

Citizens for Greater Centreville

2 November 2004
510 Chesterfield Avenue
Centreville, Maryland 21617

Dear Town Council Members:

As you know, the Citizens for Greater Centreville is a group of over one hundred (100) individuals that have worked very hard to assist in the improvement of the quality of life within the Town and its environs. Recently, we have been heavily involved with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), Queen Anne's County Commissioners and the Centreville Town Council in order to enact a through truck ban within the town limits. Our organization strongly supports the enactment of such a ban.

Centreville has seen a drastic increase in overall traffic in the past few years. This traffic increase has been in auto traffic and also in the numbers of heavy multi-axel trucks that are using our main roads (Liberty and Commerce Streets). These large trucks have caused serious damage to the underlying infrastructure (sewer and water), damage to the roads, damage to the houses along these streets and most of all, create a very unsafe situation for our Town's residents and pedestrians.

In our discussions with SHA, we have determined that other towns within Maryland have successfully banned through trucks. Two criteria must be met by a town in order to effect a ban: (1) The town must be incorporated, and (2) There must be an alternate route for the trucks to use. Centreville meets both of these criteria. The alternate route around Centreville for these trucks would be John Powell Road and Route 301, for both northbound and southbound truck traffic.

Over a month ago, you voted to develop and pass an ordinance banning through trucks from Centreville. In the interim, there has been a draft ordinance created, much discussion and a bit of "scare mongering" concerning the banning of local trucks. The SHA is now doing a one week traffic survey to determine the extent of the problem.

The Citizens for Greater Centreville encourage you to move quickly in completing the ordinance banning through trucks in Centreville. It is time for action. We also support the development of an ordinance that will allow local deliveries within the town at certain hours of the day. Local trucks can have stickers issued that will allow them access to the town and distinguish them from the through trucks.

In the meantime, the Citizens for Greater Centreville will continue to work with both the SHA and the Town Council to make this ordinance a reality. This is an important issue that effects the

quality of life and the safety of our town residents. I know we can count on your support for this ordinance, but should in-fighting and delays persist, we will strongly support making this ordinance a referendum issue on the April 2005 election ballot.

I look forward to resolving this issue to the satisfaction of all involved.

Kind regards,

Robert B. Thompson
Chairman
Citizens for Greater Centreville