May 26, 1988

Mr. Dan McGuire  
President  
Reston Homeowners Coalition  
2202 Guildmore Road  
Reston, VA 22091

Dear Mr. McGuire:

The National Civic League would like to thank the community of Reston for applying to the 1988 All-America City program. The importance of the award explains why over 3,500 communities have vied for the honor over the past 39 years. The hard work of communities such as yours has kept this premier award program thriving for close to four decades and makes the 350 communities who have received the coveted award even more important.

In applying for the award a community participates in a valuable self-evaluation by first identifying their critical issues, secondly devising a plan to address these issues and finally progressing towards their goals. The application process is both an extensive and intensive one. Civic leaders must clearly communicate accomplishments and additional opportunities for improvement. The incorporation of the National Civic Index into the application allowed communities to examine their civic infrastructure and find ways to strengthen it. We strongly feel that every applicant community is a winner.

The information that follows is designed to help you understand why your community was not selected as a finalist. Every entry was read very critically by two screeners. The Screening Committee met over a two day period to discuss each community. The process took into account a high degree of variation in terms of community characteristics: how accomplishments were achieved; what the results were; and who benefitted. Due to the constraints within which we must deal, the evaluation is not infallible, yet it does the task.
ALL-AMERICA CITY
1988
EVALUATION SUMMARY

RESTON, VIRGINIA

In reviewing the application of Reston, Virginia, there was displayed a great level of community spirit and involvement in its programs; geared toward the betterment of life for all of Reston's citizens. It was apparent that the greatest assets to these programs were the communities' volunteerism and philanthropy. Some good services were provided such as the establishment of the Obstetrical Unit and the Shelter for Homeless families. There was evidently a great amount of support from the community described in each of the cited projects. This support can be seen to be procured by the effective information processes in Reston which efficiently inform the community on Reston's concerns and activities. There was also the productive joint meetings among organizations gaining the communities' support.

The issues faced by Reston, in comparison with some very difficult issues faced by other applicants, did not seem extremely critical. Although, Reston proved to be a committed city in building upon their strong civic base, Reston has not, as yet, achieved self-government. The projects cited were all achieved by volunteer citizen action rather than citizens and government working together. It would seem that the most important priority for Reston would be achieving self-government and providing civic services. While the achievements of the community are laudable, it would greatly benefit Reston to create a working relationship between local government and the community in order to become an All America City. Therefore, in view of these problems, Reston could not be chosen as a finalist this year.

The All-America City Awards program wishes your community continued success in its endeavors. The National Civic League (NCL) annually recognizes communities that strengthen the civic infrastructure. We trust that Reston will continue to look to the NCL for support, guidance and assistance in confronting and solving civic issues.
In reviewing your community's story, the basic criteria for evaluation takes into consideration the following factors:

- WHETHER THE APPLICATION GUIDELINES WERE FOLLOWED
- WHETHER A QUESTION WAS ANSWERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS
- THE RELEVANCY OF THE PROJECTS TO THE COMMUNITY'S BASIC PROBLEMS
- QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES OF PARTICIPATION
- HOW MANY PARTICIPATED
- WHAT KIND OF DECISION MAKING WAS INVOLVED
- INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES USED IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS AND INVOLVING CITIZENS
- THE EASE AND MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- THE USE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- THE NATURE OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED ACTION

Each community seeks the All-America City Award for different reasons. We received just under 100 strong applications this year. The high quality of entries made selection difficult. Since only a small group can be chosen, it means many good stories must go unrewarded.

We hope the All-America City application was a positive challenge for your community. Attached please find a summary evaluation of the findings of the screening committee. This is the first year we have supplied this evaluation in our continued effort to enhance the program and make it as beneficial as possible to the applicant communities. Once again thank you for being a part of our 1988 program and we hope that with the attached ideas, we will receive another application from The City of Reston soon.

Sincerely,

John Parr
President

Allison Moore
Program Director

Enclosures