



Northern Virginia Community College



June 10, 2010

Ms. Patricia Nicoson, Chair
Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force
c/o Ms. Sandy Smith, Planner
Department of Planning and Zoning
Planning Division
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-5507

Dear Ms. Nicoson:

As you begin work to plan the future of Reston, we hope you will entertain re-visiting what had been an early objective presence of the Bowman family – attracting a higher education presence to your community.

I understand from research undertaken by the late Nan Netherton, that for five years the Bowman family made a standing offer to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia for 250 acres of choice land at Sunset Hills for a branch of the University of Northern Virginia. While the Board of Visitors accepted the offer, the governing bodies of Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church were evidently unwilling to vote on the matter. The effort died in 1959 when the then Town of Fairfax gifted the University land that would become the main campus for George Mason.

Fifty years later, with the coming of the Silver Line, the community has a second opportunity to induce a higher education presence. As you review guiding principles and land use plan language for the three Reston station areas, we ask that you incorporate incentives that could prompt developers to include opportunities for Northern Virginia Community College to establish a center or campus as part of a new development. The good news is we won't need 250 acres!

Recognizing that colleges inherently offer transit oriented development advantages (shared use of facilities and off peak roadway demands to name two), we specifically ask that you consider making “public institutions of higher education” a use that is encouraged in Reston and providing incentives, such as discounts against area FAR provisions, for developments that include public colleges.

Office of the President

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For most of our campuses, 11am and 7pm are peak hours. These times fall outside typical rush periods and our college could also be a real attractant to support other community desired uses. As an example, we developed and manage a 1,000 seat concert hall at our Alexandria Campus. It is the venue of choice for a number of area symphonies.

Again, we recognize that you are just getting underway with your studies. As you move forward, please keep in mind that NOVA wants to be viewed as a strategic asset for your future. Let us know how we can help and whatever additional information you might find useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Templin, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert G. Templin, Jr.
President

cc: The Honorable Catherine Hudgins, Supervisor, Fairfax County Board
Mr. Miguel Garcia, Vice President of Finance & Administration, NOVA
Mr. Dana Kauffman, Director of College Government Affairs, NOVA