

Sayers, Margery

From: andrea zavage <apzavage@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Weinstein, Jon; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Siddiqui, Jahantab; CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Susan Garber
Attachments: Andrea Zavage in Support of CR49-2015.doc

Re: CR 49-2015

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing in support of Susan Garber's appointment to the Planning Board. I'm disheartened by HCEA's negative campaign against such a well-qualified candidate for the Planning Board. I urge you to separate any letters received into two piles: those letters from people who know Susan well vs. those letters generated blindly in response to some political call to action.

I have known Susan since 1971 when we were both neighbors and Special Education teachers in Prince George's County. I have been a member of HCEA since 2004, first as a teacher and now as a paraeducator since my retirement.

I know Susan to be accomplished in our field and respected for her innovation and ability to make positive things happen for students, adults, and seniors who struggle with significant issues. She is passionate in her beliefs and meticulous in her study of issues. She doesn't hesitate to ask questions to achieve greater understanding. I know her to be considerate of others' feelings and respectful of differing opinions. I know her as someone who can always generate multiple possible solutions to problems.

Numerous individuals benefitted from the non-profit she established, AT:LAST, Inc. Howard County schools saved tens of thousands of dollars on assistive technology for individual students as well as software and special equipment for classrooms through the co-operative purchasing component. She even provided a national speaker for a back to school in-service without charge to our school system. While at JHU she arranged partial scholarships for 5 Howard County teachers and provided numerous hours of in-service training and consultation on students. Doesn't this sound like the kind of person we should find highly desirable for a volunteer position with the County?

She has authored several book chapters and served as proofreader for several technical books, demonstrating both knowledge and attention to detail. Howard County needs someone on the Planning Board who will work to balance developer's desires with that of existing residents to maintain our high quality of life. I know Susan can be counted on to study staff reports, confer with her fellow board members and apply all the regulations and laws applicable. She has no conflicts of interest, is an independent thinker, and will work hard for all communities in Howard County. I strongly urge you to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Andrea Zavage

10505 Twin Cedar Court

Laurel, MD 20723