

Mount Vernon Civic  
Association  
P.O. Box 61  
Mount Vernon, VA 22121  
8/23/17

Mr. Stork  
Fairfax County Supervisor  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Mount Vernon, VA 22306

Dear Mr. Stork:

Please extend our thanks to the County agencies that responded quickly in response to the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 storm. As you know, we have extensive sewage back up and water drainage situations in our neighborhood.

We have numerous families affected by the sewage back up on Booth, Scotland and surrounding streets in the 22309 area code. This has been a catastrophic event for our neighbors with extensive real and personal property damage. It is our understanding the County is actively working to offer a long term solution for damage resulting from sewage backup and cover the resulting damage to some of our neighbors' homes.

However, requests for assistance from other neighbors who have experienced damage resulting from the drainage ditch that runs through our neighborhood have been rebuffed. A number of our residents have water damage due to water that jumped the drainage ditch that runs through the neighborhood.

The Mount Vernon Civic Association is concerned that we have a poorly designed county drainage system that continues to fail. These homes are not listed in flood plains requiring flood insurance. Our neighbors have significant property damage and no apparent remedy through immediate coverage through their insurance carrier or the County.

Of greater concern though, is the speed at which the water filled these basements. We are sure that you appreciate that this problem is an issue of public safety. The water rose at an alarming rate and the resulting damage has rendered some homes uninhabitable. According to the home owners, their basements filled within minutes. Had someone been asleep or a baby been in a crib, this could have resulted in a significant injury or even death.

Moreover, a house was deemed unsafe to occupy at 9223 Allwood Drive. On 9313 Heather Glen, the force of water that was redirected from the drainage ditch was so strong, it collapsed a portion

Mr. Stork

8/23/17

Page 2

of the basement cinder block wall. The County inspector advised the house was structurally sound, but thought the entire vertical wall would probably have to be replaced.

Additionally, the risk of drainage ditch overflow remains an ongoing concern. The Campbell's at 4312 Robertson Blvd had a similar problem in August of 2014. They had water fill their basement within minutes. Their children were playing in the basement at the time. Luckily, the Campbell Family was able to rescue their children from the rising water before anyone was hurt.

I must remind you that our past President, Louise Sloan, met with you in June of 2016 regarding these concerns. Yet, the County continues to approve the building of additional homes upstream, but has not addressed the water drainage concerns downstream. Thus, the County's operations appear to be directing water downstream onto the properties of those families located in our neighborhood.

As more houses continue to be built in the neighborhood, the antiquated configuration and size of the drainage system appear to be insufficient to meet the needs of the homes of our community. The owners of these homes had no opportunity to prepare for this catastrophe; their homes are not listed in flood plains requiring flood insurance. Yet, the damage and risk they have experienced could not be addressed by them in any other way. Given the County's control of the community's development, the County must provide solutions in the immediate and long term to protect the interests and safety of its citizens.

Please have your office keep us updated on the process for reporting claims and position of the County on the solutions to these two neighborhood concerns. We would like to be able to report on the progress at our October 11<sup>th</sup> civic association meeting.

Sincerely,

Sean McCarthy  
Mount Vernon Civic Association  
President