

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc.

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http://www.mvcca.org

February 9, 2009

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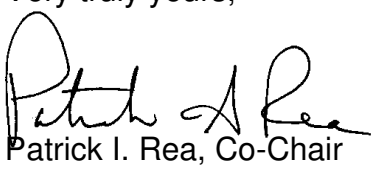
The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc. (the "MVCCA"), operating since 1969, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization open to all community associations organized for nonpartisan civic activity and located within the Mount Vernon Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia. The MVCCA is organized to represent the interests of its member organizations and the residents of the Mount Vernon Magisterial District. The MVCCA membership is generally comprised of approximately 70 associations.

Currently pending before the Virginia State Legislature are three bills that seek to establish a subcommittee to study the impact of duck hunting in urban and suburban areas. These bills are SJ322, HJ721 and HJ703. Presently, duck hunting is permitted along certain areas near the Potomac River and adjacent to suburban Fairfax County, and the Dyke Marsh National Wildlife Preserve. Duck hunting in and near this area directly affects Mount Vernon area residents represented by the MVCCA.

The MVCCA has passed three separate resolutions that specifically address Dyke Marsh and duck hunting in this area. The first MVCCA resolution deals with marking the boundaries of Dyke Marsh, to prevent, *inter alia*, duck hunters from straying into this federally protected wildlife preserve. The second MVCCA resolution requested that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries retain regulations controlling duck hunting adjacent to Dyke Marsh. The third MVCCA resolution requested support for restoration of the Dyke Marsh National Wildlife Preserve. Copies of these resolutions are attached. The MVCCA has not taken a formal position on the pending legislation, because this legislation has not yet been vetted through our committee process. However, at the MVVCA's January membership meeting, the membership adopted a resolution directing me to contact you regarding our interest in the impact of duck hunting in the Dyke Marsh area.

The adopted MVCCA resolutions clearly express the interest and sense of the MVCCA membership in hunting activities near Dyke Marsh. Residents in this area have expressed dismay at the dangerous condition created by the discharge of firearms around and into their suburban neighborhoods. In addition, these residents have described the diminished quality of life caused by the noise of discharging firearms. The general feeling is that use of this area for duck hunting is an anachronism that should be corrected by the Virginia State Legislation. Accordingly, the MVCCA supports the proposed legislation to create a subcommittee to study duck hunting in suburban and urban areas.

Very truly yours,



Patrick I. Rea, Co-Chair
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

Attachments: Resolutions of the MVCCA