

MCCF STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Compiled by I. Dean Ahmad, Fifa Northrop, William Dan Wilhelm and Richard Zierdt.

Table of Contents

Annual Growth Policy
Environment
Health and Human Services (including housing)
Historical Preservation
Land Use - Special Exceptions and Specific Uses
Land Use - Zoning Ordinance Changes
Public Finance (including taxes; see AGP for impact taxes)
Recreation
Police and Fire
Schools/Education
Transportation
Voting/Ethics/Operation of Government
MCCF Internal Procedures
Miscellaneous

Annual Growth Policy

MCCF recommend to the County Council that in the new AGP that the recommended class sizes for grades 1 through 3 are reduced from 25 students, reflecting MCPS reduced class size policy. (3/11/2002)

Urge NIH to retain all the parking spaces to which it is entitled, since, if relinquished spaces would go to permit development elsewhere in the Bethesda CBD thus adding to congestion and air pollution. (11/13/2001)

Oppose all exceptions to the AGP as a matter of principle. (9/10/2001)

Oppose any waiver of the LATR and PATR for metro station policy areas. (9/10/2001)

Support the thrust to focus development in Metro Station Policy Areas. (9/10/2001)

Roads must not be allowed to become overly congested and that the existing 1800 CLV standard will result in unacceptable congestion. (9/10/2001)

MCCF believes a suitable tax must applied to all new development to cover the cost of all additional public services, be it for education, transportation, safety, or utilities. County law 'Development Impact Tax for Major Highways' should be revised to acknowledge that costs for public services include more than transportation alone. (2/12/2001)

Recommend implementation of a countywide development impact tax (DIT) which would include transit facilities. (10/12/1999)

MCCF finds the new calculation of Critical Lane Volumes, arising from a change by M-NPPC of the Lane Use Factor, will result in major harm to both the economic health of the County and the quality of life of the residents. MCCF asks the M=NPPC for an immediate reversal to the previous Lane Use Factor in order to restore pre-existing intersection congestion standards. (11/9/1998)

Support repeal of Pay and Go. (12/8/1997)

Oppose varying intersection congestion standards by level of transit service. Support standard for adequacy of pedestrian transportation, when feasible. Oppose mitigating trips by providing pedestrian facilities. Oppose discounting trip generation rates. (??/95)

MCCF confirms vigorously its support for the immediate enactment of a Construction Excise Tax. (02/08/1993)

MCCF supports a benefit tax on properties in Transit Impact Areas. (2/8/1993)

MCCF supports reducing the 12-year APFO approval period to six years. (11/4/91)

All traffic should be counted [in the AGP ceiling] regardless of its origin. (6/12/1988)

Environment

MCCF endorses the position that no special exceptions whatever should be granted to developers or road builders who propose to encroach upon the watershed protection zone, no matter what precautions they assure may be taken. (5/11/1998) [also included in Land Use – ZTA]

MCCF strongly recommends that: (1) the State of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) require Federal, State and County legislators and agencies to pass and enforce the required legislation that will enable the State of Maryland to implement all of the sections of the Federal Clean Air Act. (2) The NIH agree to work with the citizens of Montgomery County, through a legal and binding “Good Neighbor Agreement”, to fulfill the intent of the Federal Clean Air Act. (9/96)

MCCF supports continued use of existing EPA Wetlands regulations (9/91)

MCCF opposes clean water act. (9?/?/91)

MCCF strongly supports a County Council resolution to avoid importing trash/waste. (5/13/1991)

Health and Human Services (including housing)

MCCF supports the construction of the Health Sciences building [for the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College] with strong reservations with respect to enrollment figures. (4/8/2002)

MCCF urges the county and state to preserve the programs and facilities at Chestnut Lodge. (4/9/2001)

MCCF oppose the proposed ban on non-attorney representation at Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (CLTA) (continue the practice where tenants may be represented without licensed attorneys); oppose weakening the retaliatory eviction language (keep the present language pertaining to retaliatory evictions, an important legal defense for tenants challenging evictions in court); oppose restrictions on powers of CLTA (keep the present language that allows the Commission to investigate violations in the absence of a formal complaint.(9/11/2000)

MCCF support the "Tobacco Products in Retail Settings" bill that would require certain retailers to keep tobacco products away from the immediate reach of minors. (9/11/2000)

Support enforcement of compliance checks of tobacco merchants. (3/9/1998)

The Montgomery County Civic Federation strongly supports the extension of the Right of First Refusal Law for one year. (6/12/2000)

MCCF supports a new incinerator risk assessment, and a third-party review of incinerator costs. (09/12/1994)

MCCF strongly endorses the present County law requiring dispersal of assisted family housing to promote integration of minorities and low income households throughout the County, and to urge the County Council to reject proposed amendments to Chapter 25B that would eliminate or lessen the dispersal requirements. (06/14/1993)

MCCF recommends in the Housing Goal the establishment of a reasonable upper limit on the number of jobs and population for the County, and require a balance of jobs and affordable housing. (02/10/1992)

Federation supports Affordability Housing and we urge the Council to develop a comprehensive plan to redress the substantial jobs/housing imbalance which currently exists ... and that until such plan is adopted the Federation opposes all piecemeal approaches such as Productivity Housing. (1/8/1990)

Historical Preservation

Preserve at least 5% of the Canada Dry Building that is most significant architecturally. (11/13/2001)

MCCF supports the preservation of the building by advocating it be placed on the "historic atlas". (2/12/2001)

MCCF support the preservation of the Canada Dry building, the historical designation thereof, and the protection under the Legacy Open Space program as a historical building. (11/13/2000)

Oppose intensive use of the 850 Hungerford Drive site as inconsistent with land use policies; support recognition of historic value of the Carver Building; given the rapid growth of the county, deem the use of MCPS property for noneducational purposes unwise. (6/12/2000)

Land Use – Special Exceptions and Specific Uses

MCCF supports the construction of the Health Sciences building [for the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College] with strong reservations with respect to enrollment figures. (4/8/2002)

MCCF opposes the pending proposal by some County Council members to have the Planning Board change its work schedule to review its recommendation for disapproval of the requested special exception for the New Hampshire-Norwood property. (10/10/2000)

MCCF oppose the granting of a special exception to Holton-Arms Schools to build an additional access through neighborhood streets. (9/11/2000)

The MCCF opposes the County's support by a \$3 million Economic Development Bond of the Ivymount School expansion. (6/12/2000)

MCCF recommends denial of the expansion, and, failing that, that the expansion be postponed one year so that the McLean School design, implement, and demonstrate a transportation management plan. (2/14/2000)

MCCF opposes conference center. (4/14/1997) [Also under public finance]

Suspend work on Clarksburg jail. (10/23/1997)

MCCF opposes [the proposed] Conference Center on the west side of Rockville Pike. (4/14/97)

MCCF supports the building of a new Walter Reed Army Institute of Research facility in Forest Glen. (09/13/1993)

MCCF confirms its opposition to the location of the Pan American Health Organization on any residentially-zoned property in Montgomery County. (09/13/1993)

Land Use – zoning ordinance changes

MCCF oppose ZTA 02-01. (3/11/2002)

MCCF urges the repeal of ZTA 01-08 [increasing height beyond sector plan] (4/8/2002)

MCCF endorse the mandatory conservation design for the agricultural zone. (9/11/2000)

MCCF endorses the position that no special exceptions whatever should be granted to developers or road builders who propose to encroach upon the watershed protection zone, no matter what precautions they assure may be taken. (5/11/1998) [Also included under Environmental]

Support making minimization of light pollution a requirement for the approval of major modifications of existing projects; informing large commercial users of the cost advantage of efficient and properly aimed outdoor lights. (12/8/1997)

MCCF supports Zoning Text Amendment 3014 on the location and development of foreign missions and international organizations. (10/12/1993)

MCCF supports the position that the County Council itself should hear any major Special Exception that the MCCF Land Use Committee specifies as impacting residential communities until the supermajority vote for the Board of Appeals is reinstated. (06/14/1993)

MCCF supports a zoning text amendment that would change the requirement for a special exception for a funeral home in a residential zone from requiring that the proposed funeral home front on a road with a right of way at least 80 feet wide to a requirement that it front on a road with at least four lanes. May 10, 1993

MCCF supports Zoning Text Amendment 93002 on the creation of a higher-density Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) zone, subject to the following conditions: The base zone must be a minimum of RT-8 or RT-10; a maximum height limit of four stories will be mandatory; green space requirement may be reduced to 25% in Policy Areas 4-6; and one full TDR would be required for each unit above the base density. (02/08/1993)

MCCF supports ZTA 92003 prohibiting golf courses in the agriculture preserve. (06/08/1992)

MCCF supports the Planning Board initiative to phase out billboards in the County by

1998. (06/08/1992)

MCCF opposes Executive Regulation 66-91 creating TDRs within the Agriculture Easement Program. (06/08/1992)

Police and Fire

MCCF support the establishment of a helicopter unit. (3/11/2002)

Public Finance (including taxes; see AGP for impact taxes)

MCCF opposes the expanded power of Maryland Economic Development Corp (MECDO) and supports a petition for a referendum on it. (5/14/2001)

Support for rebate of revenue surplus to individual taxpayers. (3/9/1998)

MCCF opposes conference center. (4/14/1997) [Also under Land Use—specific]

MCCF supports the repeal of the State's recently-enacted five-cent per gallon gasoline tax. (02/08/1993)

MCCF opposes State bill MC/PG 26-93, which would give Montgomery County tax revenue authority for stormwater management an authority to regulate the disturbance of non-tidal wetlands. (12/14/1992)

Oppose imposition of fees for residential property owners to amend their tax assessments. (3/11/1991)

Recreation

MCCF supports an ongoing discussion of the Matthew Henson Trail. (4/9/2001)

MCCF recommend to the Governor that he transfer \$4 million from the Rural Legacy Program to the Legacy Open Space program which accomplishes the same intended purpose. (10/10/2000)

The MCCF supports County acquisition of the property under the Legacy Open Space program. (3/13/2000)

MCCF opposes blacktop paving of bike paths in stream valley parks—equestrian and bike paths—in the Northwest Branch Hiker-Biker Trail. (3/96)

MCCF supports the adoption of a resolution on the reimbursement for parkland taken for roads. (05/11/1992) [Also under transportation]

Police and Fire

MCCF support the establishment of a helicopter unit. (3/11/2002)

Schools/Education

MCCF support the reduction in school capacity to the 95% threshold for APG tests. (3/11/2002)

Re-affirm its support for the creation of the Jaime Escalante Public Charter School (6/11/2001)

MCCF supports the expansion of the University of Maryland at Shady Grove, that the Traville property be made available to meet the University's needs, and that letters of support be sent to the County Council, Delegates and Senators. (6/12/2000)

The MCCF urges the Montgomery County Public Schools to immediately implement an Algebra Prep course to prepare eight grade students to succeed in Algebra I by the ninth grade. (6/12/2000)

We supports the MCPS proposal to expand the range of students to taking the SAT exam. (5/8/2000)

We recommend that MCPS encourage students to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes and AP exams. The outcome measure of success should be the number of tests scored 3 or above divided by a number reflective of the total student body of the school. (5/8/2000)

MCCF urges the Superintendent of Schools and the principal of Quince Orchard High School to retroactively award the status of valedictorian and salutatorian to the June, 1999 graduates who met the criteria for class valedictorian and salutatorian. (2/14/2000)

Given the importance of transparency and accountability for our educational system, the Federation supports requests for updates of minority performance data from the MCPS Dept. of Educational Accountability for each year from 1988 to the present. (6/14/1999)

Given the importance of involving teaching professionals, parents and the community in the educational process and given the salience of curriculum development in setting the goals and fostering the instructional and assessment methodologies of the educational process, and given that public institutions should have an educational predisposition to openness, the Federation strongly encourages openness and public participation in all stages of curriculum development by and for MCPS. (6/14/1999)

Given that recognizing academic achievement is an important part of encouraging academic excellence, and given that the method of recognition of outstanding academic performance ought not to be changed without a public process or without adequate

notification to students and parents, the Federation recommends that the nature of such a process and the requirements for notification ought to be established by the Board of Education. (6/14/1999)

MCCF opposes State bill MC 302-93 on voting rights for the student member of the Montgomery County Board of Education. (01/11/1993)

Transportation

MCCF opposes the delay of widening Norbeck Road. (3/11/2002)

We favor a study of growth as a transportation policy issue both on a countywide and regional basis. We can't spend out way out of congestion. Growth should not exceed funding available for infrastructure and services. (2/11/2002)

We favor a study of buses with priority emphasis on express buses. (2/11/2002)

The Montrose Parkway should be all or nothing. Given our past position on the matter and the fact that County is only considering the Parkway expansion to Rt. 355, that means we continue to oppose the Montrose Parkway. (2/11/2002)

We oppose the Techway. (2/11/2002)

We restate our opposition to the ICC. We also oppose the analysis of the Planning Board Staff because insufficient attention was paid to the environmental issues west of Georgia Avenue in particular. (2/11/2002)

We support the Task Force recommendation for transportation for the elderly and urge the Council give prompt and serious consideration to the proposal now being developed by the Aging and Disability Services agency for the establishment of an essentially self-supporting transportation service patterned after the program in Portland, Maine. (2/11/2002)

Objects to current plans to have an interim transit terminus for the CCT south of the traffic bottleneck at I-270 and MD 121 at the Lockheed-Martin site and supports putting the terminus at a location north of MD 121 with easy access to I-270 and MD355. (11/13/2001)

Urges the County Council to delay a decision (on the purple line) until proper citizen input is heard. (10/9/2001)

Support much better local bus service. (9/10/2001)

Whereas some communities are in need of access points to the Georgetown Branch Interim Trail, the MCCF urges that the County provide access points to the Georgetown Branch Interim Trail to those communities now and not postpone them pending any

currently unfunded project. Further, the MCCF opposes postponing any needed trail improvements. (3/13/2000)

Oppose separation of mass transit from roads/highways with regard to taxes and funding. (3/9/1998)

Oppose state use of Montrose Parkway land in the area of Rt. 355 to I-270 for a roadway parallel to Montrose Road. (1/12/1998)

MCCF supports the reservation of the section of the Rockville Facility right-of-way from Georgia Avenue east of Northwest Branch Park for a recreational path. (10/12/1993)

MCCF supports the formation of a Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Environmental Impact Study of the Intercounty Connector. (05/10/1993)

MCCF supports HB 1022, which would require analyses of alternatives to proposed light rail projects. (03/08/1993)

MCCF confirms its position opposing the 1984 County-State agreement on roads MD 28 and MD 198. (02/08/1993)

MCCF supports the adoption of a resolution on the reimbursement for parkland taken for roads. (05/11/1992) [Also under recreation]

MCCF supports the interim use of the Georgetown Branch right-of-way as a recreational trail. (05/11/1992)

MCCF urges the County Council to amend the Georgetown Branch Master Plan to require that the sector plan provide at least one alternative that assumes no trolley construction. (5/13/1991)

Endorse the concept of light rail provided that it would have sufficient ridership, be cost effective, and would not have a significant adverse impact on local communities. (10/11/1988)

Reiterate the Federation's longstanding opposition to the Intercounty Connector (ICC). (5/9/1988)

Voting/Ethics/Operation of Government

Supports single-member Maryland State legislative districts (9/10/2001)

Increase the number of councilmanic districts from 5 to 7 and that the number of Council members remain at nine. 1/14/2002

MCCF supports reducing the number of signatures needed for a referendum to 10,000, down from the current requirement of 5% of registered voters (currently about 22,000). (2/12/2001)

MCCF send a letter to the county attorney and other agencies that the MCCF ExComm may choose, to review the ethics, legality, and appropriateness of these documents. Wording to be decided by the MCCF ExComm and brought back to the delegates. (11/13/2000)

MCCF ask our State's delegation to rewrite the legislation regarding campaign finance disclosure at the time of zoning reclassification requests, to cure the problems identified by the State's attorney in his letter of Aug 28, 2000 so as to meet the original legislative intent. (9/11/2000)

We ask the state's attorneys office and Montgomery County Ethics Board to review possible ethics violations regarding land adjacent to Leisure World and to report their findings to the Civic Federation. (5/8/2000)

The MCCF protests the process by which the WSSC-owned property next to Leisure World was sold. (3/13/2000)

Oppose covert conduct of public business. (3/9/1998)

Oppose labeling voters unaffiliated with any political party as "other" rather than as "independent." (12/8/1997)

MCCF opposes HB 1181, which would have the State of Maryland take over funding of all local Election Boards and the Orphans' Courts. (03/08/1993)

MCCF endorses a referendum to reduce the County Council from 4 to 2 at-large members, and continue to elect 5 members by district. (06/08/1992)

MCCF supports the request that Montgomery County Government provide legal services to designated voters from Montgomery County to petition the Maryland Court of Appeals to reapportion the State legislative districts in accordance with applicable laws and county decisions. (05/11/1992)

MCCF resolves to provide support services to legal efforts to obtain fair and just representation in the Maryland General Assembly for the voters of Montgomery County. (05/11/1992)

MCCF supports the giving of to civic associations standing on appeal of contested cases. (02/10/1992)

MCCF oppose the changing of the County Charter to allow for the popular election of the president of the County Council. (02/10/1992)

MCCF opposes any change in the County Charter that would allow for additional special [?]. (02/10/1992)

The Federation opposes the disposition of any surplus County land, until the County implements an equitable and comprehensive policy, and plans for both affordable housing and surplus land, including surplus schools sites. (11/4/91)

MCCF supports the re-adoption of single member State Legislative Districts. (5/13/1991)

MCCF opposes amending zoning text language to make submission of a staff report on zoning variances discretionary. (5/13/1991)

Oppose any change in the County Ethics Law which would make any provision more liberal than its current provisions or any less stringent than any provision in the State Ethics Law. (9/1/1989)

MCCF Internal Procedures

MCCF raise the basic dues \$15/35/50/65 to \$20/45/65/85. (3/11/2002)

MCCF mail the newsletter by first-class mail. (3/11/2002)

MCCF share the savings [from e-mail replacement of postage] with members who elect to receive their newsletter subscription by electronic download by offering a \$5 discount/rebate per "unit" on a one-year trial basis. (3/11/2002)

MCCF authorizes reservation of the domain name montgomerycivic.org . (9/11/2000)

We strongly encourage articles to be submitted to the editor by e-mail (currently deanahmad@yahoo.com). They can be in any standard word processing format (MS Word97 is preferred) and ideally should use the format you see in the final newsletter (11-point Times New Roman font, etc.). All articles MUST be received by noon on the second Saturday preceding the delegate's assembly to be announced in the newsletter. (Thus, articles for the October newsletter must be received by noon on Saturday Sept. 23, 2000). Unless an article is mandated by the Bylaws or by the Executive Committee, the Editor has complete discretion as to whether or not it is published. Unless submitted by the Executive Committee, articles advocating only one side of an issue must either conform to a position taken by the Federation or be accompanied by a balancing article. The Editor may make spelling and grammatical corrections. Further, the editor may make changes for space, stylistic, or other reasons unless the author appends a request "Please make no major changes without consultation" to the article. Any such request will be honored, but may reduce the article's chances of appearing. Where space prohibits an article from appearing in the current issue, but the article is of continuing interest, it may be deferred to a future issue. (9/11/2000)

Deadline for submitting material for newsletter shall be at least two days after the regular Executive Committee meeting. (1/8/1990)

The name of any organization applying for membership in the Federation and names of its proposed delegates shall be published in the newsletter prior to the acceptance vote required by Article II, Section 4 of the Bylaws. (1/8/1990)

No recruitment campaigns be made to solicit Associates. (1/8/1990)

Miscellaneous

MCCF urges the State Legislature and the Governor of the State of Maryland to proclaim jointly the third week in June of the year 1992 and thereafter as Silver Spring Week. (05/11/1992)