



## Preserving Rockville's Heritage

Mayor and Council of Rockville  
11 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

April 18, 2016

Dear Mayor and Council,

Peerless Rockville writes today to ask for your attention to and protection of the important cultural landmark now known as Carver Educational Services Center, a unique designated historic district in the City of Rockville and an incredibly important piece of Rockville's history and African-American heritage. As you are aware, the Montgomery County School Board has proposed the placement of a bus depot at this historic site, which will significantly impair the protected landscape and its designated viewshed. Peerless Rockville seeks your support in preserving this property from infringement by acting in good faith to uphold the designation passed by this body in November 2002.

The historic significance of this property includes its importance to the educational system and to African-American history in not only Rockville, but Montgomery County. George Washington Carver High School and Junior College opened in September of 1951, becoming the only institution for post-secondary education available to black students in all of racially-segregated Montgomery County. It would be the first and last facility of its kind in the County, as the *Brown vs. Board* ruling from the Supreme Court declared separate institutions for black and white students to be unconstitutional in 1954.

The location of Carver speaks to the segregated time period, just north of the historic black community of Haiti and in proximity to Middle Lane and Lincoln Park. Its construction there demonstrates the expectation that segregated schools and the "separate but equal" philosophy would continue. It was also the only modern secondary educational facility for black students in Montgomery County, following the determined efforts of the Montgomery County black community and its educators such as Dr. Parlett L. Moore, who served as principal of Lincoln High School and later as principal and dean of Carver.

The school represented decades of advocacy for improved educational opportunities for black students in the form of a modern facility on par with white schools. It was the first County public school to be named for an African-American individual, a point of great community pride. Carver created lasting social and professional bonds for the African-American citizens of Montgomery County. It remains a symbol of educational achievement and social-political power of the strong black community here in Rockville, as well as a marker of the end of the era of substandard segregated schools.

In November 2002, the City of Rockville recognized this property's historical significance by designating the original school building plus a one-hundred foot envelope around the building and a viewshed to Mannakee Street and Hungerford Drive. The creation of this historic district was intended to safeguard the heritage of the City by preserving the site and structure which reflects this important chapter in the City's cultural, social, economic, and political history.

We ask that Mayor and Council act in support of Rockville's African-American history by encouraging protection of Carver's designation, integrity, and its complete viewshed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pickard".

Nancy Pickard

Executive Director