

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND BRANCH



NAACP

BOX 2165
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20847-2165



**MEDIA ALERT
FOR OCTOBER 3, 2008**

The Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP is holding a press conference on **Friday October 3, 2008, at 10:00 AM** to draw attention and protest the denial of basic rights and services to African American citizens and residents in the Sandy Spring Community. The press conference will be held at **Ross J. Boddy Recreation Center, 18529 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring, Maryland.**

Then NAACP is working with the Sandy Springs Community to call on elected officials of the Montgomery County Government to demand that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MC-NCPPC) protect some of our most vulnerable people in our society by re-opening Farm Road and establishing it as a public thorough fare for the residents of that area.

Farm Road is currently being blocked, denying residents legitimate (and normal) access to their homes and property. They and others have been trying to resolve this situation since February 2006. Whereas, legal action has been taken to approve removal of the road blockage, MC-NCPPC has taken no action and continues to deny these residents normal property rights afforded other citizens in the county.

Since the 19th century the residents of Sandy Spring bounded by Brooke Road, Chandlee Mill Road and Gold Mine Road have relied on what has always been called Farm Road. This enclave of modest living African-Americans, many of whom trace their family roots to the Freedmen of 1800's, are now people at risk of wrongly losing their greatest tangible asset - their family property.

The County Executive has sited law in Maryland, "where a street or road or other way is called for as a boundary and the grantor owns the fee in the street, the grantee gets a right of way by implication to the nearest public road." See Laymon V. Gnergy, 26 MD. App. 114 (MD. App. 1975), cert den. 275 Md. 752. With that and other legal precedence, we are calling on the Executive and County Council to demand MC-NCPPC address this wrong and support the citizens of this Sandy Springs community. This denial of rights must end.

Join us as we bring attention to this injustice. Help us give these Montgomery County homeowners the same rights and protections our government affords other homeowners throughout the county.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the President at 301-928-6021.

Respectfully,

Henry Hailstock, President