

## Concerning the RASEC recommendations

Dear Mayor Compton, and Councilors Dibble, Gilmore, Nagrod, Patrone, Raimondo and Warfield,

I have immense respect for the work the Racial and Social Equity Committee (RASEC) has done. Their contributions during the process of formulating the 2022 Comprehensive Plan were timely and of great value to the Planning Commission. However, I cannot support their recent set of recommendations.

I would like to thank Tom Land and Shelley Winkler for writing so eloquently and clearly regarding the five recommendations proposed by RASEC. I agree the recommendations are either unnecessary or misguided. Any recommendations which would add more layers of bureaucracy making it harder to be a Town volunteer would be a mistake.

I am particularly opposed to the renaming of McCathran Hall. When the residents of Washington Grove voted to add Roy McCathran's name to the Town Hall, they acknowledged his thirty-eight years of exemplary elected service to the Town. The accomplishments that stand out most sharply to me relate to our form of government which I believe is unique in Maryland. It would have been so easy to adopt County oversight or to become part of Gaithersburg, but Roy McCathran successfully proposed and implemented the creation of an independent municipality with our own planning and zoning authority. He pushed for the element of our Charter which vests the authority of the Town in its voting residents at the annual Town Meeting. This Town Meeting provision is often seen in New England, but not in Maryland. I believe it's appropriate to continue to honor Roy McCathran's significant contributions to our town.

My thanks to all of you for the wonderful work you also do for Washington Grove,

Georgette Cole