



Reston Community Association, Inc.

2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, Virginia 22091

May 30, 1989

Regional and Urban Design Committee  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to write in support of the master planning and urban design achievements for Reston Town Center.

As the Co-Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee for the Reston Community Association, I have long been involved in community discussions about developing the town center envisioned in Reston's original master plan. With the steady growth in Reston area's population and employment over the last 25 years, the community has now achieved the critical mass necessary to support a real downtown.

As a community organization we have sought, and been allowed to participate constructively, more than perhaps any similar group in the planning of a major multi-use project. Our specific objectives have included:

- o Integration of housing into the core in order to achieve vitality and help support the retail and entertainment components
- o Integration of the center with the rest of the community through such elements as the pathway system, the naming of places and streets, and the planning of space for community activities and facilities
- o A strong transportation management program in order to reduce congestion impacts, encourage a more pedestrian-oriented environment, and provide support and focus for a more transit-oriented community

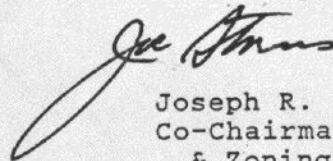
We believe we have been successful in working with Reston Land and the design team to achieve these objectives to a greater extent than has been achieved elsewhere in any other large-scale project in the U.S.

We have been extremely pleased with the cooperative effort of the development team, the County, and the community throughout the process. Not only has the quality of design been exceptional, but Reston Land's development and design team has made consensus building a priority throughout. Their active involvement with the community as well as the County assured a thorough investigation and assessment of all relevant issues.

The design team refined the Town Center's core area concept plan and responded sensitively to an increased development program and density as it became clear that the market was there for a much more intensive project than had been previously envisioned. The resulting master plan provides a concentrated mix of retail, office, hotel, residential, civic, and entertainment activities within a zone of parks and plazas. The design team successfully combined positive characteristics of urban development -- pedestrian-scaled streets, a variety of uses and services, green open spaces, with easy vehicular accessibility, and ample parking -- to achieve a town center befitting the sophistication in planning and design that Reston's residents have looked for since Robert Simon's original master plan.

As the Phase One retail, office, and hotel complex begins to take shape, the quality of the planning and urban design efforts becomes more and more evident. The Phase One activity is setting a high standard, indeed, for subsequent phases of Reston Town Center development, as well as for other multi-use projects nationwide.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Stowers,  
Co-Chairman, Planning  
& Zoning Committee