

## **Mary Moore's Statement to Montgomery County Council Members**

Good evening, I moved into Sligo Woods with my husband in 1989. It was a beautiful suburban home with lots of huge trees and little crime. I was a public school teacher and my husband worked in printing. We could not afford homes in other parts of Montgomery County.

In 2018 I became involved in the Sligo Woods Civic Association and started a welcome new neighbors committee where I have welcomed new neighbors each month. They come from many different nationalities and often this is their first home.

Doesn't this sound like the perfect place with more affordable homes, lower crime rate, and a very diverse population?

Several years ago, Ngosi from the UBC planning committee came to our Civic Association Meeting and told us about this new UBC plan. The wider sidewalks, slower traffic, safer cycling and walking which all sounded great. AND I still love all those parts! (Although, later I learned that the state would be responsible for providing all those things.)

Last he mentioned rezoning. What? Using an urban plan? Don't we live in the suburbs.

I have attended many of the UBC meetings, both in person and on zoom. Here are my objections.

- 1) Density – The plan more than doubles the number of housing units from 3,500 to 7,000. This will more than double the number of people in 3.5 miles. Yet, the state of MD has identified a few roads that are not safe for pedestrians and bikers in the entire state. University is one of those roads, yet the county wants to more than double the number of people here. That doesn't sound safe to me for walking, cycling, and children playing in the street.
- 2) Affordable – The first few meetings I heard the need for more affordable housing for lower income and the missing middle. Then I heard them stop calling it affordable and instead, call it attainable. When asked, I was told there was no guarantee about affordability as a lot of that was up to the developers. But there would be more housing and that would probably drive the price down. In fact, it could just as easily drive prices up causing taxes to go up forcing some of our current neighbors out because they can't afford it.
- 3) Safety – Lots more people in a small amount of space and no specific plans for adding police or firemen. Our police district is severely understaffed and has constantly been understaffed.

- 4) Traffic patterns – How will opening some of our side streets to University help? In fact, it will encourage more cars to drive through the neighborhood to avoid the traffic snarls on University. This will make it more unsafe for walking, cycling and children playing.
- 5) Equitable Engagement – While we have had many meetings, we listen and they talk. No one is listening which is why all the civic associations in my area oppose this plan. They said they knocked on 1000 doors, but when asked it was in the apartments and not single family homes.

So.....

Since University has been identified by the state as being dangerous, why would the city council increase the density BEFORE fixing the issues?

Why is the county telling us these improvements will happen, when University Boulevard is a state road and the state will need to address the improvements we like.

Sounds to me like all we are going to get is new zoning.

Please do not do this to our neighborhood!

Respectfully,

Mary Moore