THE City OF Frederick

Dear Fellow Resident and Registered Voter of the City of Frederick,

As your elected City officials, we are writing to you on **a topic of great importance to the City of Frederick's future**. We are also asking you to consider **a very complex set of facts** and make an informed decision.

You may have heard about **our recent approvals to annex three key parcels of land into the City's boundaries**: The 285-acre Crumland Farm and 110-acre Thatcher Farm are on the north side of town along U.S. 15; the 100-acre Summers Farm is at the intersection of Butterfly Lane and Mt. Philip Road. The City Planning Commission and the Board of Aldermen overwhelmingly approved these three annexations. The **combined vote in favor was 22-2.**

These annexations have been **a strategic part of the City's and County's long-term growth plans** for many years. Likewise public water and sewer has been planned for all of these properties. To protect our economic future, we must extend the City boundaries because there are **minimal acres left within the City available for non-residential growth.** Annexing these properties would produce **millions of dollars in new tax revenue** and the ability to handle **thousands of new jobs** coming to our area. In our planning process, we have been **careful to include safeguards** against the kind of County sprawl that has occurred in places like Urbana, Spring Ridge and Ballenger Creek. The City put into place an **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO)** before any annexations were considered.

In the weeks ahead, you are likely to hear from County officials and a group of predominately non-City residents known as "Friends of Frederick County." They are going to pressure you to sign petitions that will **overturn the City's planning process and require a costly special election.**

Don't be misled. They are not operating with the best interests of our City at heart. This petition drive is not about representative democracy. It is really about **outsiders trying to take control** of our City's economic destiny.

We are respectfully asking you not to sign these petitions. Instead, we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to call or e-mail one of your elected City officials and get the facts. Our contact information is listed below. Also, go to *www.cityoffrederick.com* for more annexation details.

We know you are just as concerned as we are about the economic future of our City. Please say NO to the annexation referendum petitions, and then **contact us at City Hall with any questions you may have.** We look forward to hearing from you!

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