



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

January 7, 2009

Ms. Barbara Smith-Fennell
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the
Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County
2424 Reedie Dr., Suite 301
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Ms. Smith-Fennell:

I am writing to commend the work of the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC) for its role in the Infill Reform Legislation recently passed by the County Council.

Prior to introducing this legislation, which modestly reduces the size of new homes built on small lots in older neighborhoods, I formed an Infill Development Task Force that brought together neighborhood leaders, builders, real estate agents, architects and agency representatives in a public, consensus-building exercise. With CRCMC's facilitation support, Task Force members were able to study the issues together, discuss their viewpoints in a productive manner, and find common ground on a controversial matter. I believe that CRCMC's work made a crucial difference in this process, which ultimately promoted a sound and sustainable public policy.

CRCMC's facilitation team donated many hours and evenings to this endeavor and provided skilled and professional services to me, my staff and the Task Force. I wish to particularly recognize Jeremy Kranowitz, Mary Jacksteit, Richard Alper and all the members of CRCMC team who capably supported this effort over more than six months and twelve public meetings. I believe CRCMC's work with the Infill Development Task Force demonstrates its commitment to serving the community and the value of consensus-building processes for thorny public issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Berliner".

Roger Berliner
Councilmember, District 1