

VANSVILLE HEIGHTS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.

P. O. Box 793

Beltsville, MD 20705

April 1, 2021

National Capital Planning Commission

Reference: Agenda Item File Number: 8243 – Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility

Good Afternoon to the Members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

My name is Loveleen “Dee” Perkins

Today I am honored to be here to speak on behalf of the members of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. and Mr. John D. Perkins, President. My presence today is to speak in reference to agenda Item File Number: 8243 – Bureau of Engraving and Printing Currency Production Facility. We are in SUPPORT of the relocation of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Vansville is a historic community in Prince George’s County and for statistical purposes, Vansville is a part of the Beltsville census-designated place. Vansville, MD was officially designated as a historical site by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on January 30, 1973.

You may ask why is this significant! It is significant because the Vansville Community historical marker is located at Odell Road and Old Baltimore Pike which is **within several blocks** of (BARC) where the BEP seek to house its new facility which is being re-located from downtown Washington, DC.

During several meetings of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. we discussed and unanimously agreed and will welcome BEP to the historic Vansville/Beltsville community.

The Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. welcomes the Bureau of Engraving with the understanding that they will work hand in hand with Vansville with minimum to no negative impact to the community **that they will be a part of.**

VANSVILLE HEIGHTS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.

P. O. Box 793

Beltsville, MD 20705

We've met with several representatives of the BEP project, particularly with Mr. Chuck Davis. He and his team shared their great respect and an interest in maintaining our historic area with a desire to develop good community working relationships.

Mr. Davis and his team also shared with us the following – to name just a few - of their intent for our community: 1) their intent to remove the rumble strips along the length of Powder Mill Road to reduce the significant noise generated as vehicles pass over each strip, 2) removal of twenty-two derelict facilities associated with the existing site, each of which is a public safety and environmental hazard, 3) improvements to immediate traffic network in accordance with the recommendations presented in the 2020 Traffic Impact Study, and 4) welcoming the local schools for field trips, events like Career Days, and hand-on experiences for Chemistry Week and continuing with Project Lead the Way. Our expectations are that **if** BEP is located to the BARC facility, they will continue to reach out to the community for opportunities to share **in advance** what changes may need to be made at their facility that may impact our community. Many of BEP's employees are located in Prince George's county, however BEP has shared that for our community, in the future, higher than average compensation job opportunities will be available within the Bureau.

HOWEVER, we are not naïve and we've discussed and shared our concerns with BEP and we know that initial plans will continue to evolve. We are simply asking for a continual review of plans for specific infrastructure improvements for several major roadways in our area that will be critically impacted by the increased workforce. Several major highways BEP has under consideration for improvement are based on the recommendations presented in the 2020 Traffic Impact Study to BEP, however I am not sure what considerations will be given to Odell Road – a very narrow two-lane – currently a well-traveled road located at the back entrance of BARC.

It is said that we are to be **“good stewards”** of our land and use **all it** in a very proper and safe manner.

I'm sure the term **“Environmental Stewardship”** is not new to anyone – it refers to being responsible, protective of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Aldo Leopold

VANSVILLE HEIGHTS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.

P. O. Box 793

Beltsville, MD 20705

(1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic "dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it." Land Ethic should become a **part of our everyday life**...understanding this, we should proclaim what we will do individually and collectively to build and strengthen our relationship to the land – to the animals – to plants upon which they grow. How will we take care of the water use – the air we breathe without the priority being money, unlimited concessions, without focus on self! Proper **use of the land**.

Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. is encouraged, supportive and look forward to many opportunities to discuss this project in the very early stages of its progression! We support the possibility of a new neighbor – The Bureau of Engraving and Printing!

Respectfully, the Executive Board of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc

John “JD” Perkins
President,

Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc.
dperkins1660@gmail.com
Cell# 301-452-3854

Mr. Joseph Briscoe, President Emeritus
Mrs. Fannie Minor, Vice President
Mrs. Eleanor Holt, Treasurer
Mr. Randolph Brown, Membership Chair
Mrs. Loveleen “Dee” Perkins,
Special Projects Coordinator