



COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
COURT HOUSE, TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

DAVID MARKS
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March 3, 2020

Thank you for attending the Community Input Meeting on the proposed Gerst Farm Planned Unit Development. The county charter prohibits County Councilmembers from attending hearings sponsored by the executive branch, which is why I am writing to explain my history with this property.

Since my election to the County Council, I have worked to preserve green space and lighten school overcrowding. Four new parks have opened along Honeygo Boulevard, for example, and land has been downzoned throughout Perry Hall. When a developer proposed an intense townhouse project at the Gerst Farm in 2015, I blocked it.

The following year, I initiated a downzoning of the Gerst Farm to slow development until Honeygo Elementary School and the new northeastern middle school could advance.

Last year, with the farm under contract to a new developer, I created a task force to recommend a broad vision for the Gerst Farm. That task force recommended some ideas that will hopefully will be part of any eventual plan for this property.

I share many of the concerns expressed at the Community Input Meeting for the Gerst Farm, which is why I told the developer the next day that I would not support the proposal. I asked for three major changes.

First, I would prefer a substantial decrease in the density of the project, particularly the townhouses.

Second, there should be ironclad guarantees that the senior villas are purchased by seniors without school-age children.

Finally, there was overwhelming consensus that we need more open space preserved. I would like for a park to be set aside along the Gerst Road corridor, and preferably at this site.

Should you have any additional suggestions, I welcome you to email me at dmarks@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Very Truly Yours:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Marks
Baltimore County Councilman