

Statement by Councilmember Marilyn J. Praisner on Bill Hussmann

I was disappointed to learn today that Planning Board Chairman Bill Hussmann will not seek reappointment for a third term. Mr. Hussmann has a history of exemplary service in Montgomery County, both as chief administrative officer to former county executives Neal Potter and Jim Gleason, and as Planning Board Chair since 1994.

Throughout his tenure with the County, Mr. Hussmann has been a staunch protector of Montgomery's agricultural reserve and a vigilant guardian of its master plans. He led the effort to safeguard one of our most valuable natural resources - the Paint Branch watershed - with special protection area designation. Too often, we take for granted the wonderful quality of life we enjoy in our County. A great deal of credit must go to people like Bill Hussmann, who championed creative programs like Legacy Open Space and the Rural Legacy program. His commitment and persistence reminds me of something Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." This was Mr. Hussmann's philosophy and it is one reason why Montgomery County is such a great place to live and work.

Bill is a good friend, personally, and to Montgomery County. He will be missed.