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11115 Fawcett Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
February 7, 2011

Dear Councilmember Berliner

On behalf of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, I ask that you defer any decision or discussion regarding the proposed abandonment and closure of Lincoln Street in conjunction with the Special Exception for expansion of Suburban Hospital. Executive Leggett's recommendation notwithstanding, any action on this issue at this time is premature.

The plan on which the expansion of the hospital and abandonment of Lincoln Street is predicated is on appeal to the Circuit Court in Rockville. It is a case which could take years to resolve.

In June, 2010, the County's Hearing Examiner, Francoise Carrier recommended in her report that the hospital redesign its plan from "many possible alternatives to choose, e.g. moving the loading dock v. moving part of the utility plant v. reducing the size of the physician office space v. keeping satellite parking v. enlarging the underground footprint of the parking garage v. changing the shape of the surgical suite." (F.Carrier, p.136, 6/18/10).

It is clear that many possible redesigns could result in a plan that would not require the closure of Lincoln Street and would be very acceptable to the Huntington Terrace community. The hospital has chosen to ignore the Hearing Examiner's advice, continued to pursue its original design and declined to discuss their project with the local community. Any action at this time to resolve the abandonment issue in favor of the hospital would undermine the efforts of the affected community to have meaningful negotiations with the hospital and diminish the likelihood of an outcome favorable to all parties.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Dennis, President  
Montgomery County Civic Federation