



Leonardo McClarty
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

June 19, 2017

Mr. Jon Weinstein
Council Chair, Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: Long Reach Village Center Urban Renewal Project

Dear Councilman Weinstein:

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a business membership organization dedicated to helping businesses from sole proprietors to large international firms grow and succeed. The Chamber promotes the interests of Howard County employers, thereby fulfilling our mission of providing advocacy, connections, and access to timely information to advance the growth and success of the business community.

For several years, the Chamber has seen so many of Howard County's elected officials, residents, and civic leaders watch as market conditions led to the decimation and decline of the Long Reach Village Center (LRVC). The decline of this center has led to the center being named an urban renewal site. Following a competitive RFP process that considered the opinions and desires of the community, we now have before us an opportunity to redevelop the LRVC. The LRVC RFP review committee has recommended approval of a proposal that effectively achieves the goals of both the developer, community, and administration.

Like so many, the Chamber supports the redevelopment proposal offered by Orchard Development. This plan offers a vision of a mixed-use center that can be both a focal point and anchor for the Long Reach neighborhood. Featuring live-work-play components that include multi-generational housing, the proposed development also complements the nearby commercial and residential development. This firm and its leadership are fully entrenched in Howard County business and community affairs. Consequently, it is our belief that this company has the financial capacity, experience, and overall willingness to carry this plan to fruition thereby giving Howard County and its residents and project it can be proud of.

Long Reach Village Center Urban Renewal Project

June 19, 2017

P 2

The Chamber's leadership thanks you in advance for your consideration. Should there be any questions concerning our position, please do not hesitate to contact me as I can be reached directly at 443-878-1234.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leonardo" and last name "McClarty" clearly legible.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE

President/CEO, Howard County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Howard County Chamber Board of Directors
 Howard County Legislative Affairs Committee