

**Testimony of Dr. Patricia Maclay to the Montgomery County Planning Board in support of Bethesda Market, Sketch Plan No. 320190030
October 24, 2019**

Hello, My name is Patricia Maclay. As the State Historian for Maryland DAR, I am here to testify on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution in favor of the Bethesda Market Plan No 320190030

The DAR was founded in 1890 as a service organization devoted to patriotism, education and historic preservation. In support of the last, DAR members have worked to preserve and protect our historical and cultural heritage. Our efforts include museum acquisitions and management, the safeguarding of our country's monument, and the conservation and maintenance of historic sites. To these efforts, the DAR continues to devote our physical and financial assistance. And being an organization of women, we have naturally viewed...as important.. support for those preservation efforts that place women and their work into the forefront.

As you are all aware, the Farm Women's Market has been selling produce and crafts since the days of the 1930s Great Depression. In the face of a crippling economy, the farm women, who created this cooperative, used this site to generate a source of income critical for their family's survival in that time of poverty and need.

So why does the DAR feel that the Board should adopt this plan? Because it will... in 3 important ways...work to preserve the Market as a part of history.

1st - as a symbol of those 1930's women, who struggled with grit and determination to save their families from the effects of the Depression era economy,

2nd – as a representation of the underserved...both those in poverty and the historical position of women as second class citizens.

And...3rd - as a testimony to cultural safeguarding since farmer's markets are an old tradition and because many of the vendors working the site today are direct descendants of those women who formed the market cooperative,

And although not a part of history, the market will offer people a needed community space to purchase healthy food, enjoy an historical tradition, and find a place for human interaction, which I, as a physician, wholeheartedly endorse as needed for health and wellness.

Just as we are now preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the voices of women suffrage, so also must we celebrate these farm women...who joined together to create this market despite poverty and adversity. It is our duty to not only acknowledge their voices from the past, but to carry those voices forward into the future by appropriately saving and preserving this site. The DAR feels that the submitted plan will allow those voices to continue to echo in the halls of the market

Therefore, as a representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution,...the largest and most historically focused women's organization in the world, ...I ask you to accept this Bethesda Market Plan and preserve this very important location so it may continue to speak to the strength, determination and resiliency of women and allow for those voices from nearly 9 decades ago to continue to be heard today.

Thank you.

