



CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**William T. Martin**

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Mustafa Sidik  
Chair, 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission  
212 S. Bond Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014

RE: 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting

Charman Sidik and the Honorable Members of the 2021 Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission:

As this body continues its essential mission, the City is eager to work with the commission and asks that it consider the importation relationship Havre de Grace has with the rest of the county. Havre de Grace's rich history, diversity, and proximity to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay make it strategically one of the most important communities in the county. The recent investments and policy decisions the City has made over the last five years have produced positive county-wide results, specifically in the areas of tourism and water infrastructure, which have positioned Havre de Grace as a premium regional tourism destination and allowed the City to expand its sale and distribution of water beyond its corporate limits.

The City understands that much of the work you have been tasked with is currently stalled as we await the final data from the U.S Census Bureau. However, anecdotally it is known that over the past decade, Havre de Grace, along with the rest of the U.S. Route 40 corridor has seen significant population growth, housing development, and business investment. Because of these factors, the City believes that it would be in the best interest of all of Harford County if the commission builds its redistricting map by first focusing on the U.S. Route 40 corridor and moving outwards in an east to west direction.

We ask while you wait for this data and begin and develop parameters for the process, the Harford County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission adopts the following concepts into its decision-making process.

**Contiguity Requirement:** The City urges the commission to examine closely the requirement that districts be contiguous. The City understands that using Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) as a connector between the northern and western part of district F technically meets the contiguity

requirement. However, we believe that the use of APG in this manner should be reconsidered and agree with Mr. Lloyd, who testified before the commission on May 19, 2021, and described this as “not ideal.”

APG being used as a connector has led to the current district F having the most uniquely shaped district in Harford County and has led to APG being divided into separate districts.

**Attention To The U.S. Route 40 Corridor:** This area of the county has been described as Harford Counties’ Mainstreet and serves as a gateway into the county. The U.S. Route 40 Corridor has seen substantial growth over the last decade, and it is anticipated this growth will continue and lead to an even more prosperous Harford County. The City recommends the commission builds its redistricting map by first focusing on the U.S. Route 40 corridor and moving outwards in an east to west direction.

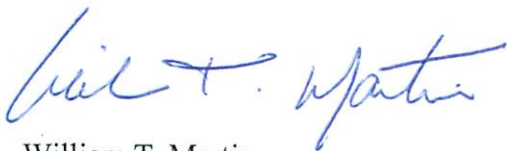
**Anticipated Future Municipal Growth Areas Outside Of Existing Corporate Limits:** The City believes that the commission should factor into its decision-making the future growth of municipalities through annexation.

**Dividing Municipalities:** The City recommends that municipalities should remain intact and not be divided into two districts.

**Combining Municipalities:** The City does not believe the commission should automatically set a requirement to place the three municipalities into separate districts. Instead, the City recommends that when the commission considers this matter, it takes into account the common interest and resources municipalities may share.

**School Boundaries:** The City recommends the commission draw councilmanic districts as closely as possible with school districts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William T. Martin".

William T. Martin  
Mayor, City of Havre de Grace