

**Testimony During the Public Comments Portion of the Board of Education
Meeting of January 10, 2006**

*by Mark R. Adelman, Chair, Education Committee, Montgomery County Civic
Federation*

Since we were first made aware of the possibility that this site (Carver) might be turned over to Montgomery College, we have urged you and the County Council to broaden your vision and to seek public input EARLY in this process. Your response thusfar is NOT satisfactory. The December 12 meeting of the Council Education Committee suggests that the College and the Council view Carver primarily in terms of potential parking spaces. Dr. Weast's January 4 memo to you suggests that he and you see Carver primarily in terms of office space.

The community sees MUCH more in Carver than just parking spaces and/or office spaces. And nothing in your responses - or those of the Council - suggest that you share our vision or understand the value of Carver. This 20-acre site houses a school building of historic significance and is important to many groups. It has tremendous potential. It can accomodate both MCPS and College functions. It could, for example, hold a small MCPS school that is linked to the College and enables high school students to walk across a pedestrian bridge and take college-level courses. What about some underground parking and some low cost housing for starting teachers? Montgomery County can do SO many things, IF we have the vision and the will. We elected you to lead us, and want to trust that your leadership involves wisdom and vision. In this instance you give us little reason to trust. Your responses seem, thusfar, to be a pat on our collective heads and a paternal "we'll ask for your input when the time is right". That's not good enough. In fact, it's unacceptable.

And if you do not demonstrate that you understand the value of Carver and the potential for using this site to serve multiple needs, then we will have to put our heads together and show you how to do it. Everyone needs some adult education now and then. You, the Council, all of us. Everyone needs a little help. We stand ready to help you. But we will NOT just stand around and wait!

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