

To Supervisor Storck,

I am adding my voice to the many organizations and individuals who support the location of a new facility for housing the homeless on the Beacon Hill site chosen by the County for co-locating several County services. I am resident in the Lee District side of Route 1, but regularly support the businesses in the Beacon Hill area by shopping as locally as I can.

The County made the best choice for the location of the shelter, since it is centrally located in the Route 1 corridor near an important intersection, and provides ready access to transportation. It has been pointed out that the anticipated commercial growth in the area will help to provide jobs for employment-seeking area residents, including those who are resident at the shelter, so that they may actively pursue a path out of homelessness.

The physical advantages of the site mean that the County services offered to the homeless will have the best opportunity to do the most good to the greatest number of people. And when the homeless are well-served, the community as a whole is well-served.

Every time a homeless shelter is built anywhere, there is opposition expressed, usually espousing views that do not reflect the best that humanity has to offer, almost always based on fears that have little to do with reality. I am sure that you and the other County Supervisors knew to expect this, and can put such opposition in proper perspective.

Fairfax County has done the right thing in choosing to take this step to solve the problem of homelessness in the Route 1 corridor, and by ensuring that the shelter is located in the Beacon Hill area, the County will support these efforts in an unprecedented way.

Thank you for considering the views of all those who support the County's efforts to do right by the those among us who face homelessness. Our views are probably not as stridently expressed as those put forth by individuals who oppose the shelter, but they spring from the deeply felt conviction that we all, every one of us, bear the responsibility of caring for each and every one of God's children.

Most sincerely,
Rachel Collins

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22306