From: Marybeth Shea

To: Clerk of the Council

Subject: RE Detailed Site Plan 22001 (DSP-22001) - McDonald"s Ager Road/ My written testimony

**Date:** Monday, September 29, 2025 11:22:19 PM

Attachments: MbShea 2 of 2 PDFs 6 12 re-share 1 25 Health testimony re Ager Rd proposed McDonalds .pdf

MbShea 1 of 2 PDFs 6\_12 re-sharing of 1\_16 testimony re historic preservation Ager RD proposed McDonald"s

.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from an external email domain which carries the additional risk that it may be a phishing email and/or contain malware.

Dear Ms. Brown,

I respectfully urge the District Council to disapprove Detailed Site Plan 22001 (DSP-22001) - McDonald's Ager Road. I have testified many times regarding this proposed development. Attached are PDFs of my most recent testimony, concerning

1) a lack of proper health assessment, as required in county planning guidance; and

2) the serious **lack of any historic preservation work** by the county regarding the Green Hill plantation directly adjacent to the proposed site; indeed, the property was part of the Green Hill Plantation until the mid 1950s.

**Health assessment: In addition to my attached prior remarks,** I remain deeply concerned that that the proposed high-volume drive-through poses serious health problems in a community already at risk for bad health outcomes:

- the high percentage of people of color and
- a higher-than-average percentage of children under five years of age,
- many residents who do not speak English, who also
- lack health insurance; heavy traffic.

This development does not offer reasonable and healthy food options in an area that already lacks grocery/market options for fresh produce. These families also face further health risks due to poorly designed traffic patterns for pedestrians, air pollution from this same urban traffic, and heat island higher temperatures from the surrounding built environment.

The County already knows about these risks, noting that this neighborhood is already inCounty-designated "Food Swamp." Over the recent decade, the County Council passed many measures to address this Swamp: Of particular note is the t county-wide Food Equity Council and this designated Healthy Food Priority Areas (HFPA). This proposed restaurant property is in a HFPA. You conducted the studies and wrote sensible policies; yet this entire process is still -- seemingly, about to approve this fast food, high volumen drive through. Please align your actions now with these worthy policies and vote no

Lack of historic preservation work regarding the Green Hill Plantation: Please review the extensive discussion in the assembled record about this shocking lack of attention, by our Historic Preservation institutions of the County. Our historic preservation history -- one of the best in the nation -- simply continues to ignore this plot, once part of the Green Hill Plantation. This Plantation's extent is that of the largest plantation in the North part of the County. The enslavement of many Black men, women, and children on that plantation has been well-documented (see attached testimony summarizing the recent findings of the names

of 33 persons). After much testimony, McDonard's and the associated partners conducted some of what would be required under professional standards regarding development on a historic resource. Testimony and community objection stimulated this work. Neither the County nor these property owners took any responsibility for the appropriate curation of the Green Hill Plantation. I am not very confident that the proposed plans will 1) be done with full measure of devotion and community preferences; and 2) that the fast food drive through --frankly -- sullies the magnitude of what happened on this site: the brutal enslavement of men, women, and children and forced, stolen labor that supported the Digges and Riggs (Bank) families and is the primary basis of these family's wealth.

Please accept this written testimony: I am not able to appear in person due to health reasons. I remain diligent in this process, in part, because of a legal loophole that has permitted the McDonal's application to keep sailing through the planning process. Namely: McDonald's was not required to secure approval of a Conceptual Site Plan or a Preliminary Plan of Subdivision. This means that County action on this DSP is last opportunity for the community to register our deep displeasure and urge caution.

Please ensure that this letter and two PDF attachments is included in the public record for DSP 22001.

Thank you for your time and attention to me and my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Shea 301.357.9831 3100 Kimberly Rd Hyattsville, MD marybeth.shea@gmail.com

I am a person of record.

My testimony focuses on the staff report and recommendation that McDonald's will use posters in their restaurant decor to address historic preservation concerns raised at all fall 24 Planning Board hearings.

That the wooded parcel will not be stripped of trees, offers opportunities for the *parcel to simultaneously serve environmental and history concerns*.

#### This wooded parcel can feature historic markers.

**To be specific:** poster decor is insufficient to meet historic preservation professional standards. I request professional and community-based curation of the history of enslavement, forced labor, and capitol extraction from people who lived on Chillum Castle Manor/Green Hill Plantation. Respectfully submitted, Marybeth Shea, 3100 Kimberly Rd. Hyattsville, MD 20782

January 16, 1925

### A tale of two graves: when you matter and when you don't

In the early 50s, during Langley Park/Adelphi development, a grave was uncovered at what is now Adelphi Mill/Cottage historic property . By 1955 Ann Barber (1800-1825) had been re-interred into Rock Creek Park Cemetery. Research, including in the UK, fundraising, and even religious oversight of this complex process reflected concern, respect, and historical documentation of the gravity of this find.



Opportunity: Ann's existence is not included in MNCPPC historic markers but should be; furthermore, the connection between the Mill and Green Hill Plantation is worth telling.

During fall 24 Planning Board hearings, all learned of 39 (33 named) enslaved persons "chained" to the Digges/Riggs plantation. (See slide 4, next). Court documents attest to this.

Now, the developer proposes to include information posters as decor for the proposed Ager Rd. McDonalds. Consultation with MNCPPC historic preservation staff is assured.

Questions: Do indoor posters reflect the gravitas of this local history? Do these posters reflect professional standards of historic curation? Is the community served by such posters? Are the enslaved people of the Greenhill Plantation honored by such proproposed posters?

https://www.pgparks.com/facilities/adelphi-mill-historic-site

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53898075/ann-barber https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/pgjw/id/560/



Both images from Find a Grave, for Rock Creek Park Cemetery in Washington, DC https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53898075/ann-barber Fuller 1954 article linked in last slide

#### They matter; WE MUST MEMORIALIZE THEM.

Presented 10/24

#### 33 names of 39 enslaved persons inherited (1825):by WD Digges, Green Hill

Albert
Abel
Basil
Ben
Charles
Charles
Clara
Daly
Eliza
Giles
Gusty
Issac
Jane

John

Keasy Lewis Lithe Lucy Margaret Mary Mary Milly Nanny Nelly Priss Raechel Raechel Ruth Ann Sarah Sophy Washington

William

SOURCE: NC Race and Slavery Petitions of the <u>Digital Library on American Slavery</u>

This web exhibit used Maryland Chancery Court records; these 39 people were willed to William Digges of GreenHill Plantation after a family dispute about who could claim these enslaved people as their property.

https://dlas.uncg.edu/petitions/

FROM EARLIER TESTIMONY: Respectfully submitted by Marybeth Shea, Hyattsville, MD: testimony 10/24/2024.

# **Historic preservation: marker standards**

Standards should reflect dignity and solemnity to occasion: old, new samples



The Digges family also owned Melwood, as well as the land of what is now National Harbor.



https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/pgjw/id/550/https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=237129

https://www.cathstan.org/local/part-1-descendants-of-ancestors-enslaved-by-jesuits-reconnect-with-family-members-and-heritage-in-southern-maryland-gathering

## Proposed: professional attention/community consultation

Any historic markers at the Ager Road property should reflect community needs and historic preservation standards. The context is Prince George's County and Maryland history, with attention to the lived experience of enslaved persons.

Suggested (English/Spanish):

- Outdoor curation by historic markers
- Proposed posters require community consultation
- Web exhibits are also a way to document and share widely.

Recent curation of Lakeland by MNCPPC is a model -->



https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=237129

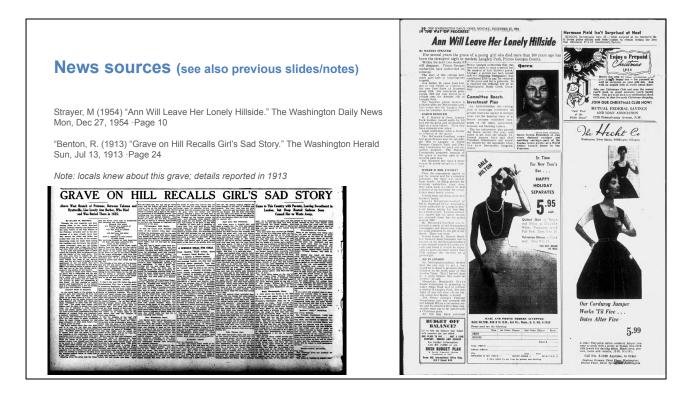
### Last wish: Wooded buffer as a place to contemplate

In 1989, Toni Morrison called for historical markers commemorating slavery. She wrote *Beloved*, in part, because of an absence of knowledge about this history.

"There is no place you or I can go, to think about or not think about, to summon the presences of, or recollect the absences of slaves," she said. "There is no suitable memorial, or plaque, or wreath, or wall, or park, or skyscraper lobby. There's no 300-foot tower, there's no small bench by the road."

The Unitarian Universalist Bench-by-the-Road Foundation offers two-seat benches/four-seat benches (\$3,500/\$5,000) that can be part of historical curation at the Green Hill Plantation site.

https://www.uuworld.org/articles/a-bench-by-road



Images from Newspaper Archives, a commercial source. (two of ten articles re Ann Barber's grave)

I can share PDFs of these articles if you ask me. https://www.newspapers.com/image/1042244021/?match=1&terms=%22Ann%20Barber%22%20grave%20mill

https://www.newspapers.com/image/76032803/?match=1&terms=%22Ann%20Barber%22%20grave%20mill

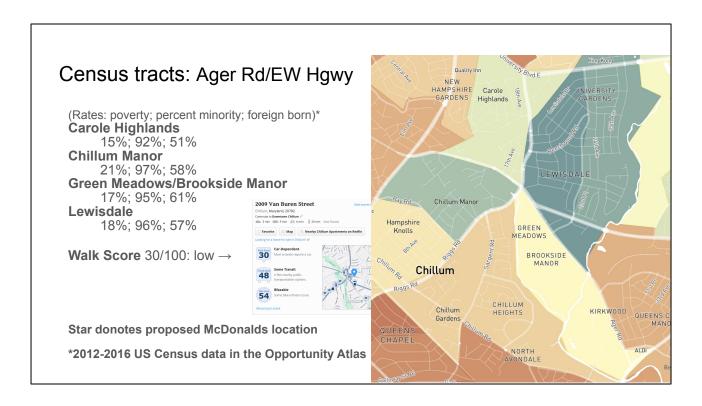
### Data-rich HEALTH ASSESSMENT overview re Ager Rd McDonalds

We believe that the Planning Board erred in not using a health assessment. We testify with this quick yet well-sourced overview about how a McDonald's in Chillum-Lewisdale only exacerbates limited food access; thereby, harms community health, especially for children.

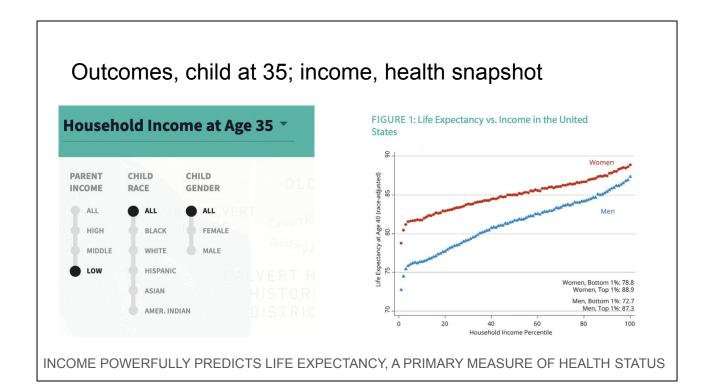
- 1) We used the <u>Opportunity Atlas</u>. This geolocation modeling tool shows average adult outcomes for children based on where they grow up, at the census tract level. The Atlas combines census and IRS data to compare outcomes such as average individual and household income, educational attainment, employment rates, and incarceration rates for children who grew up in different areas.
- 2) We combined this work with ongoing USDA analysis re income status and food access,
- 3) Finally, we note the many County reports, proclamations, policy efforts against such food options, especially in the NE district bordering DC.

Companies like McDonalds use powerful proprietary geo-located, real-time information to plan their locations. This community is seen by McDonald's as a likely place to target low income families and children with hot, salty, high fat foods that are relatively low in cost and served up fast, while idling in a car or walking over from several large apartment complexes. Setianingrum, Herlin & Tukiran, Martinus. (2024). High Sugar and Fat Additives in Fast Food Restaurants: Is Whether Addiction or Consumer Loyalty?. Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan IPA. 10. 1-6. 10.29303/jppipa.v10iSpeciallssue.7875. AND Lustig RH. Ultraprocessed Food: Addictive, Toxic, and Ready for Regulation. Nutrients. 2020 Nov 5;12(11):3401. doi: 10.3390/nu12113401. PMID: 33167515; PMCID: PMC7694501.

The Opportunity Atlas is a data tool that can show average adult outcomes for children based on where they grew up, specifically at the **census tract level**. The Atlas uses census and IRS data to compare outcomes such as average individual and household income, educational attainment, employment rates, and incarceration rates for children who grew up in different areas.



Opportunity Atlas snapshot of the four census tracts that converge at the intersection of Ager and EW <a href="https://www.walkscore.com">www.walkscore.com</a>; Note: the shadow of the proposed McDonalds falls upon many more local neighborhoods; for simplicity, the selected four centus tract are those that "touch" the ingress/egress of the proposed drive-through.



Left image, Opportunity Atlas for these Census tracts (they predict the same). Right image from "The Association Between Income and Life Expectancy in the United States, 2001-2014" Raj Chetty, Augustin Bergeron, David Cutler, Benjamin Scuderi, Michael Stepner, Nicholas Turner

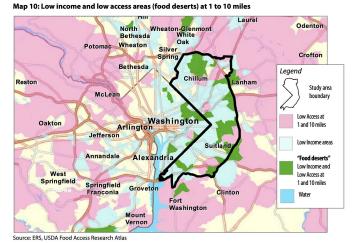
The Journal of the American Medical Association 315(4), 2016 April 2016

NOTE: The Chetty paper is the canonical citation for this work associating income and health, with life expectancy the proxy for all other health attributes; for this century in the US.

## Low income, low access to healthy food→poor health status

PG County Officials KNOW THIS, citing USDA data/analysis, sources in notes.

ata/ariarysis, sources in notes.



County initiatives and proclamations include:

- Healthy Food Priority Area
- Healthy People Plan
- Food Equity Council

Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). <u>Food Access Research Atlas</u>, https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/Cited (p. 61) in "Healthy Food for All Prince Georgians." Prince George's County. 2015 https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/5785/Healthy-Food-For-All-Prince-Georgians Lisa can list the initiatives?

### **Bottom line**

Placing a McDonald's in the heart of a low income, low access (LI LA is technical name for food desert) community is:

- Against the current and future health of children and residents.
- Against many County proclamations and stated goals – See RIGHT.
- Undermines County health goals that the Planning Commission said they did not have to consider;.

WE THINK THEY MUST CONSIDER HEALTH in their analysis. This analysis was not done in the Ager Road McDonald's planning meetings

Prince George's County has been at the blunt food and retail marketeers for decades.

The first inner county Starbucks (East West/Belcrest) required action by Magic Johnson, no less.

Retail food, like McDonalds, use data to predict ability to sell to communities. Low income communities are part of their preferred market capture goals.

Herewith, we use similarly powerful data tools to show health disparities related to income and food access

Do not let this McDonalds restaurant locate here. We deserve a break today and all days.

Respectfully submitted, Marybeth Shea, 3100 Kimberly Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782