

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Christine & Earl <dietrichs4@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 7:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** In support of Susan Garber for Planning Board

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I support Council Resolution #49-2015 for the appointment of Susan Garber on the Planning Board. I applaud County Executive Kittleman for validating the work that Susan has done for Howard County in nominating her for this position.

I know Susan both professionally and personally. First, I would like to speak about Susan as President of the Savage Community Association. For years, Susan has been an incredible leader advocating on behalf of citizens in the southeastern portion of the county, as well as addressing issues county-wide. She governed the SCA in a diplomatic manner ensuring that everyone's voice was heard and represented. Susan led the SCA in an orderly and purposeful manner resulting in progress while offering reassurance even in times of uncertainty or division amongst residents. Susan has successfully worked with residents, county leadership, and congregations in her work to support our schools, protect the environment, promote responsible development, and encourage community building.

As for Susan Garber the person, she is intelligent, honest, respectful, gracious, and open-minded. She is a good communicator with a positive attitude who is committed to the greater good of the community. She also remains tolerant, calm, and composed as she seeks facts to any issue. She truly is of exemplary character.

I know that there is some opposition to Susan's appointment that I would like to address. Some try to make her out as "anti-development", but "Pro-Howard" would be a more accurate description. She supports smart development that preserves and enhances the quality of life in the county. She has seen what it takes to be a developer through her own family's experience. She seeks consistent planning for all of Howard County, the kind that balances our resources with market demands while consulting residents who live in communities that are affected by decisions made behind a desk miles away. I implore you to disregard the negative campaigning against Susan. Any attempt to thwart Susan from serving on the Planning Board is solely incited by other people's personal and unrelated motives. It appears that Susan is being misrepresented in mass communications throughout some organizations. Letter drives should be examined closely as the result of propaganda and not the thoughtful research by individuals who are taking a truthful position. Susan is NOT seeking to hold any future office and only wants to do her civic duty and offer her knowledge and skills to truly serve the public in this unpaid position.

What do I believe Susan will bring to the Planning Board? Susan will be committed to the position functioning as an ethical and fair leader making decisions with integrity. She will think analytically and morally while participating as part of the planning team. Her participation on the planning board will be guided by the desire to see all individuals in Howard County thrive.

If approved for the Planning Board, I am certain that Susan Garber will be a pure asset in this position.

Sincerely,  
Christine Dietrich  
[dietrichs4@verizon.net](mailto:dietrichs4@verizon.net)