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January 25, 2011

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Clare Lise Kelly, Research & Designation Coordinator
Historic Preservation Section, Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Inventory No. M: 36-61

Dear Mr. Whipple and Ms. Kelly:

I write in support of the nomination of the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property to the *Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or Locational Atlas of Historic Properties*. The property should be preserved as an important component of Silver Spring's architectural legacy.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex is an important historic resource for the region. The 1926 Colonial Revival brick parsonage, which largely retains its historic core, is the oldest extant church building in the Silver Spring CBD. The 1956 structure, designed by local architect, Ronald S. Senseman, is the first modernist church in Silver Spring's CBD. Together they illustrate the transition between the traditional and modern approaches to religious architecture and chronicle the societal growth and development of Silver Spring and Montgomery County.

Based on research by the HPC Staff and the Silver Spring Historical Society, the site meets several of the criteria for listing on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The integrity of the complex should be preserved aided by the protections that are provided by the Historic Preservation Ordinance. I urge you to support the recommendation of the Silver Spring Historical Society to list the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property to the *Master Plan*.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Benaderet

Marilyn Benaderet
Director of Preservation Services

C: Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society
Judy Christensen, Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARYLAND ANTIQUITIES

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ATTACHMENT 6



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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2 February 2011

To: Scott Whipple, Supervisor & Clare Lise Kelly, Research & Designation Coordinator
Historic Preservation Section, Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Inventory No. M: 36-61
S.S. Baptist Church Nomination
Silver Spring Baptist Church Complex

In 2001, we were asked by the Maryland Historical Trust to conduct a statewide survey of Modern Movement resources, which we completed in July 2008. Our extensive research, conducted with the help of graduate students in our Historic Preservation program, resulted in 18 national register nominations, a large context essay, bio-bibliographies, transcribed interviews, several articles and conference papers. This research expertise enables us to place designs like the 1956 Silver Spring Baptist Church sanctuary in their proper local context.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church is not devoid of architectural interest. It is a one-of-a-kind, original design, as opposed to a project derived from publications. It compares favorably with other stylistically transitional designs – between tradition and modernity -- which dominated ecclesiastical design in Maryland until the mid-1950s. The powerful and well balanced massing allows the church to be a visually effective and culturally significant landmark at the prominent corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street. Both inside and outside, Senseman's design has elegant proportions and exhibits fine craftsmanship.

The nomination makes a compelling case about the rich but unheralded contribution of Ronald Senseman to architecture in Silver Spring and Suburban Maryland between the 1930s and 1980s. In Maryland, Senseman contributed extensively to what we call "Everyday Baby Boom Modernism." He was a suburbanite designing for other suburbanites. His commercial and civic commissions have been overlooked and many of them are gone or negatively altered. His 1939 Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary pioneered new ways of thinking about institutional design. His 1949 Oak View Elementary School led the path to a new era for public school designs. Senseman was a pillar of professional organizations and the founding president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, an organization which has tirelessly promoted good design, historic preservation, and social responsibility.

We are concerned with the preservation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church sanctuary, a key landmark of Silver Spring and a symbol of the city's growth and embrace of user-friendly contemporary design. We therefore argue for the local significance of Senseman's unique church design.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional feedback.

Sincerely

Isabelle Gournay, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Maryland

Mary Corbin Sies, Ph.D, Associate Professor of American, Affiliate Faculty, Historic Preservation
University of Maryland

March 2, 2011

Scott Whipple, Supervisor
Clare Lise Kelly, Research & Designation Coordinator
Historic Preservation Section
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION[®]
Southern
FIELD OFFICE

Re: Inventory No. M: 36-61

Dear Mr. Whipple and Ms. Kelly:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation joins with the Silver Spring Historical Society, Preservation Maryland, Montgomery Preservation Inc., Modern Movement in Maryland, the Art Deco Society, Historic Takoma, and others in supporting the designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property to the Montgomery County Master Plan and the Locational Atlas of Historic Sites.

A prominent landmark on the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, the Silver Spring Baptist Church is the only mid-twentieth century Modernist church in Silver Spring's Central Business District, and one of the very first in Montgomery County. With its distinguished architectural history and unique design, which creatively incorporates Art Deco elements, this significant historic site should be designated and preserved.

The Church Property includes a unique 1956 sanctuary designed by master architect, teacher, writer, and Silver Spring resident, Ronald S. Senseman, FAIA, and a 1925-1931 Colonial Revival parsonage and sanctuary designed in part by nationally known architect Dr. George Earnest Merrill. As a whole, the Property provides a living timeline of the architectural and social history of the Baptist Church in Silver Spring, as the town grew and flourished.

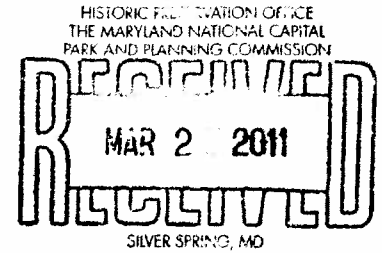
The tangible remnants of Silver Spring's Colonial Revival, Art Deco, and Modernist history play an important role in establishing the town's historic character. The Silver Spring Baptist Church Property features all of these elements, making it a critical piece of Silver Spring's architectural legacy.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation urges the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission to recommend designation and preservation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property, an authentic and irreplaceable historic treasure.

Sincerely,



Nell Ziehl
Program Officer



March 21, 2011

Scott Whipple, Supervisor
Clare Lise Kelly, Research & Designation Coordinator
Historic Preservation Section
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church, Inventory No. M:36-61

Dear Mr. Whipple and Ms. Kelly:

The Recent Past Preservation Network joins the Silver Spring Historical Society, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland, The Modern Movement in Maryland, Montgomery Preservation, Inc., the Art Deco Society of Washington, D.C., Historic Takoma and others in supporting the preservation and designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property, MIHP M: 36-31, to the Montgomery County Master Plan and Locational Atlas for Historic Properties.

The Recent Past Preservation Network agrees that the Silver Spring Baptist Church property meets Criteria 1a, 1d, 2a, 2b and 2e, based on the research by the Silver Spring Historical Society and the Montgomery County Historical Preservation Commission staff.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church property resides on a prominent corner rising up at Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, key crossroads in Silver Spring's CBD, and serves as both an architectural and visual landmark for the community, with the abstracted modernist design of the sanctuary complementing the original parsonage.

The 1925-1931 Colonial Revival parsonage and sanctuary auditorium, the oldest extant ecclesiastical building remaining, and in use, in Silver Spring's Central Business District, should be designated and preserved. The nationally known architect Dr. George Earnest Merrill (1870-1933), Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society Department of Building Counsel, played a major role in the design of the church's 1931 Colonial Revival sanctuary, the Church's "first unit," of his larger plan which also included a permanent sanctuary at the corner. Merrill passed away suddenly in 1933. Since May 1920, more than 600 church structures had been built under his guidance.

The 1956 permanent sanctuary, with its Modernist Geometric interpretations of formal design elements, in Romanesque style, and with Art Deco elements, was designed by the versatile, prolific, and award-winning regional and local master architect, teacher,

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writer and Silver Spring resident, Ronald S. Senseman, FAIA (1912-2001). Senseman was well-known for his church and institutional designs, having designed the 1939 7th Day Advent Theological Seminary Worldwide Headquarters building in Washington, D.C., which, as the Modern Movement in Maryland notates, pioneered a new vision for institutional buildings. A prolific architect, registered in 14 states, Senseman completed over 2,000 projects, including churches, school buildings, residences, hospitals, and a variety of other structures.

In Silver Spring, Senseman designs culminated in the brick and limestone sanctuary of the Silver Spring Baptist Church, which features a modernized Romanesque sanctuary with steeple rising 40 feet into the sky, atop a 4-story tower belfry, its austere limestone columns forming an “abstraction of a traditional portico.” Combined with Art Deco elements, the design emerges as a robust, powerful and elegant presence at this prominent corner. The only mid-twentieth century modernist church in Silver Spring’s Central Business District, and one of the very first in Montgomery County, Maryland, Senseman’s sanctuary is worthy of both preservation and designation.

Mid-century structures such as the robust and elegant 1956 Silver Spring Baptist Church should be cherished, retained, and recognized as a significant element of our cultural landscape. Silver Spring is fortunate to be the home of one of Senseman’s unique modernist structures, which continues to serve as a living timeline of Silver Spring’s and the Baptist Church’s irreplaceable architecture and its members’ history, concomitant with Silver Spring’s growth and prosperity. As such, on behalf of the Recent Past Preservation Network, I express my support for the designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church, which, in our opinion, is an irreplaceable modernist landmark that contributes to the continuity and evolution of Silver Spring’s design heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Higgins', written in a cursive style.

Alan Higgins, Interim President
Recent Past Preservation Network

Historian for Hire, David Rotenstein, Rebuttal & Dissection of His Report, *First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: History and Historic Preservation Recommendations*, 3/15/11; by George French and Marcie Stickle, SSSH Members, 3/22/11

We found the historian for hire research to be very informative and would have liked to have had the opportunity to investigate the same sources, but access to the church records were denied unless we agreed to withdraw the nomination. We should be accorded the opportunity to review some of the primary source documents referenced in the Historian for Hire (H4H) report. It is his analysis of the research with which we find fault and disagree. We believe the additional research and discoveries substantiate and enhance the significance of the Baptist properties, and therefore strengthens the criteria for preservation. We don't agree with the H4H interpretation of the data. H4H substantiates most of what we have written.

H4H Results on page 1 and 2. Start page by page analysis

- #1. Because the churches are connected does not preclude their individual or combined significance. They are interestingly a timeline of the history of the Baptists in Silver Spring for more than a quarter of a century and mirror the growth and changes in Silver Spring over this time.
- #2. Senseman's church is completely unaltered and the 1925 Parsonage is virtually unchanged from 1931 except for the 1950 addition and the replaceable front doors and painted façade. The Locational Atlas Armory/Fire Station has had three facelifts and the Master Plan Historic Jesup Blair house was totally renovated inside and out by Howard Wright Cutler.
- #3. We stand by our final report, nomination, including the contextual information on other churches and what was occurring in Silver Spring over the years of significance.
- #4. We did not need to embellish information to substantiate the eligibility of these church structures for Montgomery County Master Plan status. They are remarkable landmarks in Silver Spring and for the County.
- #5. The Baptist complex is a familiar visual feature on the Silver Spring landscape due to its placement and proximity between the neighborhoods and commercial areas and any so-called isolation by other newer structures are all the more reason to retain a piece of significant local history and architecture.
- #6. Senseman is a renowned prolific architect who we believe rises to the level of master based on his body of work and service.

We would now request that the church provide access to the information contained in H4H report to substantiate the accuracy and interpret the content. We need to be able to clearly read the architectural block on plans and the plans themselves. We would request access to the business files and plans to check on all the drawings and documents. We need to interpret the drawings, communications, letters, meeting minutes, board of director reports and the complete oral histories, not just excerpts.

Page 22. H4H makes reference to the Parsonage renovations as "high style colonial revival details" and the letters unearthed provide a fascinating history of the Parsonage and its transformation into a Church, which garnered praise for its "beautiful appearance." "Substantial alterations were made to the Parsonage to accommodate the 1931 addition." We have to assume that these alterations were a direct result of Merrill's drawings, displayed in the *Maryland News*, since they look nearly identical.

Page 30. We use the term monumental because that's the category Senseman uses for this monumental building. H4H devotes a whole section of his report to Senseman and relates two, presumably cherry-picked excerpts from oral histories about Senseman's final business years.

Oral Histories: H4H attempts to possibly discredit Senseman, the businessman architect, with oral histories, but this negative information he presents on Senseman is completely irrelevant to Senseman's architectural history. In fact Senseman was still designing important buildings in his late 60s and 70s. He designed his own modernist house in Burnt Mills, in 1981; the subterranean clinical radiology center near Wheaton, 1989; designed the modernist headquarters of the SDA in Columbia, Maryland, 1980; and planned the renovation of and designed the addition to the 1908 Science Building at Washington Adventist University, in 1981, which garnered a celebratory front page story in the University's 1983 magazine, to name a few projects.

The oral histories about his late business years sadly trivialize Senseman's accomplished life and career reducing it to a few negative comments.

Page 31. H4H attempts to infer that Senseman did not deserve the honor of Ph.D. from John Nevins Andrews University based on his design skills, but because he donated his entire rare book collection to the University. This is pure speculation. Senseman had an illustrious career and designed several important buildings on the Berrien Springs, Mich., and "new" SDA World Headquarters campus: including the Modernist Administration and Seminary Buildings in the 1960s.

Page 33. H4H states "... the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property does not appear to meet any... designation criteria," which leaves himself open for some doubt. He also obscures the fact that we would only be able to study the documentation he had access to for his report if we withdrew the nomination.

Page 37. H4H admits that "some of his (Senseman's) buildings may be considered masterpieces."

Page 39. The AIA Declaration of Authorship is a part of the application for FAIA membership, and thus supports the nomination. The Silver Spring Baptist Church was declared by Senseman as one where he was "largely responsible for the design." The AIA has dispensed altogether with the category that the architect is "solely responsible for the design" because it proved "unworkable." (AIA 2011)

Page 42-43. The Dwight Sapp interview shows that Senseman was rigorously involved in the design of the Silver Spring Baptists Church with Pastor Brasington. Sapp and others paint an unflattering picture of the "aggressive Pastor." (M. Chandler Stith, church official) It is a credit to Senseman to have persevered under such difficult circumstances. Sapp said "There was pressure being placed on Ronald Senseman,

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring
Montgomery County Historic Preservation
Hearing and Work Session
March 23, 2011

Testimony of Dr. David Rotenstein

Good evening Chairman Miles and members of the Historic Preservation Commission. For the record, my name is David Rotenstein. I am a professional historian and architectural historian and I have been retained as a consultant by the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. I have been employed in historic preservation and cultural resource management for more than 25 years and my credentials have been appended to the report you received prior to this hearing.

I am here this evening to present the results of my review of the designation documentation submitted to you by the Silver Spring Historical Society and to present the results of research I conducted on behalf of the church. After extensive research in the church's institutional records and those of its parent organization, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, I found that the Silver Spring Historical Society's research was incomplete, inaccurate, and fatally flawed. It is my professional opinion that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets none of the Montgomery County criteria for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

The Silver Spring Historical Society's research relied on newspaper accounts and other secondary sources that lack depth and credibility. The society never approached the First Baptist of Silver Spring to determine if records were available to construct a defensible history of the church and its buildings. For more than five years, the Silver Spring Historical Society has molded the church's past into a narrative that distorts the church's history and that embellished the biography of architect Ronald Senseman. In its efforts to preserve history, the Silver Spring Historical Society has done significant violence to the great story behind the church's founding and the institution's ongoing struggles to continue its mission as the congregation repeatedly outgrew inadequate facilities.

As a member of the HPC in 2005, I first became aware of potential historic preservation issues attached to the church. Back then I wondered whether the building's architecture was significant and whether the 1956 addition's architect Ronald Senseman was the master he was being described as by the Silver Spring Historical Society. As the record shows, I wrote in emails that I was unconvinced that the church was significant as defined in the Montgomery County Code and I recommended more research. I could not have anticipated that six years later I would be conducting that research. My research in 2011 confirms that my skepticism in 2005 was well-founded. The results of my research are contained in the report you received and tonight I only want to underscore several of the key points contained in the report:

None of the buildings comprising the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring was designed by a master architect;

The 1956 addition was not remarkable transitional architecture; it was a compromise between Senseman and a headstrong pastor;

~~The church property has been the site of significant change since 1925 and the surviving buildings do not convey the church's history in a coherent manner;~~

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring is isolated from its historical context; and,

The history written by the Silver Spring Historical Society fails to accurately contextualize the church.

The parsonage completed in 1926 was designed and built by members of the congregation founded in 1924. Labor and materials were donated and obtained at reduced costs from local businesses. Detailed reports in the church's records show that the brick building originally had eight rooms that housed the pastor's family and which were used as Sunday school space.

The wife of one of the founding trustees chaired a building committee in the church's first decade. She wrote a detailed history of the parsonage's construction and use. Her 1931 report documents the substantial changes made to the parsonage during the church's first major building campaign that culminated in the construction of a new sanctuary.

Work on designing the new sanctuary began just as the nation was sinking into the Great Depression. Extensive consultations with national Baptist organizations failed to yield the necessary financial support for building a large new church complex designed by architect George Merrill. Strapped by debt incurred to build the parsonage, the Silver Spring church abandoned Merrill's designs and recommendations for a local architect. Instead, they chose to build a modest brick addition to the parsonage. It too was designed and built by congregants.

The 1950 addition was designed by the firm McCleod & Ferrara and it relied heavily on using a frame Colonial Revival house the church bought in 1940 as its façade. The frame building was demolished in 1976 and the church was left with a blank façade formed by the unfenestrated gable end of the 1950 addition.

In 1954 architect Ronald Senseman began producing designs for a massive new sanctuary and education building to replace the outdated and outgrown older buildings. Senseman proposed several alternatives with bold modernist massing and finishes. His interactions with the pastor at the time, a very outspoken and headstrong individual, resulted in compromises between the bold modernist designs and art deco elements that already were several years out of fashion.

Senseman was a prolific professional active in his community and profession. He was not, however, considered a master designer by his peers nor by later academics. The Silver Spring Historical Society distorted information in Senseman's 1966 AIA fellowship application. The AIA digitized the document and it clearly shows that Senseman was awarded the honor for his service to the profession, not for his achievements in design.

~~The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring has had a dynamic history of building, rebuilding, and demolition. Many of the architectural decisions made by the church throughout its history have involved compromises that involved altering and repurposing existing space to accommodate new uses by greater numbers of people.~~

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring currently owns eleven lots in downtown Silver Spring in the block bounded by Bonifant Street to the south, Wayne Avenue to the north and Fenton Street on the west. The church's original land acquisition was in 1925: three lots along Wayne Avenue. An adjacent lot to the east was acquired in 1940 and another was added in 1957. By 1969, the church had also acquired six lots fronting on Bonifant Street.

Multiple buildings comprise the First Baptist Church: the original parsonage; the 1931 addition; the 1950 addition; and the 1956 addition. Each of these components reflect the architectural vocabularies popular at the time of their design and construction. Neither the parsonage nor its additions, the 1950 addition nor the 1956 addition rises to the standard articulated by the National Register of Historic Places guidance that Montgomery County relies upon to interpret its designation criteria. According to the National Park Service, "A property is eligible [for the National Register] for its high artistic values if it so fully articulates a particular concept of design that it expresses an aesthetic ideal."

None of the surviving church buildings expresses an aesthetic ideal; rather, the individual church buildings are modest examples of religious architecture common in the 1920s and the 1950s. Neither the earlier church buildings nor the 1956 Senseman-designed addition are classic expressions of the Colonial Revival style nor are they classic and representative examples of the Art Deco or Modernist movements.

The corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street is a well-traveled part of Silver Spring that has had a dynamic, and especially recently, a fast-changing cultural landscape. Historical maps and aerial photographs published after 1920 show the location's change through time from open fields; to diffuse residential and commercial development; to sprawling parking lots associated with the Hecht's department store; and, the 21st century revitalization efforts that have brought retail and mixed-use developments and are bringing new institutional buildings such as the Silver Spring library building under construction across Fenton Avenue from the church.

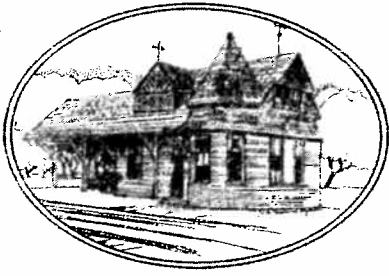
These developments have isolated the church property from its historic landscape. The current church property, with its multiple additions and void from the demolished frame house, has

changed significantly since 1925 when the first construction activities were undertaken. The various church buildings that once broke the horizon at the corner are now being absorbed by mixed-use commercial development. The open corridors through which the church may have been visible at the corner of Wayne and Fenton are now crowded with multi-story commercial buildings, multi-family dwellings, and parking structures. The church property itself has failed to achieve the singular recognition through time as an important element in the cultural landscape.

Perhaps the most significant evidence before you this evening is the documentation prepared by the Silver Spring Historical Society. The group failed to accurately capture the church's history. Their inability to effectively read the buildings and landscape to construct a coherent narrative that tells the property and institution's story clearly shows that the property does not retain sufficient qualities to convey its significance to amateur preservationists, professionals, and the general public.

For these reasons and for the reasons more fully presented in the report I prepared, I find that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets none of the nine criteria for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and that the property should not be listed in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I am prepared to answer any questions that you may have.



Historic Takoma, Inc.

Preserving the Heritage of Takoma Park, MD and DC
www.historictakoma.org ♦ 301-270-2831

Testimony of Diana Kohn,
President of Historic Takoma

In support of Nomination of the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property to the Master Plan
for Historic Preservation and/or the Locational Atlas of Historic Properties

Inventory No. M: 36-61

March 23, 2011

Members of the Commission:

I am here on behalf of Historic Takoma, Inc. to join with the many historic preservation organizations whom also support the Silver Spring Historical Society in its nomination of the Silver Spring Baptist Church for inclusion in Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

The 1955 church building on the corner of Fenton and Wayne Avenues is the work of architect Ronald S. Senseman. It is his legacy as a local architect that I would like to address here tonight.

Mr. Senseman began his architectural career while enrolled at Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park. In 1931, as a 19-year-old student, he was selected to design a Piggly-Wiggly grocery store at 7328 Carroll Avenue. Historic Takoma acquired this building in 2006 as its headquarters.

From this promising beginning, Senseman spent more than five decades pursuing his architectural craft. His work can be found across the United States, and as far away as India. But his strongest presence remains in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

As an Adventist, he was the force behind nearly every Adventist building of his generation in Takoma Park and Silver Spring – including Washington Adventist Hospital's main building, all the 1950s & 1960s buildings along Flower Avenue that now constitute the Washington Adventist University campus, local Adventist schools, and the Takoma Park Adventist Church at Carroll and Laurel Avenues.

In addition to this considerable collection, however, he left his mark across Montgomery County in office buildings, public schools, and churches of all faiths – buildings still standing as a visual record of his life's work.

7328 Carroll Avenue - Takoma Park MD - 20912
Reply to: PO Box 5781 – Takoma Park MD - 20913

The Silver Spring Baptist Church is one of the most significant of these landmarks because its design reflects his strongly-held belief about the proper design for a church. A look at his written work shows Senseman's abiding interest church design. He engaged in the lively post-war debate over traditional vs. modern styles for church facades. His guiding principle, as he wrote, was that "regardless of the style of architecture of our churches, they must be, first, a house of God; they should be distinctive and readily recognized as a place of worship." The Baptist Church, standing majestically on the corner of Fenton and Wayne, epitomizes this ideal.

The Baptist Church, as the first modern-style church in Silver Spring, exemplifies his move away from the Gothic and Colonial Revival churches he built elsewhere. He continued to work in this modern tradition local Rolling Terrace and Oakview Elementary Schools, the 7705 Georgia Avenue office building he used as his headquarters, and the Montgomery County Council Building in Rockville.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church plays an important role in understanding Ronald Senseman's legacy to local architecture and Silver Spring in particular.

For these reasons, we urge the Commission to add the Silver Spring Baptist Church to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.



PRESERVATION
MARYLAND

Testimony in Favor of Designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church on
Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Preservation Maryland
March 23, 2011

For the record, my name is Marilyn Benaderet and I am presenting testimony on behalf of Preservation Maryland where I serve as Preservation Services Director. Celebrating our 80th anniversary, Preservation Maryland is our state's oldest historic preservation organization. We remain dedicated to the preservation of historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archaeological sites through funding, outreach, and advocacy around the state. We have a strong and active membership in Montgomery County and are proud to support our local partners in their efforts to preserve the Silver Spring Baptist Church property.

The Church property, which includes a unique 1956 sanctuary, serves as a prominent landmark on the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street and is the only mid-twentieth century Modernist church in Silver Spring's Central Business District and one of the first in Montgomery County. The property illustrates the transition between traditional and modern approaches to religious architecture and chronicles the societal growth and development of the region. The site is historically and architecturally significant and should be recognized as an important component of Silver Spring's architectural legacy.

Based on research by staff of the county's Historic Preservation office and the Silver Spring Historical Society, the site is eligible for designation under the following criteria of the Montgomery County Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A-3: 1a. The historic resource has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation; 1d. The historic resource exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the county and its communities; 2a. The historic resource embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; and 2e. The historic resource represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

I urge you to endorse the staff recommendation of the Montgomery County Planning Department, Historic Preservation Office and support the designation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and interim placement on the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites. Thank you for your consideration.

MONTGOMERY

PRESERVATION

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To Promote the Preservation, Protection and Enjoyment of Montgomery County's Rich Architectural Heritage and Historic Landscapes

TESTIMONY TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Agenda Item II – Evaluation for Master Plan for Historic Preservation
and/or Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites:
Silver Spring Baptist Church (#36/61), 830-832 Wayne Avenue and 8415 Fenton Street

Lorraine J. Pearsall, President
March 23, 2011

My name is Lorraine Pearsall, I am testifying today as President of Montgomery Preservation, Inc. (MPI), an organization that was formed to promote the preservation and protection of our County's architectural heritage and historic landscapes. We are your county-wide preservation group.

There is no question that the Silver Spring Baptist Church, fronting on Wayne Avenue, is an important local historic resource and also provides a significant presence as a gateway into Fenton Village on its residential side. The uniqueness of the modernist 1956 sanctuary, built at a time when architects were emphasizing brick colonial-revival style churches, directly connects to Silver Spring's postwar development. The staff report has succinctly put to rest much of the misinformation and confusion on the historicity of this resource.

We also recognize that a "Canada Dry" solution, one of partial preservation, may work best for this property in this situation given the needs of the Church. At a meeting with the developer and historic preservation staff, MPI urged that there be on-going dialogue between the Silver Spring Historical Society and the developer in an effort to find a creative solution that would allow the Church to have its program and also retain a presence of the historic Church sanctuary building in-situ on Wayne Avenue. We urge that this discussion begin as soon as possible while the project is in the design stage.

We ask the HPC that a recommendation for placement of this property on either the Master Plan and/or the Locational Atlas be done in such a manner that development will be allowed.

**Historic Designation of Silver Spring Baptist Church
Testimony of Mary Reardon
Public Hearing: Historic Preservation Commission, March 23, 2011**

My name is Mary Reardon. I've been involved in preservation advocacy in Silver Spring for over 20 years. I'm involved in the effort to preserve the Baptist Church.

I agree with the staff's recommendation to add the Silver Spring Baptist Church property to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and to add it to the Locational Atlas as an interim measure. I also agree that the environmental setting not include the 1950 interim sanctuary. And I want to underscore that preservationists accept that the outcome will be partial preservation. We acknowledge the development plan in the wings, and we hope to work with the developer and with HPC staff in arriving at a solution that won't obliterate the church.

What are the key elements that should be preserved? Definitely, as staff indicates, the Wayne Avenue façade of the 1956 sanctuary and the bell tower. I would want to include the walls of the vestibule behind the Wayne Avenue façade – this could serve as an entrance to new development behind it and would maintain a symmetry with the steeple side of the building. The 1926 brick parsonage (not the 1931 addition behind it) is the earliest remaining religious structure in the Silver Spring CBD and is a key component of our history. Saving these elements would still allow construction of retail along nearly all of the Fenton frontage on the property.

Saving pieces of the building, like the windows, is not preservation. It's simply commemoration. But the development firm, Lakritz Adler, is experienced in creatively and masterfully restoring and repurposing historic buildings.

Preservationists have demonstrated that they are open to compromise. The Canada Dry bottling plant is a prominent example. The plant sat on a large and valuable piece of land near the Silver Spring metro station. We were agreeable to preserving a portion of the building that incorporated the most architecturally significant elements, allowing most of the setting to be redeveloped. As with the Baptist Church, HPC staff recommended Master Plan designation with language that anticipated reduction of the environmental setting. We reached a workable solution with the developer and preserved the main view of this historic resource.

The report of the owner's consultant, David Rotenstein, overwhelms with facts. Some are interesting, but facts don't necessarily add up to a convincing case. I'll just touch on a few of his points.

Mr. Rotenstein argues that the Baptist Church complex won't fit in with new and planned development at the Fenton-Wayne crossroads. He's arguing essentially that if the old doesn't fit the new, then the old should be destroyed. But the opposite should be the case in community planning. It should be incumbent on new development to respect the fabric of a community. Once the church is gone, this corner would lose all trace of historic Silver Spring.

Mr. Rotenstein uses photos with views manipulated to deny that the church is a prominent feature on the landscape. My experience in walking and driving near the church says otherwise. Here's a view west along Fenton toward Wayne. And if you stand at Sligo Avenue looking north on Fenton, the 1956 church with its tall steeple stands prominently at the crest of a hill. The church provides a village feel to what was supposed to be "Fenton Village," the buffer between downtown Silver Spring and the neighborhoods. I'm afraid we're losing a lot of the "village" in "Fenton Village".

The Parsonage, it's true, has been altered. But it was a long time ago – in 1931. Today, except for the paint, it's little changed since that time. The old Silver Spring Fire Station was also altered long ago, but it was placed on the Locational Atlas several years ago and has since enjoyed a rebirth as a firehouse-themed restaurant.

I certainly don't deny that the Silver Spring Baptist Church as an institution has done good work over the years, and I respect its mission. But I believe that *partial* preservation need not preclude the changes needed for the church to continue its mission. Churches and their activities become part of the history of a community, whether or not you're a member of the congregation. In a sense churches belong to the community, contributing to its physical and historical fabric -- churches where generations of residents have walked as well as worshipped.



THE ART DECO SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON

P.O. Box 42722 • Washington, DC 20015 • 202-298-1100 • www.adsw.org

April 28, 2010

Historic Preservation Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Art Deco Society of Washington supports evaluation of the Silver Spring Baptist Church for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or the Locational Atlas for Montgomery County.

We appreciate the way that the Art Deco-flavored 1956 sanctuary building fits into the architectural history of Silver Spring, representing the period of transition in architectural styles that occurred during the era of post-World War II suburban expansion. Indeed, on this prominent corner location, one is able to see that the entire church complex, with its earlier 1924 parsonage and interim buildings culminating in the 1956 sanctuary, tells a twentieth-century history of Silver Spring. We also find that the 1956 building should be considered significant because it is the work of Ronald Senseman, an architect of other buildings that are of interest to us.

We have had a long interest and relationship with the Art Deco buildings of Silver Spring. In particular, we worked with many others to save the Silver Theatre and Silver Spring Shopping Center (now known as "Downtown Silver Spring") and ensure that they were properly restored. Over the years, we have advocated for the designation and preservation of, among others, the Tastee Diner, the Montgomery Arms Apartments, the former Canada Dry Bottling Plant, the former Hecht Company Store, and the Falkland Apartments. We believe that the Silver Spring Baptist Church is an important part of the ensemble of historic buildings that identify Silver Spring and its history.

These considerations are only a few of many reasons that the Silver Spring Baptist Church should be protected and listed on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation or placed on the Locational Atlas.

Very truly yours,

Linda B. Lyons

Linda B. Lyons
Education Chair and Acting Preservation Chair
Tel.: 301-654-3924
E-mail: llyons@adsw.org

June 14, 2011

RECEIVED
0543
JUN 14 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Carrier,

Enclosed are at least 95 signed letters as a mass petition from persons related to First Baptist Church of Silver Spring urging the Montgomery County Planning Board to reject the appeal of two members of the Silver Spring Historical Society to designate the buildings of the Church as historic.

Such an action would enable the three (3) congregations for whom the buildings are a handicap to their present and future mission in downtown Silver Spring.

Sincerely,

Dr. Duncan McIntosh,
Pastor

DR. DUNCAN MCINTOSH

PASTOR

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation


Dear Ms. Carrier and Members of the Planning Board:

As a member of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed designation of any of the First Baptist Church's property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Our Church's property is proposed for redevelopment which will allow for construction of a new facility for the religious, social and educational ministries by three congregations of different languages and cultures in common space. The existing facilities are completely inadequate to accommodate these diverse worshipping communities and outreach ministries. The facilities are aged and too costly for the congregations to maintain. Any designation or restriction on the redevelopment of the Church's property for historic preservation purposes will prevent the redevelopment project that is necessary for these three current Churches to remain and thrive in Downtown Silver Spring.

I view any designation of the Church's property for historic preservation as serving only a very narrow interest group, while leaving the much broader community that could be served by new facilities without the presence and ministries of the diverse language and cultural congregations. Simply put, any designation will force these Churches to close, thus not serve the public interest in any manner. Therefore, I urge the Planning Board to concur with the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and recommend against any designation of the First Baptist Church property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,



Duncan McIntosh

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely,



ERIC WALTERS

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Garth E. Murray
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Sincerely,

Lilia M. Antiga

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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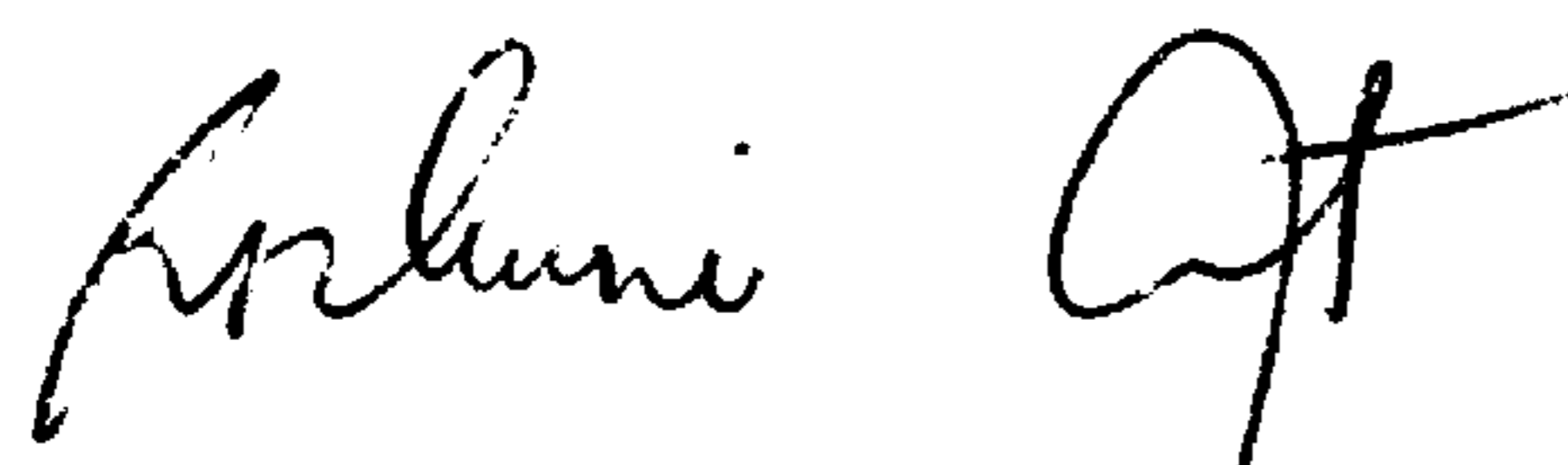
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Sincerely,


ROCHANE KITIWA

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,

Margaret Camp
MARGARET CAMP

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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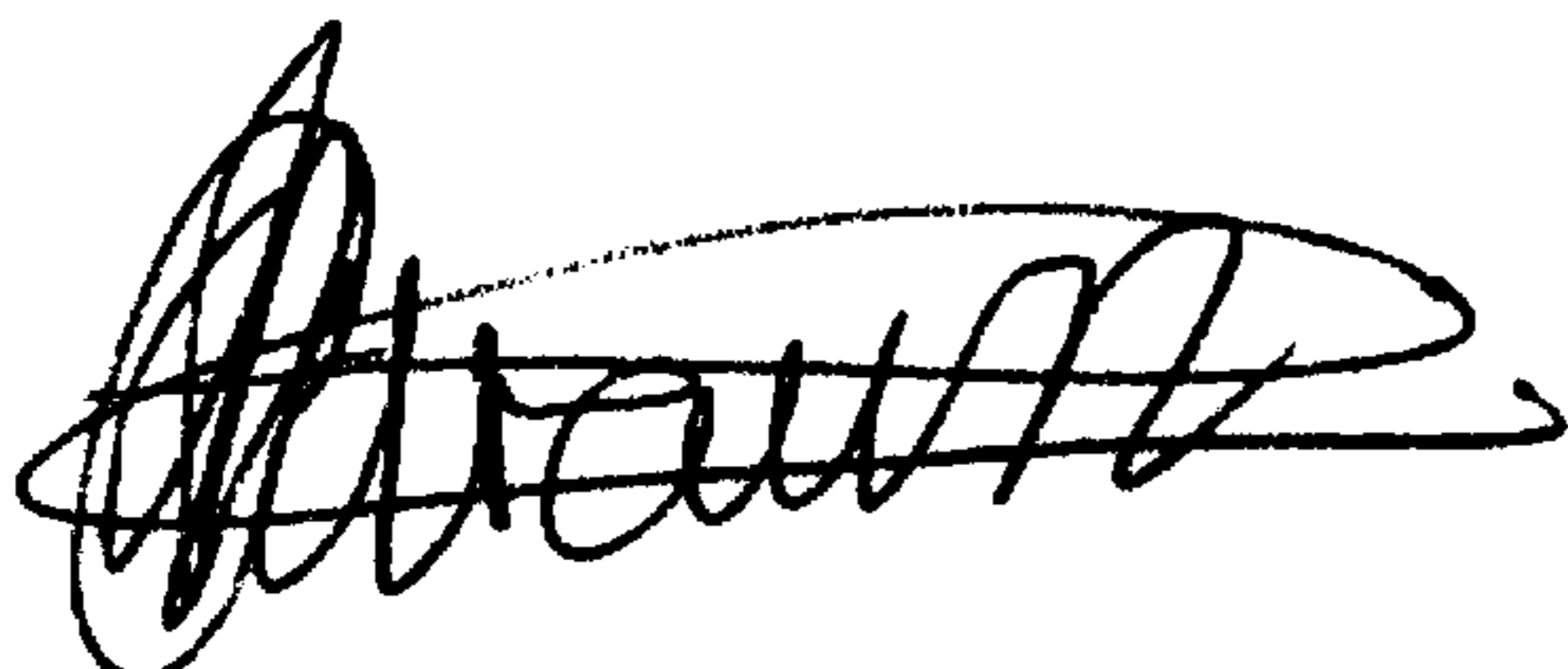
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Sincerely,



**CHÉRISE
STRAUSS.**

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Melissa J. Thansen

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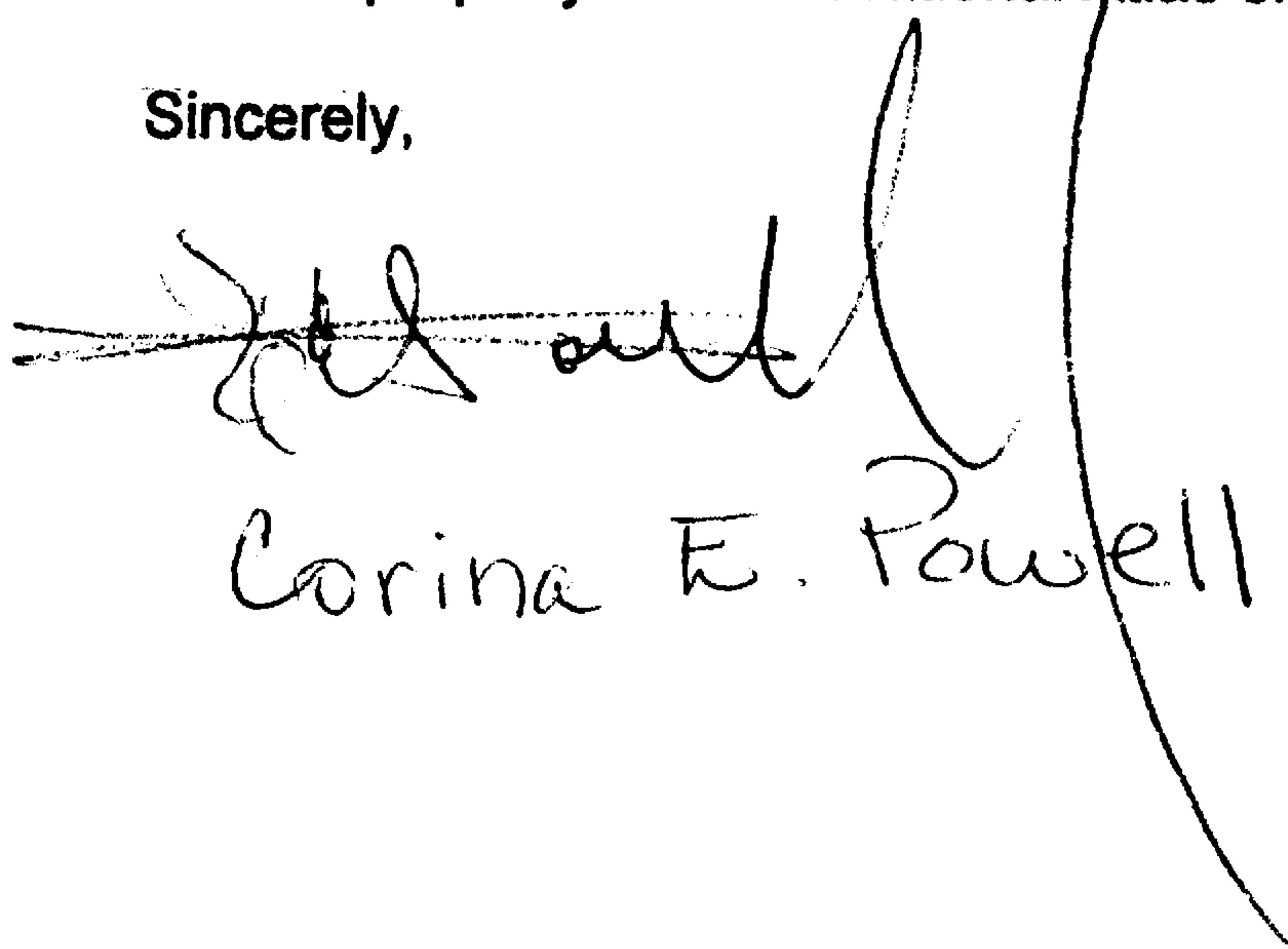
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Corina E. Powell

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Sincerely,

**Sylvia
Hemambo**

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Mary Helen McIntosh
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Rugzi Jabbarie

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Sincerely,

Vernell P. DeWitty

VERNELL P. DeWITTY

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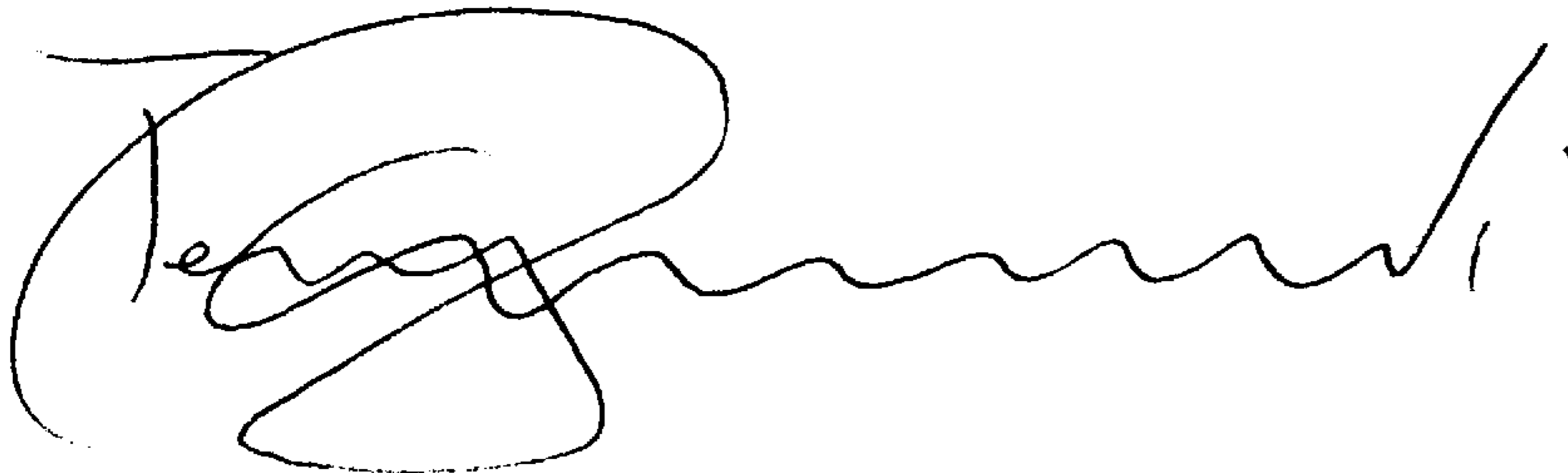
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Sincerely,



Terry Kiruja

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Lizette Graham
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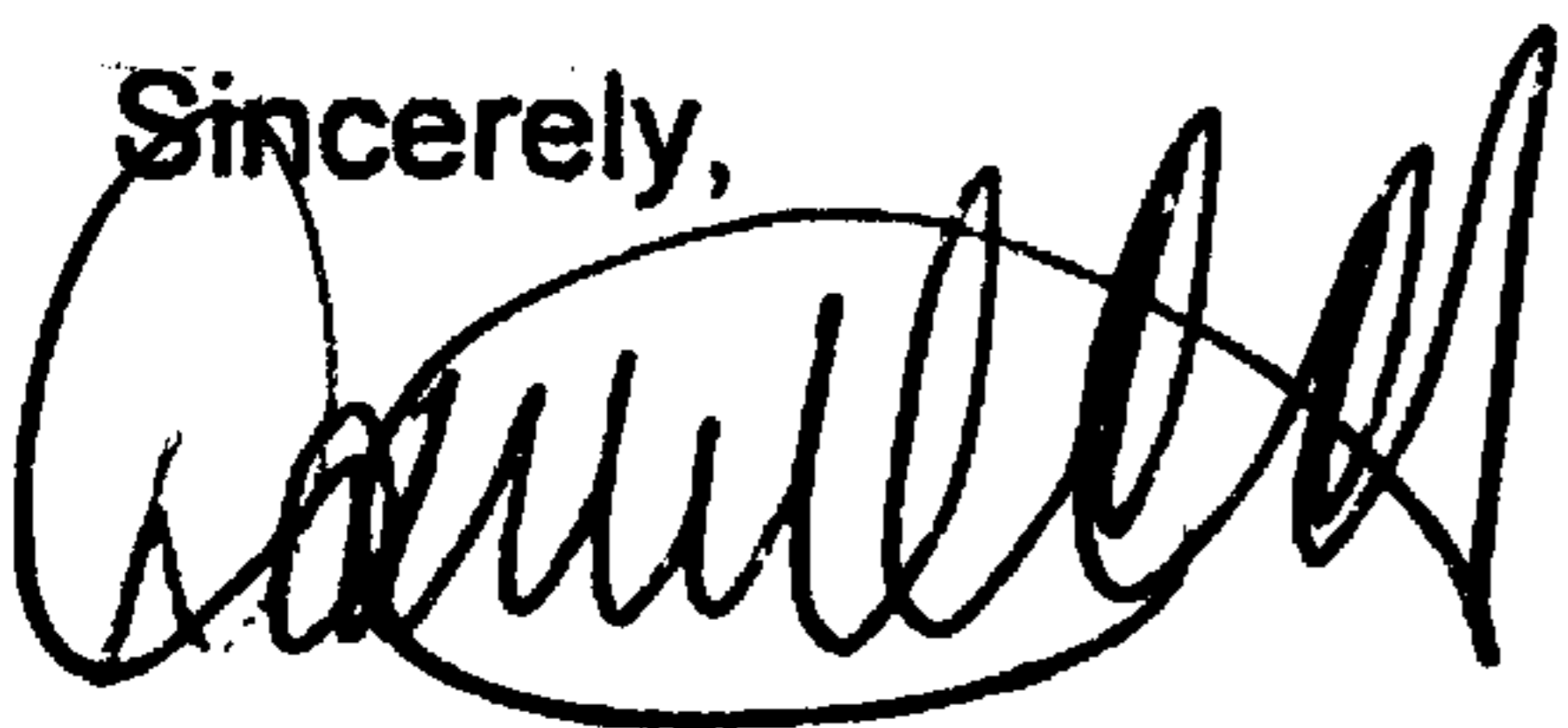
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I view any designation of the Church's property for historic preservation as serving only a very narrow interest group, while leaving the much broader community that could be served by new facilities without the presence and ministries of the diverse language and cultural congregations. Simply put, any designation will force these Churches to close, thus not serve the public interest in any manner. Therefore, I urge the Planning Board to concur with the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and recommend against any designation of the First Baptist Church property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,


Daniella Ceus

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

**RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to
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Sincerely,

Clara Kimbrough

CLARA KIMBROUGH

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,

Frances Walterman
FRANCES WALTERMAN

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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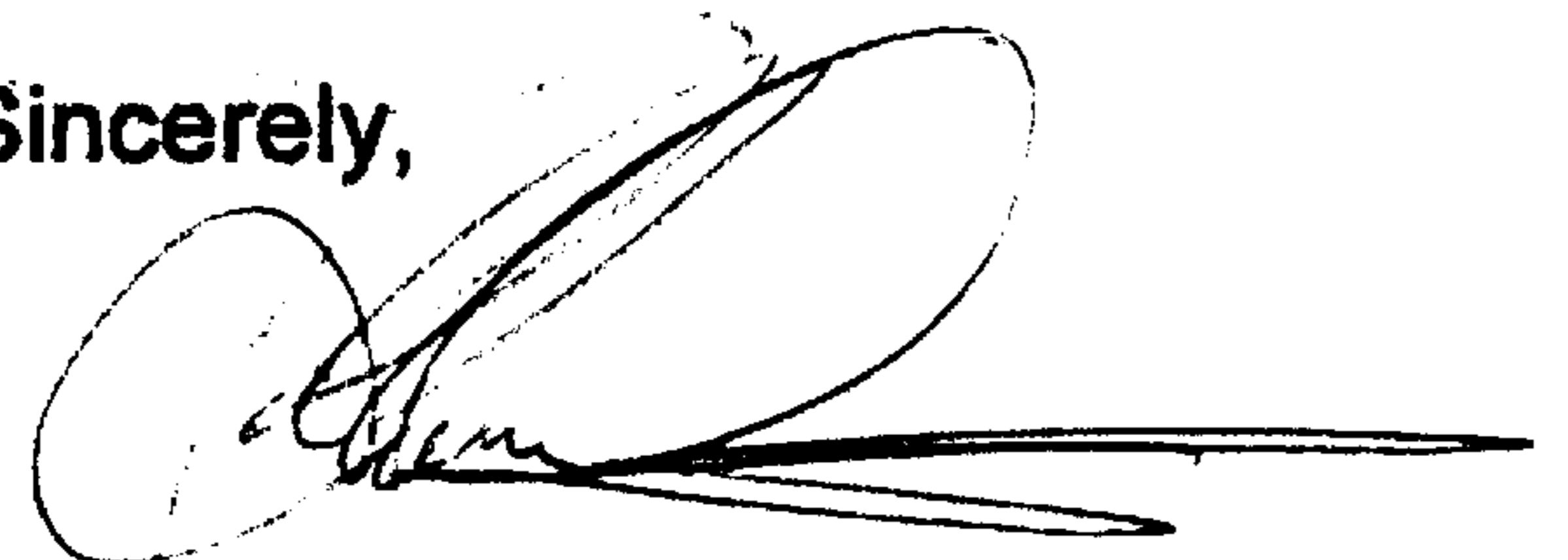
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Sincerely,



SCOTT WALTERMAN

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Sincerely


NENE MARTINS

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Sincerely,

Kristen Minogue

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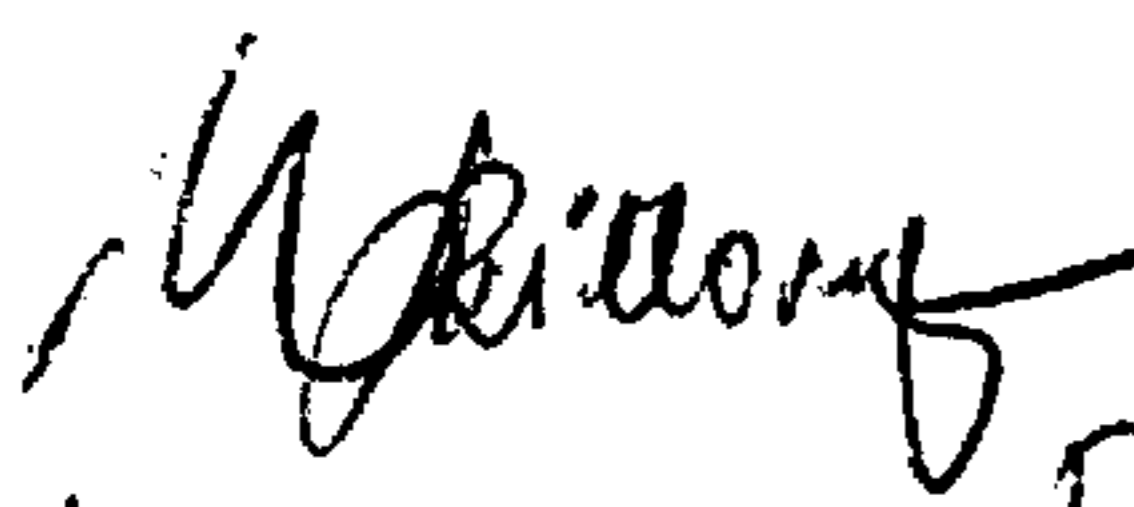
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Sincerely,


Madonna G. Rilloraza

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Sincerely,



Danielle Browne

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Sincerely,

Linda Kreitlow
Linda Kreitlow

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Janice F. Johnson
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Guonna D. Coleman

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Sincerely,

Cassandra Johnson

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely, *Deanna Browne*

Deanna Browne

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Delroy Matthie
DELDROY MATTHIE

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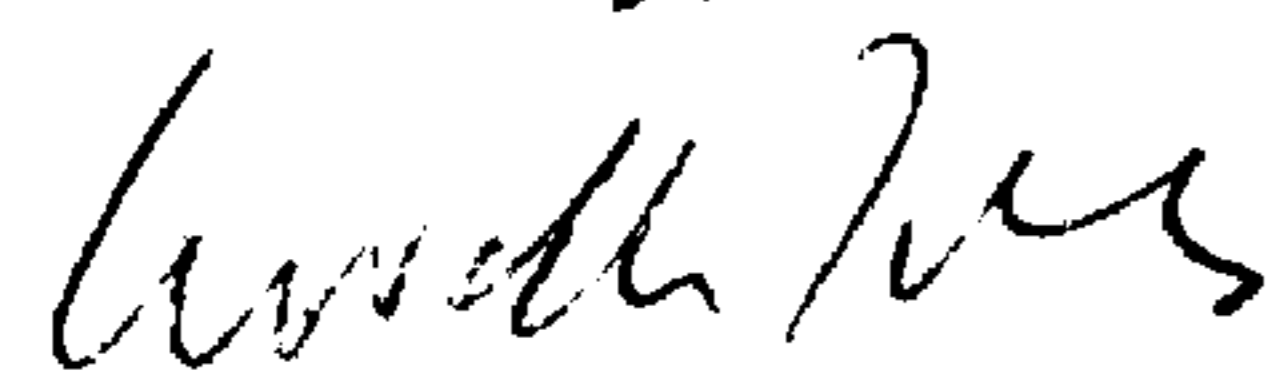
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CORDELLA FORBES

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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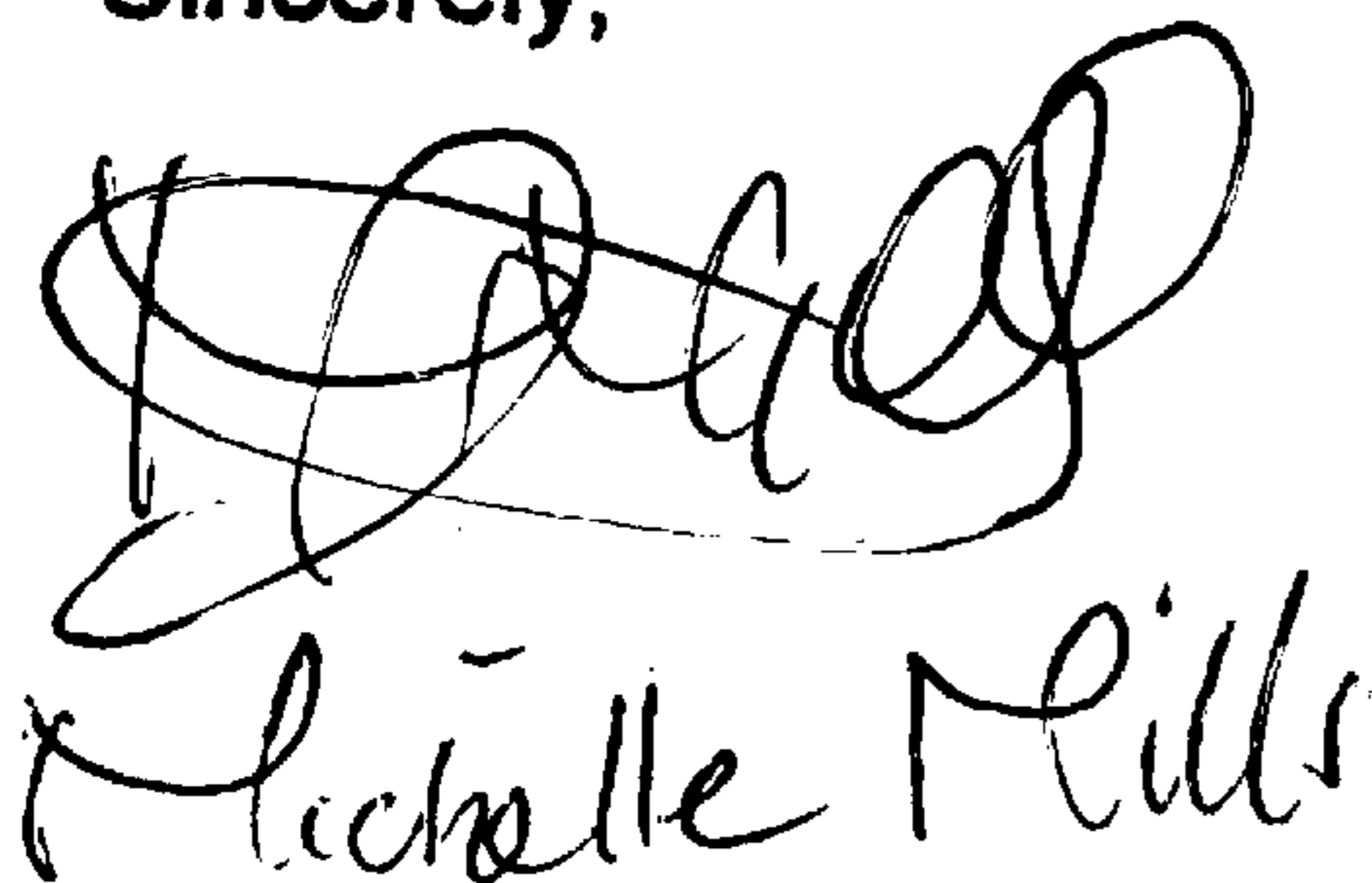
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Sincerely,


Michelle Mills

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Sincerely,

Charles C. Grayson

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Sincerely,

E. L. Stoney
E. Stoney

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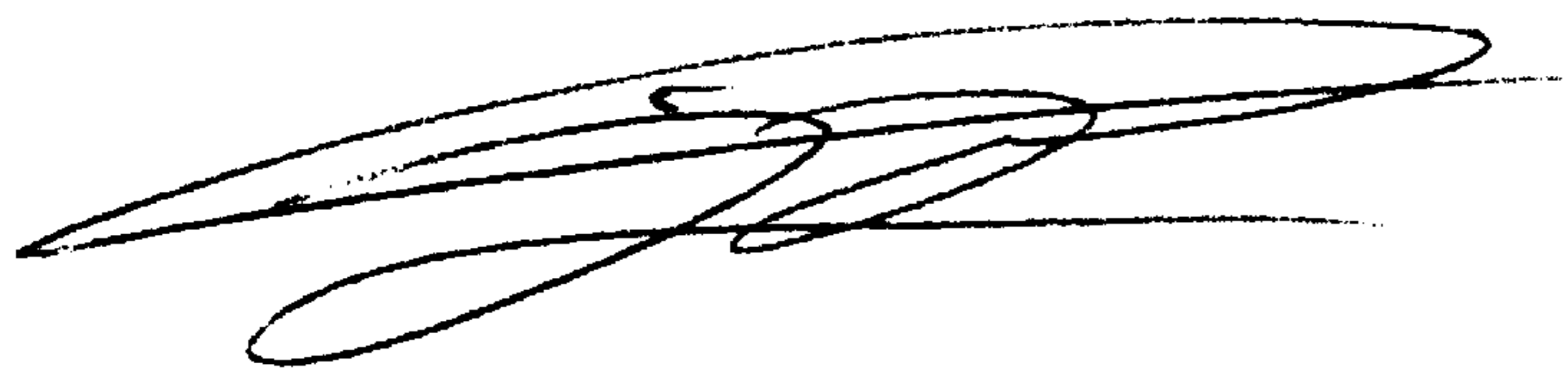
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James Parker

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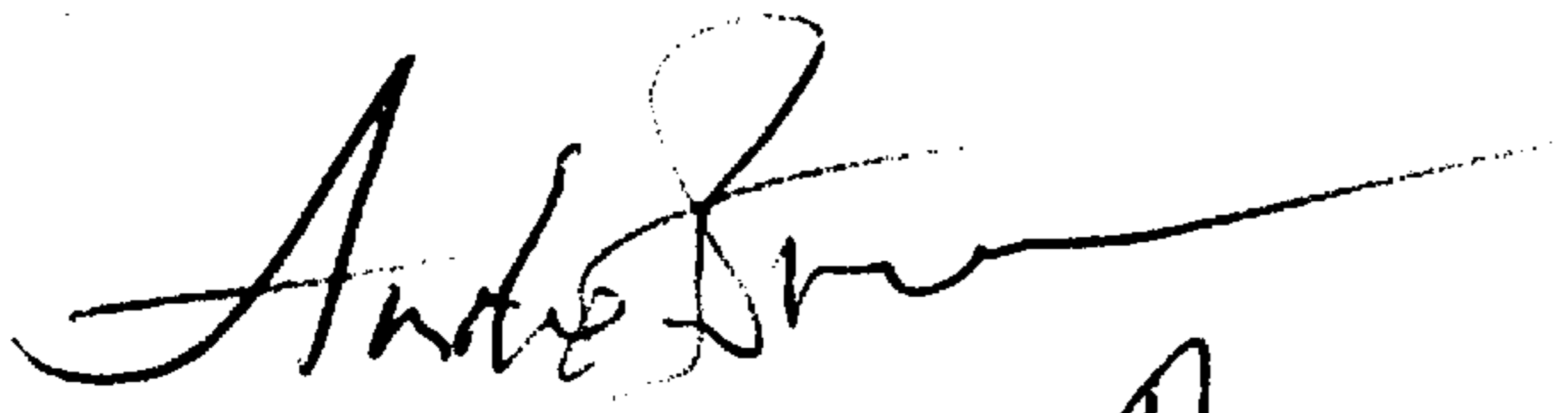
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Sincerely,


ANDREW PARKER

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

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Sincerely,

Rose A. Brown

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Spina of First Baptist Church

Delois D. Maye

Delois D Maye

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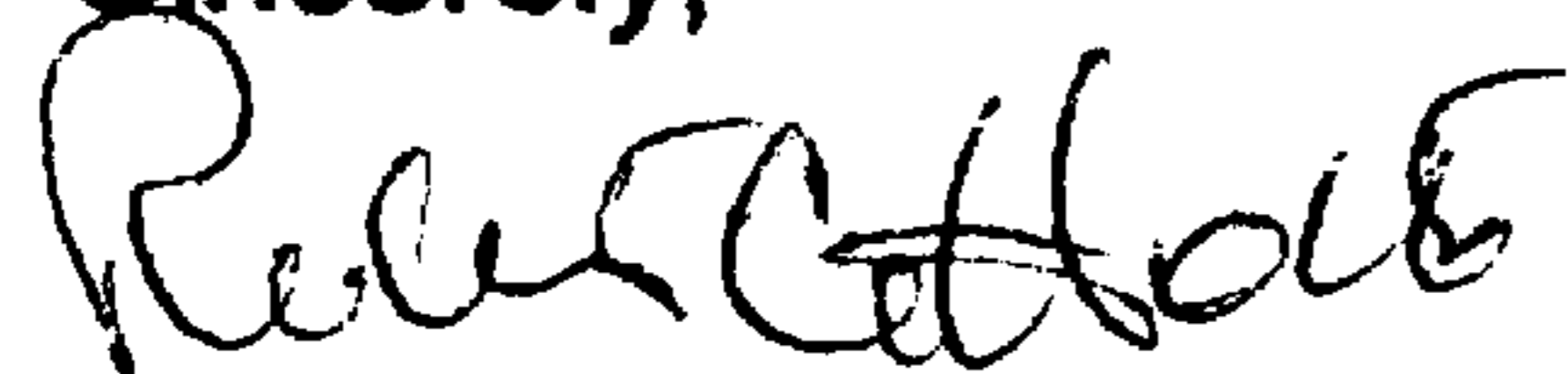
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Robert C. Holt

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Abraham Maglad

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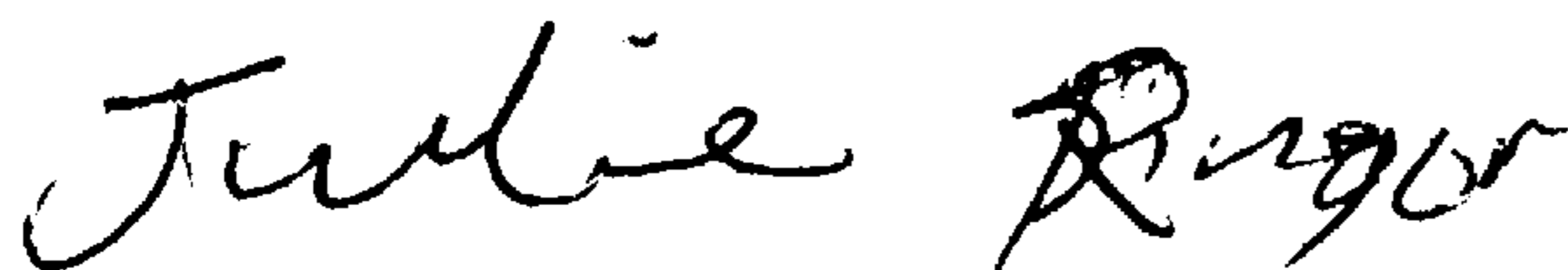
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Sincerely,

Emerson W. Browne
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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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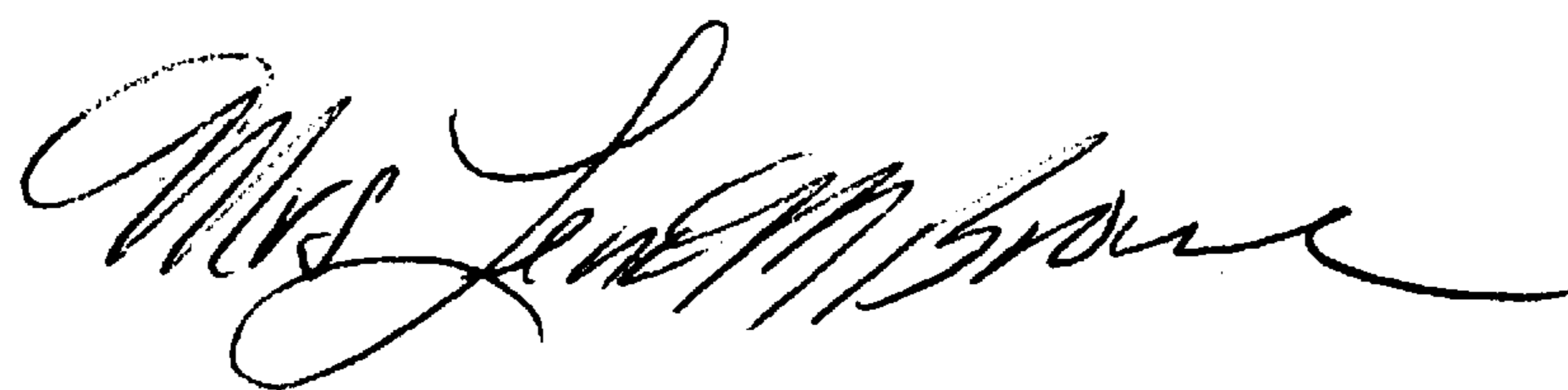
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Lena M. Browne

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Sincerely,

Sara S. Carrier

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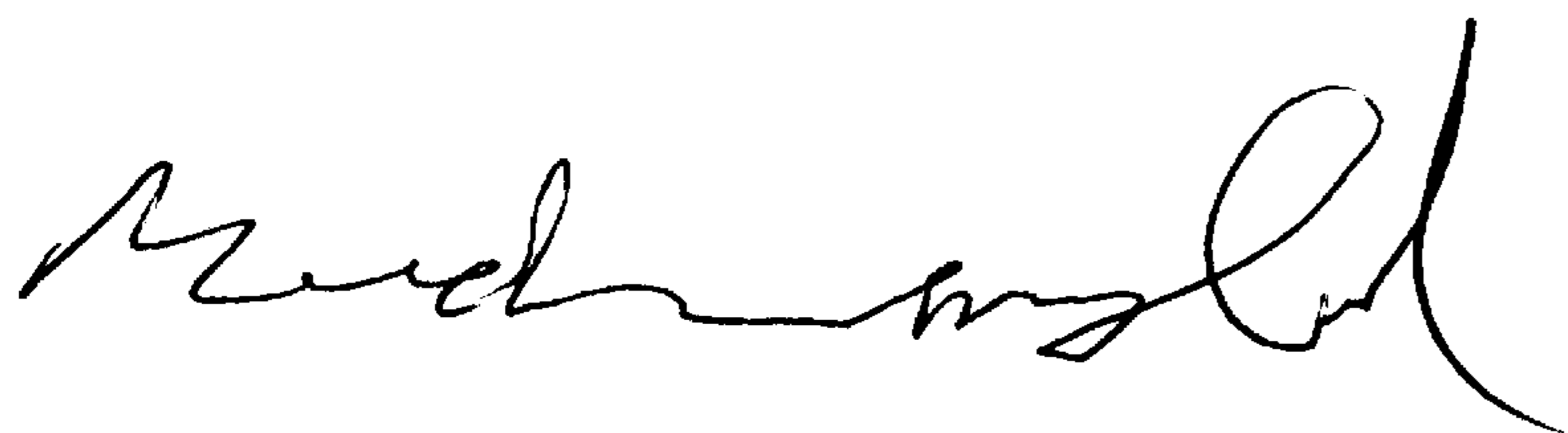
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Sincerely,

Michael Maglad



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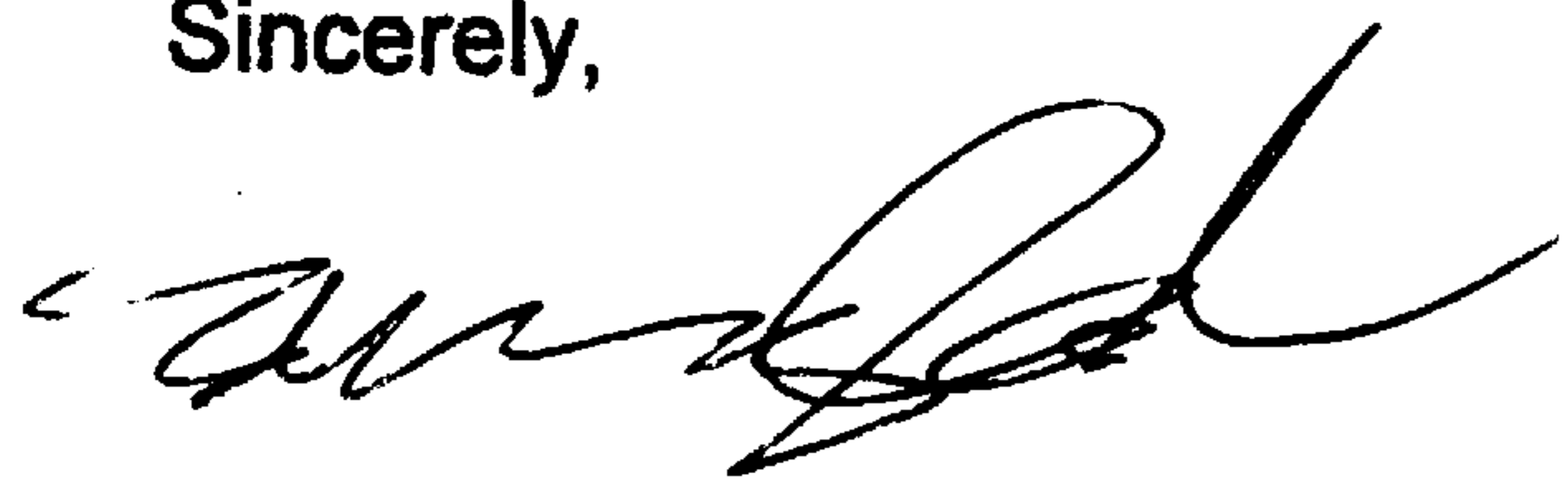
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Edward Maslad

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Sincerely, *Ruth Jarman*
Ruth JARMAN

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8787 Georgia Avenue
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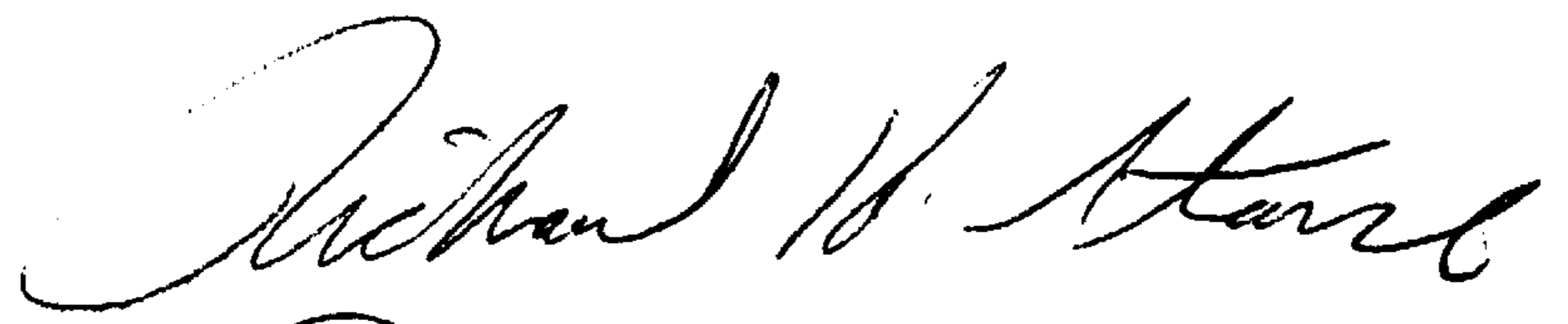
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Sincerely,


Richard H. Stange

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Betty A. Doolittle

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Sincerely,

Mildred S. Flickinger
MILDRED S. FLICKINGER

JUNE 12, 2011

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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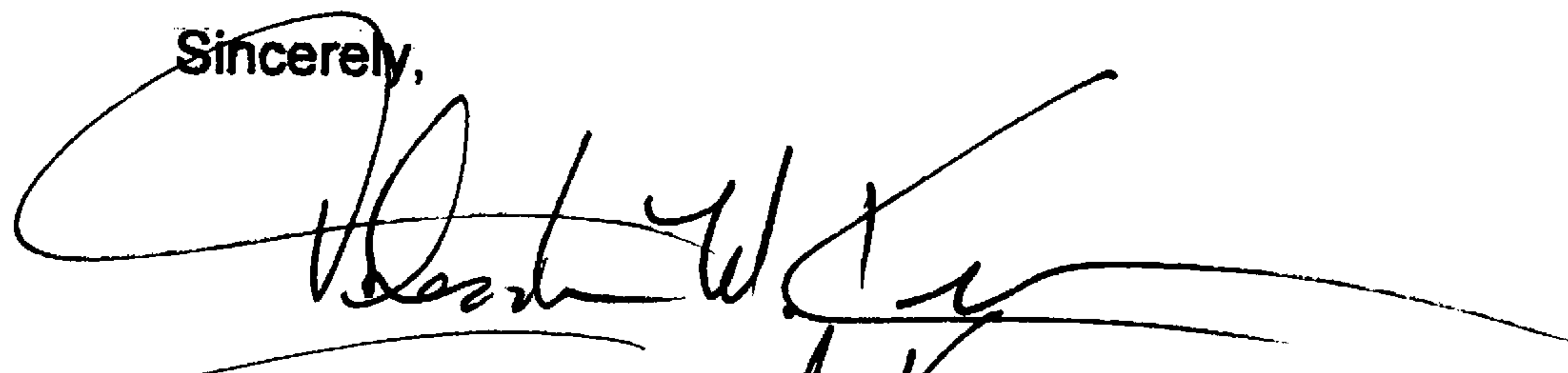
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THEODOR H. KERLING

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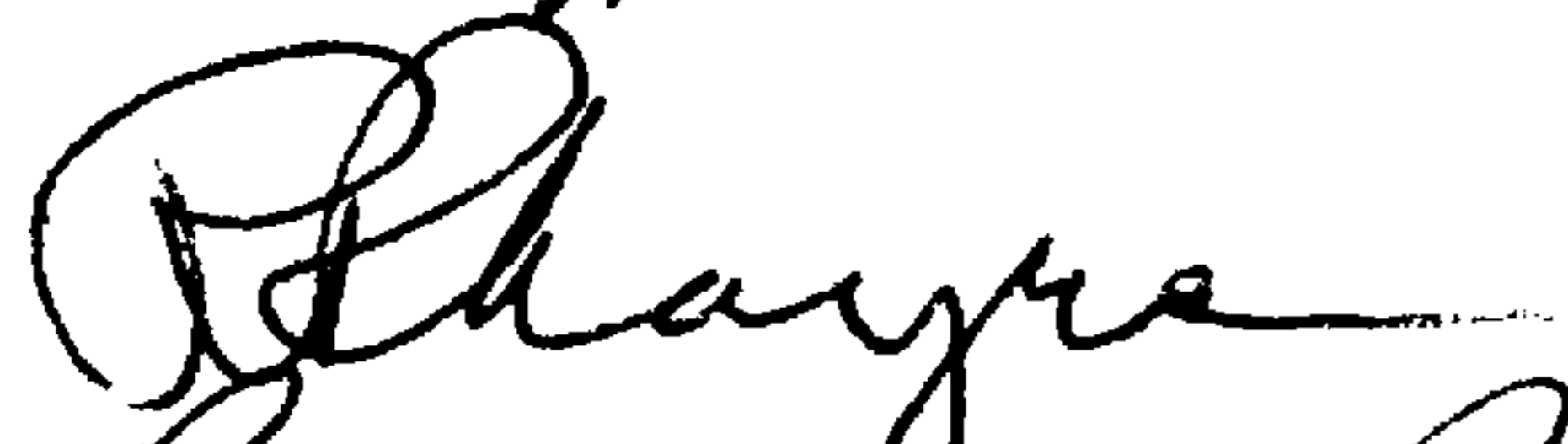
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RAYNES R. MAYNE

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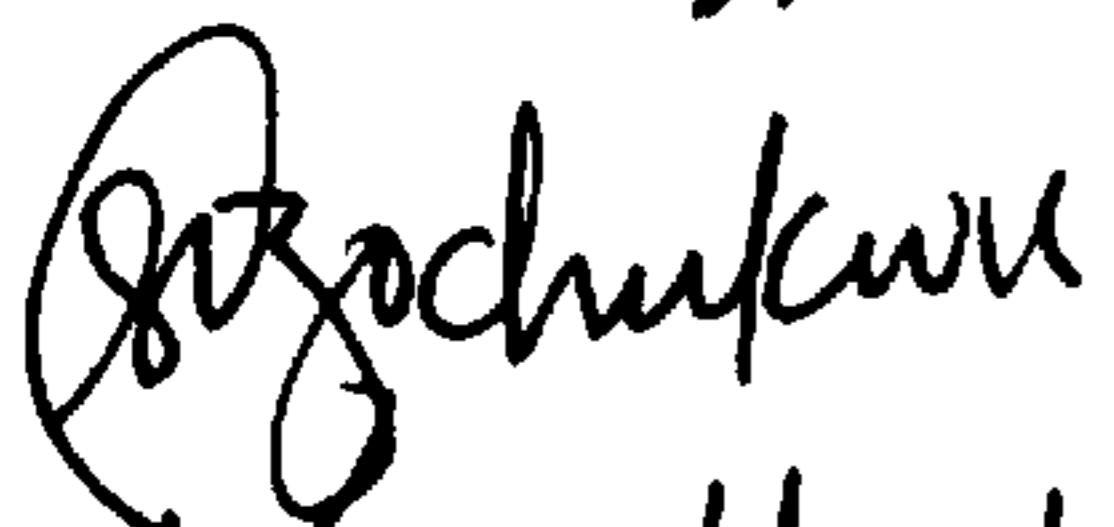
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Sincerely,


Anenna Uzochukwu

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Sincerely,

***Pamela Crawford*
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8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to
the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Ms. Carrier and Members of the Planning Board:

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Sincerely,

Elaune Blackwin
Elaune Blackwin

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,

Walter

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,


Jean Alexander

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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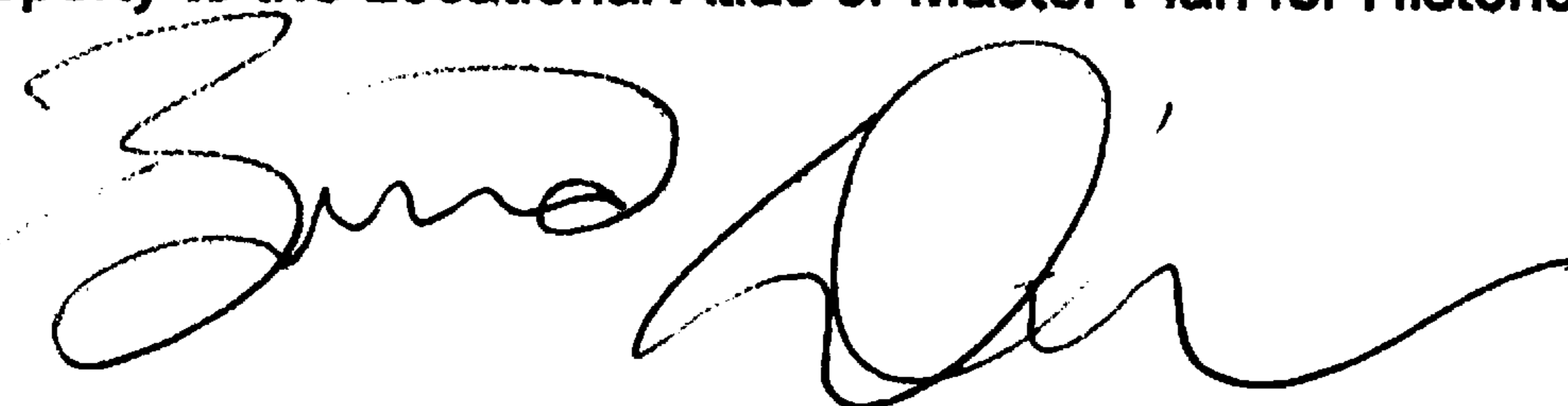
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Sincerely,


BERNARD WILSON

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Hope P. Cameron
HOPE P. CAMERON

Enow Akiong Ndortabiri Tarh

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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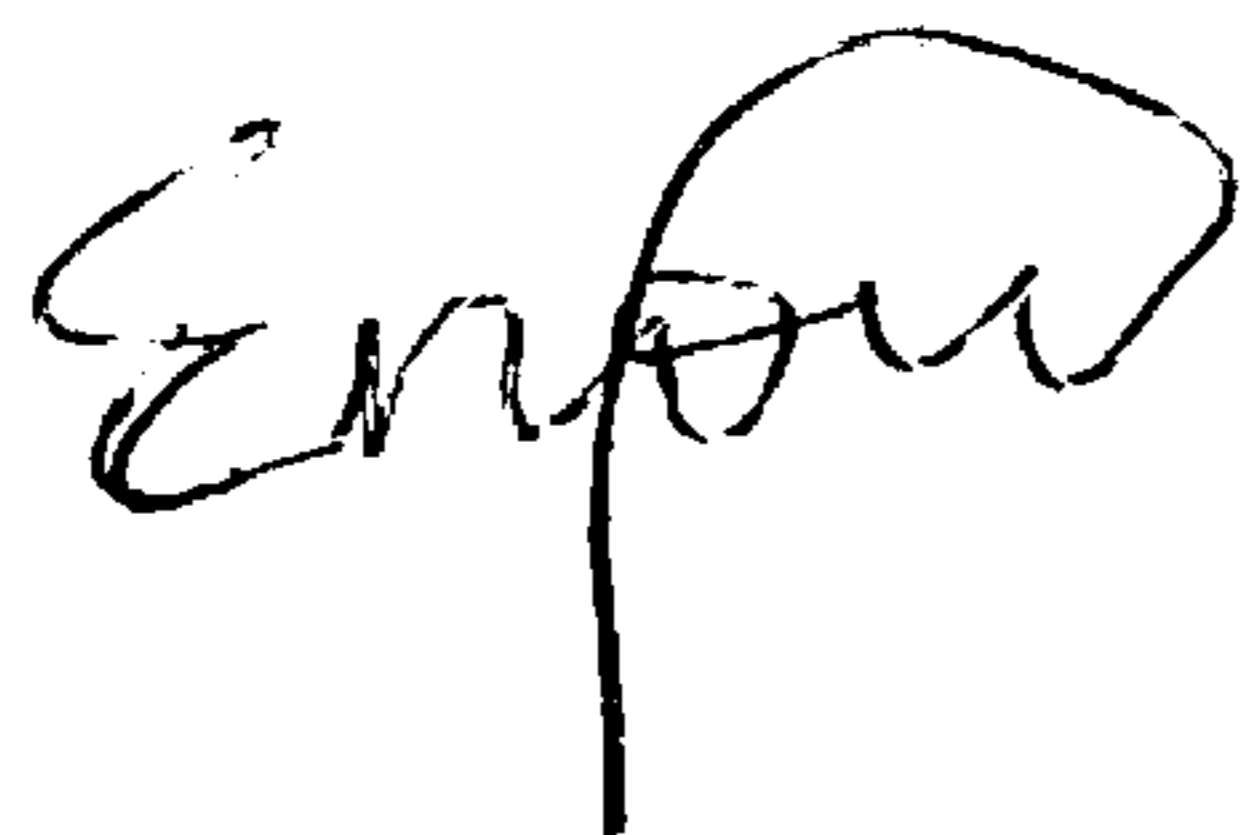
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Sincerely,


Alicia Greene

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Sincerely,


Carmeta Greene

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Sincerely,

Sadie Armstrong

SADIE ARMSTRONG

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Sincerely,

DANIEL MURPHY
5708 Parkway Dr
Annapolis MD 20707

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Michael Bowles

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Ethel M. Kennedy

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MONICA D. Williams

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason J. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason J. Green

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
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Todd Guise
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Beulah Magdalene Grigg
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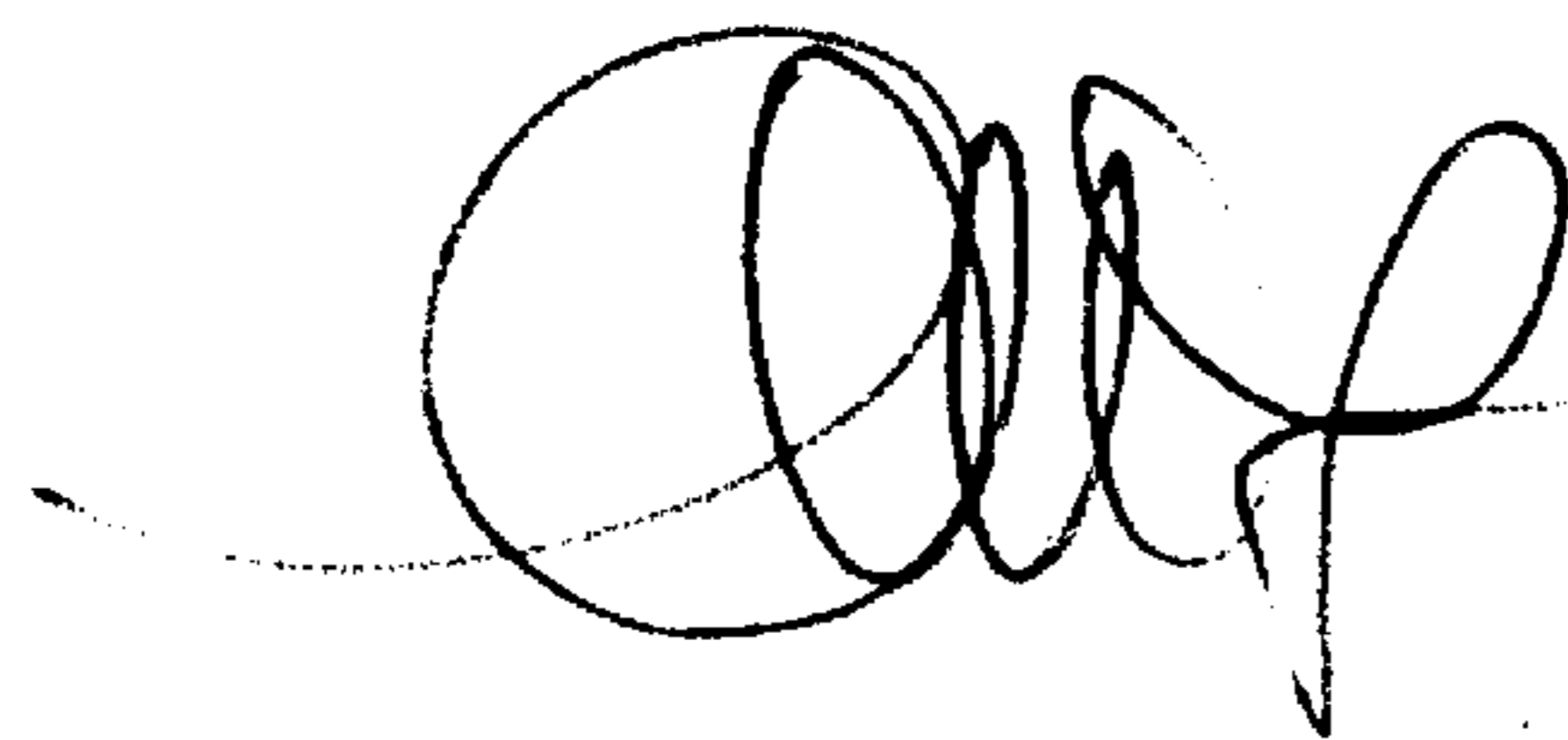
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Sincerely,

Mirele Naukawa



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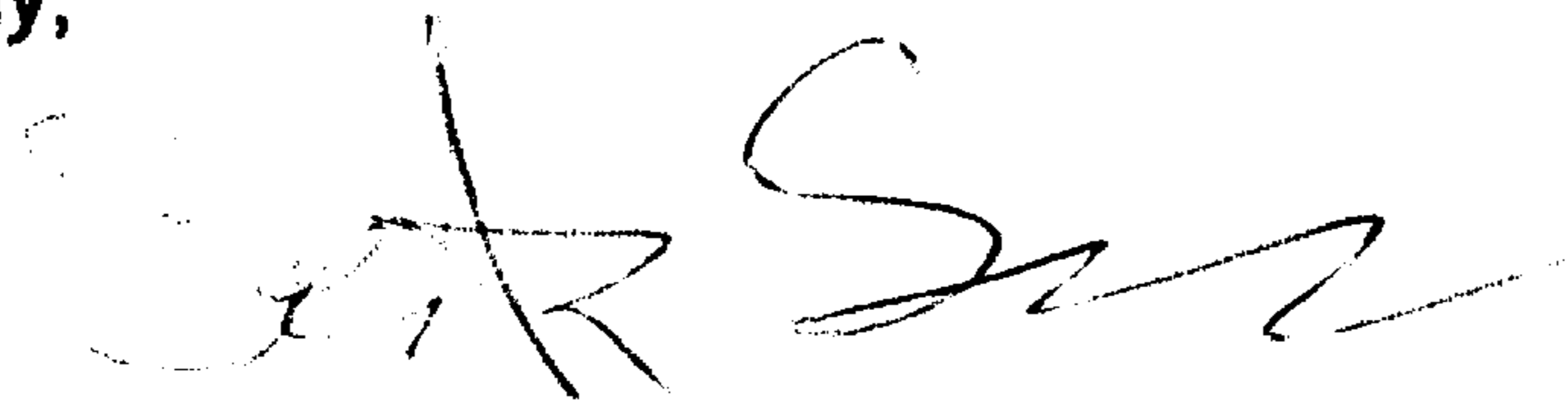
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BEATA SWIDER

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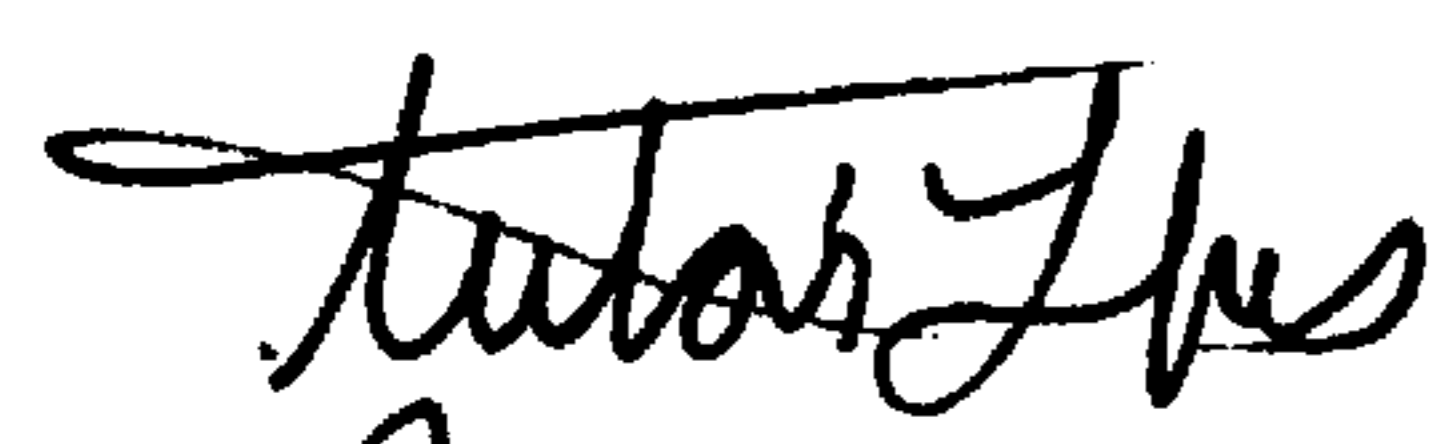
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Sincerely,


Antonio Thames

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

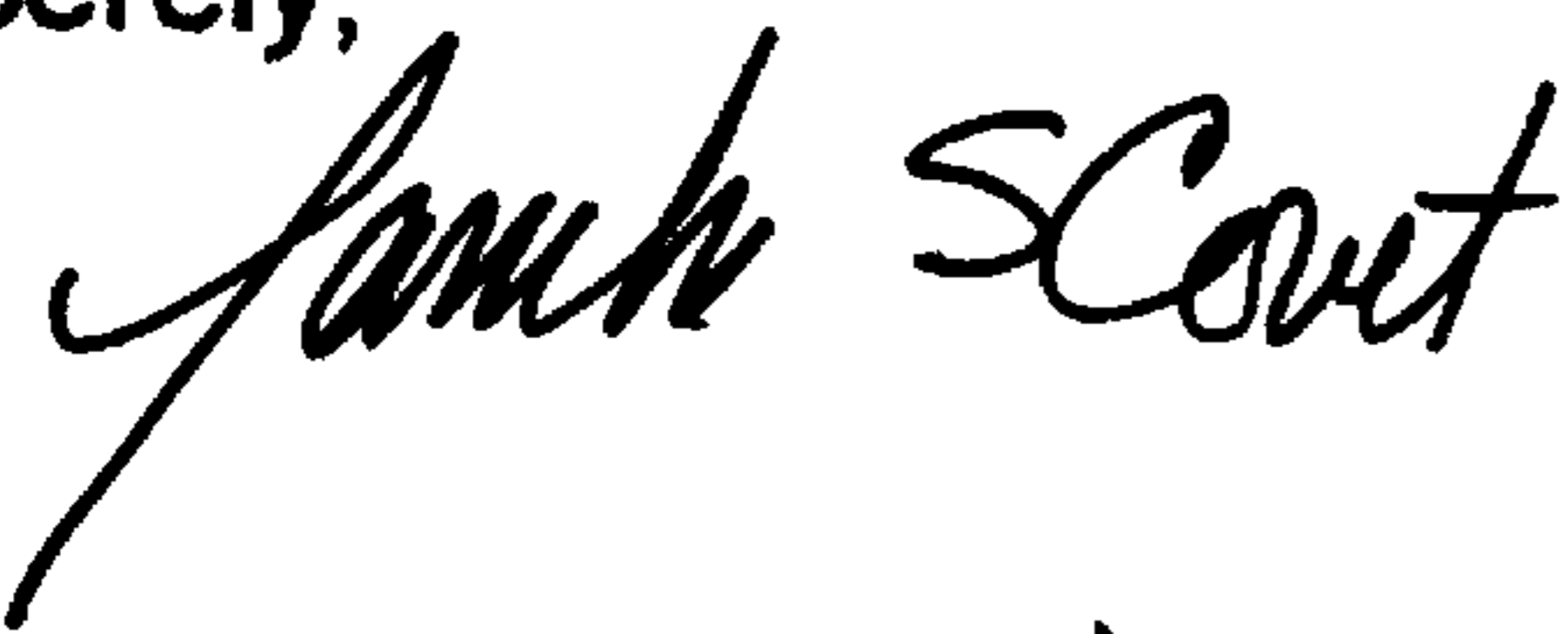
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Sincerely,



Tameka S. Covert

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,



Crawford Hall

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Lyndsey Kykendall 6/19/11
LYNDESEY KYKENDALL, Esq.

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T Bahta

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Rosa M Branch
ROSA M BRANCH

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Rosemary G. Piercey

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ELVIE C. SMITH

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Sincerely,

Judith L. Eden

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DWIGHT J. SAPP

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Michael Showalter
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Sincerely,

Barbara Williams

BARBARA WILLIAMS

Using a church facade for commercial purposes ~~could~~ would violate the Baptist tradition and be highly offensive.

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Edward L. Fleckinger

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to
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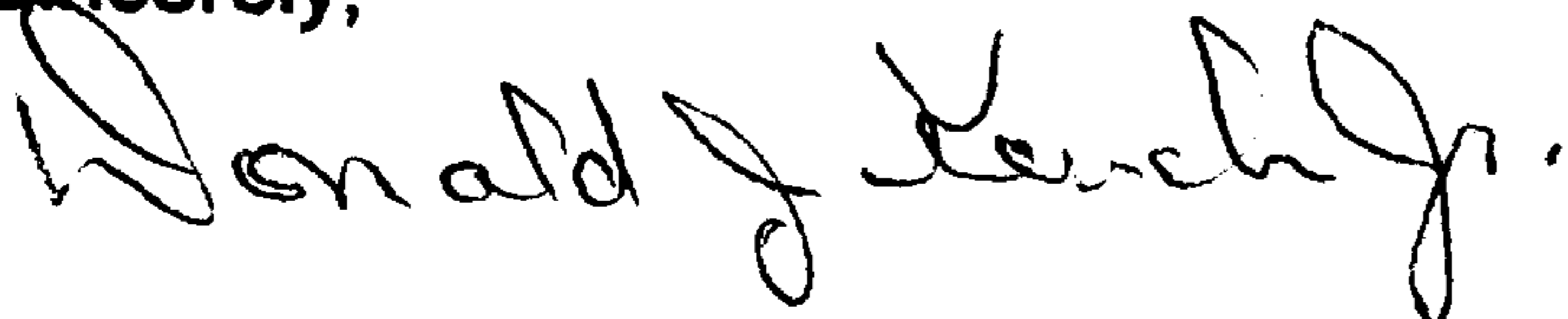
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Donald J. Keene H. Jr.

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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James E. Doolittle
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,

Courtney Bowlds
COURTNEY BOWLDS

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely,

Sara Reed
Sara Reed

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Sincerely,

Diane Murray
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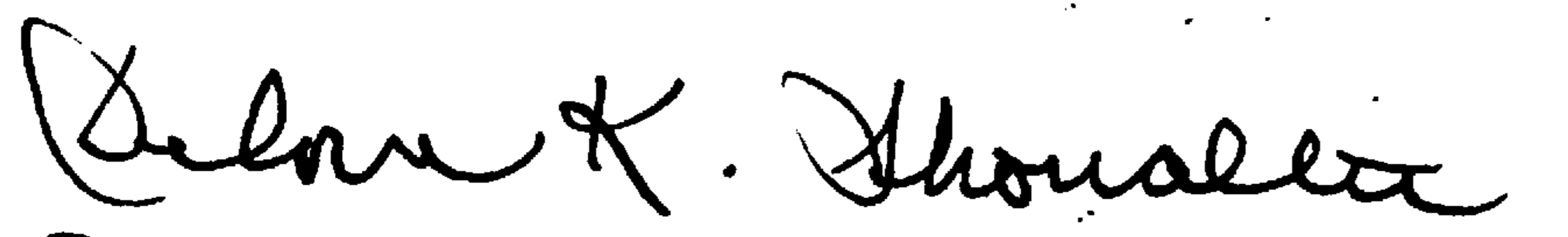
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Sincerely,


Delores K. Showalter

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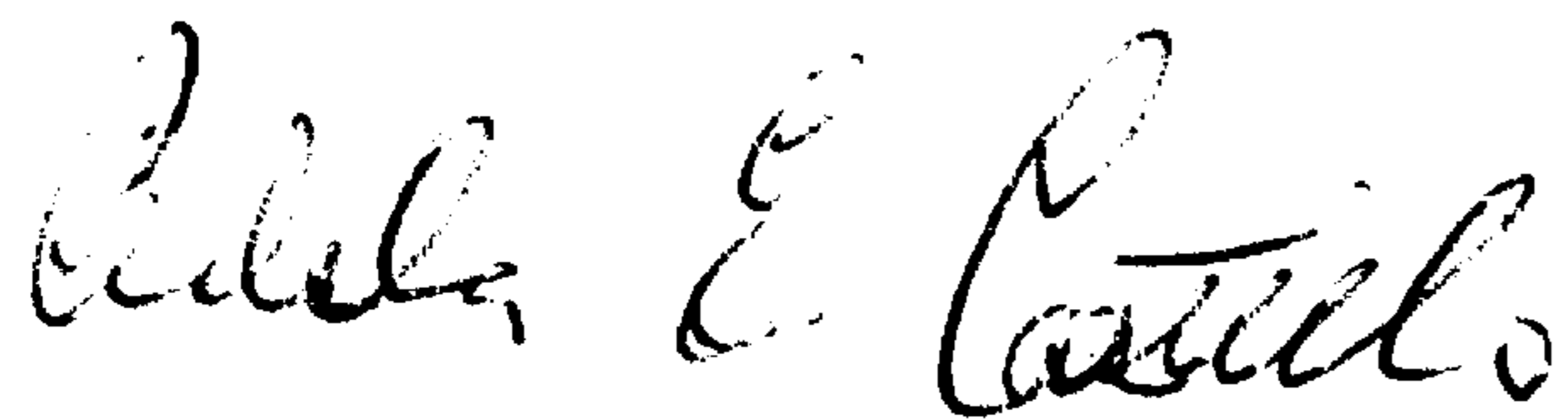
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Adela E. Castillo

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Sincerely,

Mary C Fulwood
MARY C Fulwood

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

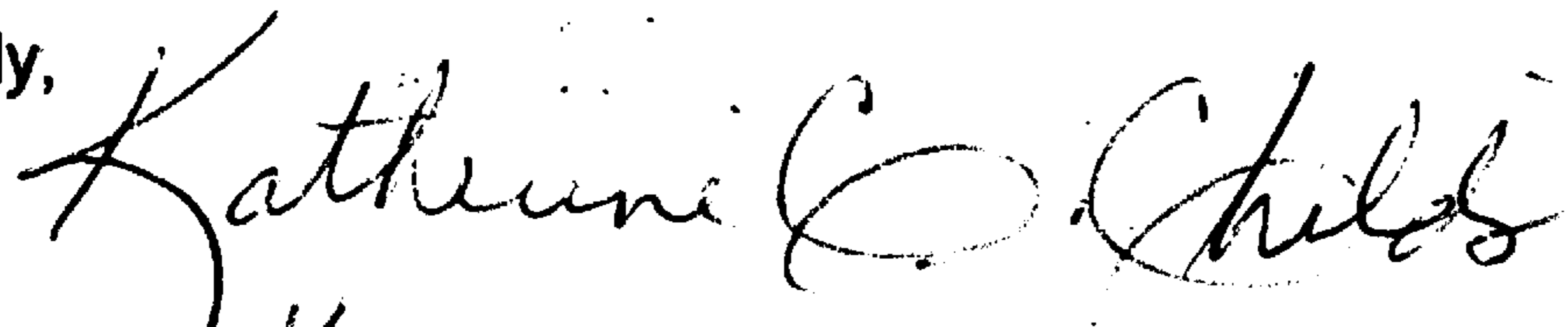
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Sincerely,


Katherine C. Childs

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to
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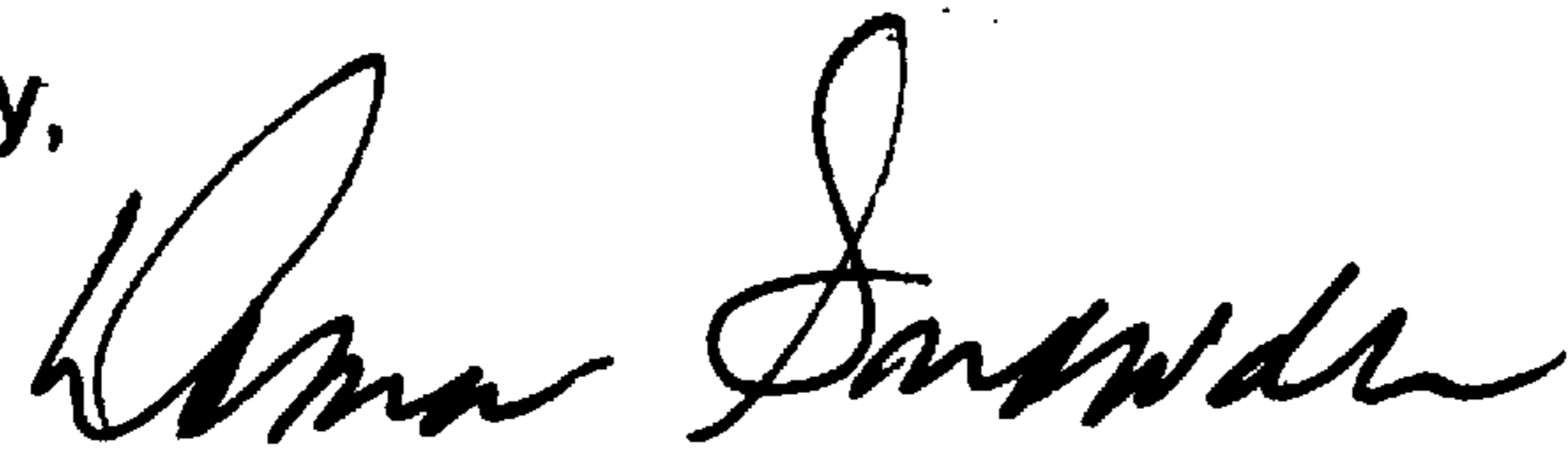
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Sincerely,


Donna Snowden

**Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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Sincerely,



MICHAEL GILES

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

06/12/11
RECEIVED
0545
JUN 14 2011
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Sincerely,

J. Smeda Timothee
13701 Ashby Rd.
Rockville, MD 20853

06/02/11 RECEIVED

JUN 1 4 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
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Sincerely,

Christine Milfort

*5600 Silver Oak Court
Olney, MD 20853*

06/12/11 RECEIVED
JUN 14 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
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Sincerely, *Josie Cherenfant*
705 Taylor Street N.W.
Washington DC, 20011

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely, *Figena Delibissant*
5805 42nd Ave #501
HYATTSVILLE MD 20981

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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JUN 14 2011

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PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Sincerely, *Guerline Hamille*
705 Taylor Street NW
Washington DC, 20011

06/12/11

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Micheline Camille
705 Taylor Street N.W
Washington DC, 20011

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PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Fritz Camille
705 Taylor street N.W
Washington DC, 20011

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Destiny Camille
705 Taylor street N.W
Washington DC, 20011

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely, *Shadac Lamille*
705 Taylor Street N.W
Washington DC, 20011

06/12/11

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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JUN 14 2011

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PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Sincerely,

Loreston Myriam
2013 Treetop LN # 31
Silver Spring MD 20904

06/12/11

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely, *Rose E Francois*

*11624 Lockwood Drive Apt T3
Silver Spring, MD 20904*

06/12/11

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2011

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
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Sincerely,

Qualia Stiver

*13110 Princerville Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20904*

06/12/11 RECEIVED

JUN 14 2011

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Sincerely,

Trinora Coz
5631 Hogenhill Ter.
Rockville, MD 20853

06/12/11

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2011

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
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Sincerely,

Manwaka J. Louis
705 Taylor Street N.W.
Washington DC 20011

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JUN 14 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Ms. Carrier and Members of the Planning Board:

As a member of the Eglise de la Foi, a Haitian church that meets at First Baptist Church. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed designation of any of the First Baptist Church's property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Our Church's property is proposed for redevelopment which will allow for construction of a new facility for the religious, social and educational ministries by three congregations of different languages and cultures in common space. The existing facilities are completely inadequate to accommodate these diverse worshipping communities and outreach ministries. The facilities are aged and too costly for the congregations to maintain. Any designation or restriction on the redevelopment of the Church's property for historic preservation purposes will prevent the redevelopment project that is necessary for these three current Churches to remain and thrive in Downtown Silver Spring.

I view any designation of the Church's property for historic preservation as serving only a very narrow interest group, while leaving the much broader community that could be served by new facilities without the presence and ministries of the diverse language and cultural congregations. Simply put, any designation will force these Churches to close, thus not serve the public interest in any manner. Therefore, I urge the Planning Board to concur with the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and recommend against any designation of the First Baptist Church property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Filancia Jean-Pierre
2362 Sun Valley Cir.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

06/12/11
RECEIVED
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Sincerely,

Kenny Surge Jr. Louis
705 Taylor Street NW
Washington DC, 20011



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Sincerely,

Name: *J. J. Bocanar*

Date: 6/12/2011



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Name: Rosalvina Contreras

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Roberto Ramirez

Date: 06/12/11



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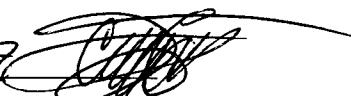
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Sincerely,

Name: Cecibel Ayala Ramirez 

Date: 06-12-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: *Ady Ybarra-entz*

Date: 9/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name:

J. A. Redillo M

Date:

06/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Jose Alfredo Leiva Reyes

Date: 12/6/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Reinaldo Alfonso Torres

Date: 6-12-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Josefa A. Meloid
Date: 06-12-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Ovidio BARRIAS
Date: 6/10/2011



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Name: FRANANDO O.

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Maria J. Lemos
Date: June 12
6-12-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Isabel Cristina Vasquez

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Jaime Ernesto Vasquez

Date: 06-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: Lydís González

Date: 6/12/11



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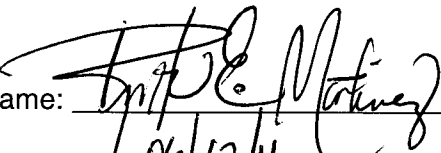
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Sincerely,

Name: maria O. Landaverde.

Date: 6-12-11



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

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Name: Heaton R. Rios

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: Elber Mirandas

Date: 06-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: Vicky Miranda

Date: 06/12/11



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Sincerely, *LUZ GUERRERO*

Name: *Luz Guerrero*

Date: *06-12-2011*



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Sincerely,

Name: Aurea B. Rosario

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: *Suelyn Barahona*
Date: 6/12/2011



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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Delmi A. Masferrer
[Signature]



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Sincerely,

Name: Maria A. Powell
Date: June, 12/2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Blanca Berta Fuentes
Date: 06/12/2011



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Sincerely, *Ana F Flores*

Name: *Ana F Flores*

Date: *6/12/11*



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Sincerely,


Name: Celio Santos

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Mirta Rodas

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: JORGE A. FLORES

Date: 6-11-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Carlo G. Gonzalez

Date: 6-12-2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Richard Rosario

Date: 6-12-11



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Date: 6/12/11.



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Sincerely,

Name: Conseuelo Gonzalez

Date: 6/12/11



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As a member of the Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, a Hispanic congregation that meet with First Baptist Church. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed designation of any of the First Baptist Church's property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

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Sincerely,

Name: Juan Reyes

Date: 06/12/2011



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Milady Perez

Date: 06/12/2011



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6/12/2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Nelly Echeverria Batres

Date: 06-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: *Dulmi Lopez Senoz*

Date: *06-12-2011*



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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8787 Georgia Avenue
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Sincerely,

Name: Marta Genover

Date: 6/12/11



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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Josefa A. Melord
12 June, 2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Celiana Santibañez
Date: June 12, 2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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8787 Georgia Avenue
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Sincerely,

Name: RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: AMELIA FLORES

Date: June 12 - 2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Santos Cabrera

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: NOEL GUERRERO

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: Eulogio Estrada

Date: 06-12-11



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Sincerely, *M. Cornejo*

Name: Martha Cornejo

Date: 6-12-11



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8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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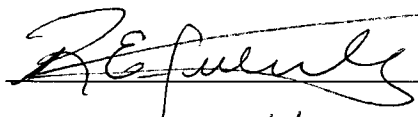
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Sincerely,

Name: *Faine Villanueva*

Date: 06-12-11



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Name: Sarah Ramirez

Date: 6-12-11



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Sincerely,

Name: Dafina Villanova

Date: 6/12/11



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Name: Melnyo Hag
Date: 6-12-11



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Ms. Carrier and Members of the Planning Board:

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Sincerely,

Name: Leo Ramirez

Date: 6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Beatriz Ramirez

Date: 6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Cindy Villanueva Hernandez

Date: 6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Jose Barillas

Date: 6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: _____

M. [Signature]

Date: _____

06/12/11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Victoria Burgos
Date: 06/12/2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Reinery Cortés Ortiz
Date: 06/21/11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: _____

Date: _____



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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely,

Pamela Vega

Name: *Pamela Vega*

Date: *6/12/11*



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Alodia E. Cruz

Date: 6-13-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: ~~Francisco~~ Oscar R Mejia

Date: 06-19-2011



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: *Lucia V. Salomon*

Date: *06-12-2011*



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: ~~#~~ Nohemy Salomón

Date: June 12, 2011

Nohemy Salomón



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Natalie Fuentes

Date: June 12, 2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Emily Fuentes

Date: June 12, 2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Sarahi Ramirez

Date: 06.12.11



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Sincerely,

Name: Reberia A Jones

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Ines Barahona

Date: 6/12/2011



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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Carlos A. Hernandez
Date: 6/12/2011



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Sincerely,

Name: Ivonne Reyna

Date: 6/12/11



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

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Sincerely,

Name: JUAN DAVID FUENTES

Date: 06-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Ana Patricia Alcantara

Date: 6-12-2011



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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name:

Vilma Gonzalez

Date:

6/17/11



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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Brayant Gonzalez

Name:

Brayant Gonzalez

Date:

6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely,

Name: Zonia Barahona

Date: 6/12/2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910


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Sincerely, 

Name: Roxana Hernandez

Date: 6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name:

Marixa Yaruth Estrada

Date:

06-12-2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: Roxana Ulloa

Date: 06/12/11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Sincerely,

Name: Ana E. Gonzalez-Mendoza

Date: 6/12/2011



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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
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RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

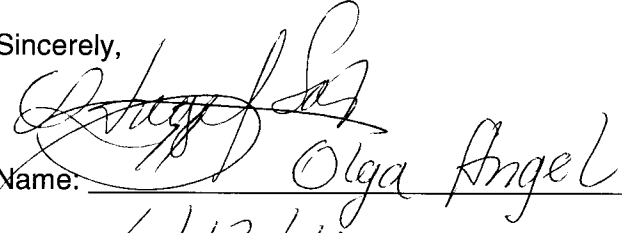
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Sincerely,


Name: Olga Angel

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Juana Salomón

Date: 06/12/2011



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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name: RAFAEL MONTALVO

Date: 6-12-2011



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Sincerely,

Name:

Loyda E. Morataya

Date:

6-12-11



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
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Sincerely,

Name:


Edmund L. Sanchez

Date:

6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: *Foster Flores*

Date: *06/12/11*



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Sincerely,

Name: Helen Grabar

Date: 6/12/11



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Sincerely,

Name: Carlos Escobar

Date: 6-12-11



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Name: Candy Escobar

Date: 06-12-11



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing on Designation to the Locational Atlas and/or Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Ms. Carrier and Members of the Planning Board:

As a member of the Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, a Hispanic congregation that meet with First Baptist Church. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed designation of any of the First Baptist Church's property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Our Church's property is proposed for redevelopment which will allow for construction of a new facility for the religious, social and educational ministries by three congregations of different languages and cultures in common space. The existing facilities are completely inadequate to accommodate these diverse worshipping communities and outreach ministries. The facilities are aged and too costly for the congregations to maintain. Any designation or restriction on the redevelopment of the Church's property for historic preservation purposes will prevent the redevelopment project that is necessary for these three current Churches to remain and thrive in Downtown Silver Spring.

I view any designation of the Church's property for historic preservation as serving only a very narrow interest group, while leaving the much broader community that could be served by new facilities without the presence and ministries of the diverse language and cultural congregations. Simply put, any designation will force these Churches to close, thus not serve the public interest in any manner. Therefore, I urge the Planning Board to concur with the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and recommend against any designation of the First Baptist Church property to the Locational Atlas or Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Date: _____



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and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPB' or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Name: Jose Palacios

Date: 6-12-11



Ms. Françoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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Sincerely,

Name:

Luisa Palacios 6-12-11

Date:

6.12-11

Sharing the Journey

June 16, 2011

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JUN 16 2011

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Duncan McIntosh, Minister of Proclamation

Ms. Francoise Carrier, Chair
and Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
MNCPPC
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring – Addition to Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites (the “Locational Atlas”) and/or Amendment to Master Plan for Historic Preservation (the “Master Plan”) – June 23, 2011 Public Hearing

On behalf of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring located at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring, (the “Church”), I urge the Planning Board to accept the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”) against adding the Church’s buildings and architectural features to either the Locational Atlas or the Master Plan.

As determined by the HPC following a hearing in March, and as demonstrated by the exhaustive research of our historic consultant and former Chair of the HPC, David Rotenstein, the Church buildings and associated architectural features fail to meet any criteria for preservation under the provisions of Chapter 24A of the County Code. Mr. Rotenstein’s full report is included in the record before the Board and a summary of his testimony before the HPC is attached to this letter.

Moreover, as I stated in my testimony before the HPC, any regulation of the Church’s property for historic preservation will likely foreclose the current opportunity the Church has to redevelop its property as part of a mixed-use project that includes a new Church building and education center for the three

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SILVER SPRING

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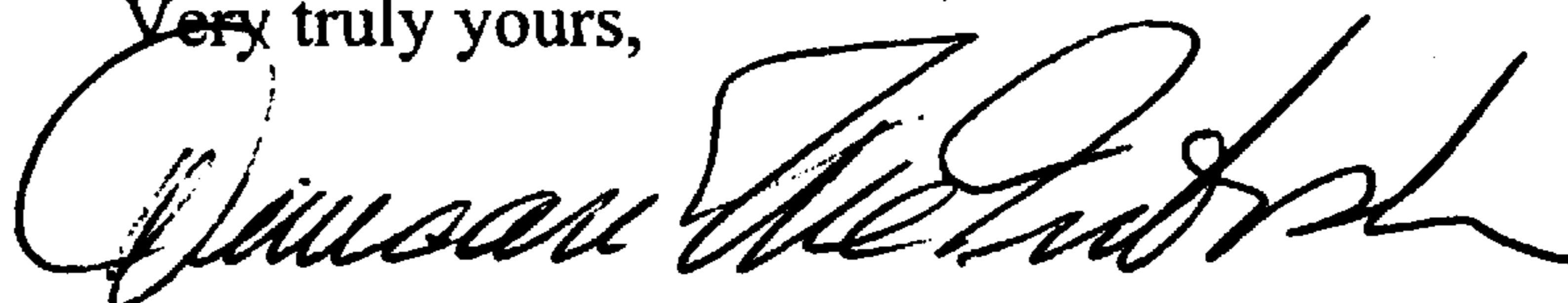
8415 FENTON STREET • SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910 • PHONE 301-585-5454 • FAX 301-585-5479

congregations that form the Church's multi-cultural faith community. As detailed in my letter to the HPC dated March 15, 2011, which is also attached to this letter, the existing Church facilities are inadequate for our congregation's varied needs and present a barrier to the expression of our faith. Redevelopment of our property with new Church facilities as proposed with our development partner, LaKritz/Adler, is essential to the survival of this faith community at this location in Silver Spring. In summary, on the basis of the failure of the Church buildings to meet the statutory criteria for preservation and the significant public interest served by redevelopment of this property, we ask the Planning Board not to move forward with an Amendment to the Master Plan or the addition of the Church to the Locational Atlas.

We look forward to presenting additional testimony at the Public Hearing on June 23, 2011.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Pastor Duncan McIntosh

cc: Mr. Scott Whipple
Mr. Josh Adler
Mr. David Rotenstein
Scott C. Wallace, Esquire



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR SMART GROWTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
COLVIN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

11 June 2011

Françoise Carrier
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: HPC Case 36/01-11C
Silver Spring Baptist Church Designation Planning Board Hearing, 5/26/11

Dear Ms. Carrier:

In his *History and Historic Preservation Evaluation* (March 15, 2011) and in his intervention during the Public Hearing of March 23, 2011, Dr. David S. Rotenstein misrepresented my position in favor of preserving the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.

In his Evaluation (p.42), Dr. Rotenstein mentioned that I "described the 1956 addition as "transitional." The related footnote (#97) mentions "Isabelle Gournay, February 3, 2011)". In the transcript, Mr. Rotenstein mentions: "I did two telephone interviews with Isabelle Gournay... she told that her understanding of the property came almost exclusively from the work that Silver Spring Historical Society did."

Allow me to rectify several points:

Footnote # 97 is incomplete; it should read "Isabelle Gournay, phone conversation with the author, February 3, 2011). I only had one very brief conversation about the church with Dr. Rotenstein. This was an informal conversation. Dr. Rotenstein did not inform me that I was being interviewed and I did not consent to be interviewed or quoted.

I did not base my architectural history evaluation of the church on the nomination submitted by the Silver Spring Historical Society. My assessment of the Church and of Sensemen, the architect, derives from independent research that Dr. Mary Corbin Sies and I conducted as part of our Modern Movement in Maryland (MoMoMa) survey, funded by the Maryland Historical Trust.

More importantly Mr. Rotenstein is misconstruing my regard for "transitional buildings" and that of most of my fellow architectural historians. The term "transitional" has no negative connotation in my field of expertise. Many very significant works of architecture have been deemed transitional and extremely high quality and historically important nonetheless. One such example is Frank Lloyd Wright's Winslow House in River Forest, Ill. (1893), a major step toward the Prairie House idiom. "Transition" is a necessary creative process and should not be dismissed or interpreted as connoting inferior quality.

Mr. Rotenstein has degrees in history from Pennsylvania State University and George State University. He specializes in public history. He is not trained or credentialed in architecture or architectural history. My own degrees are in those fields, an Architecte DPLG (M.Arch.), 1980, from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and a Ph.D., 1989, from the History of Art Department, specializing in architectural history, from Yale University.

I respectfully request that you take these corrections into consideration when assessing Mr. Rotenstein's report on the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Gournay
Associate Professor

College Park, Maryland 20742
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www.arch.umd.edu

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