draft resolution before you this evening overlap significantly with those of the Youth Commission that this Mayor and Council established in November 2021. I urge you to consider how the two bodies will interact given that they will share many of the same duties. The table below compares the corresponding duties of the Youth Commission with the proposed Education Commission.

Maintaining separate commissions also poses challenges for recruitment—22 members between them! — and increases the burden on City staff. The Boards and Commission Task Force (BCTF) drew attention to the challenges staff faced supporting existing commissions, and that was before the city added two new ones, and now potentially a third. The BCTF also recommended evaluation criteria for creating new boards and commissions. One criterion is whether “the work of the proposed BCTF overlap(s) with any existing organizations, including existing City of Rockville BCTFs.” In this case, the proposed Education Commission overlaps greatly with the Youth Commission.

Mayor and Council should consider combining the two or modifying the duties of the Youth Commission such that it focuses exclusively on young adults, i.e., over 18 years. Neither commission will be poised to succeed if their missions overlap like this without clearer guidance on their scope.

Vincent Russo

| Duties of Commission | |
|---|--|
| Youth Commission | Education Commission (draft resolution) |
| Increase community engagement and communications with youth, family, and school systems. | Develop and create avenues to help engage school communities in Rockville initiatives. |
| | Support communications and collaborations with Montgomery County Public Schools and other schools within the City of Rockville, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), PTA clusters leaders, Rockville residents and school communities. |
| Develop recommendations for programs, policies, and any necessary legislation to promote the health and well-being of young adults. | Seek input from educators, parents, and youth in the schools on issues that may impact the health and well-being of students. |
| Increase volunteerism and provide ways to help students to get involved. | Increase volunteerism and provide ways to help school leaders and educators, parents and students get involved. |
| Seek input from youth on City of Rockville issues and their impact on students. | Organize and conduct public forums on Rockville education issues. |
| Make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on City Capital and Operating Budgets dealing with youth programs, services, activities, and support facilities | Make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on City Capital and Operating Budgets dealing with programs, services, safety, equity, capacity, and activities. |
| Advise on how the City can support school events, initiatives and advocacy needs. | Advise the City on ways to support school events, initiatives, and advocacy needs. |