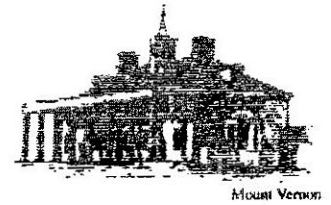




Dan Storek
Mount Vernon District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306

Telephone: (703) 780-7518 E-mail: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov



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To Present and Prospective Members of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations:

As your elected representative, I wanted to share with you my thoughts on the value of being a member of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations.

I have been fortunate to work with the Mount Vernon Council and the highly engaged Mount Vernon community for over 14 years. I have witnessed first-hand the Council's unique ability to successfully influence legislators and mobilize residents on important issues. Those of you who have been long time members of this organization already know the benefits of membership.

For the past 49 years, the Council has proven its ability to work collaboratively and speak as a strong voice. It is an invaluable resource to me and is the first organization I look to for guidance when Mount Vernon issues arise. Our collaborative efforts often result in community driven decisions. A perfect example of this is the Council's participation in the extraordinary multi-year effort that culminated in the Embark Comprehensive Plan changes. Embark will guide the growth and development of the Richmond Highway corridor for the next 20 years, ultimately bringing Metrorail from Huntington to Hybla Valley. The Council took a lead role in organizing and educating the community about the opportunities, challenges and long-term impacts to the residents and the County. These efforts made a positive difference for all of us.

The Council also provides an opportunity to build new relationships with other community members and associations. Learning about one another's needs leads to a better understanding of each other's issues and provides an even stronger voice when working with legislators. Working collectively often results in bringing positive change to the quality of life not only in one community, but to the whole of the Mount Vernon District.

If your civic association is already a member of the Council, I congratulate you and urge you and your members to actively participate in the issues that are facing Fairfax County. If your association is not yet a member of the Council, I encourage you to join TODAY and get involved. It is your involvement that will continue to bring about positive change for all of us who live, work, educate and recreate in Fairfax County.

I take this opportunity to thank the Mount Vernon Council for their collective leadership in advocating for issues on behalf of the community, for their endless volunteer hours, and for continuing to foster collaboration, communication and a better community.

Respectfully yours in public service,

Dan Storek
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District