



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

BOARD MATTER

SUPERVISOR CATHERINE M. HUDGINS HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

November 16, 2009

Reston Accessibility Committee / Accessibility for the Disabled

Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) was formed in 2008 by the Reston Citizens Association (RCA) to advocate for barrier-free access for persons with physical disabilities. Initial emphasis was to secure safe and comfortable access to a variety of establishments for customers and residents with mobility impairments.

The Committee focuses on several forms of outreach:

- 1) Surveying retail and services establishments and landlords to discover where access could be improved and where exemplary examples of accessibility are in place.
- 2) Contacting owners of Reston retail and service businesses and property managers to discuss ways in which specific aspects of their premises can be modified to facilitate access by a wider range of customers.
- 3) Meeting with and interviewing business owners and landlords to answer questions about accessibility, and how specific steps can be taken to improve their premises.

In the process of identifying accessibility issues and trying to work with the specific owners and/or management companies, oftentimes RAC is met with resistance and flat out refusal to address the problems. One of the biggest concerns of the Committee is getting complaints addressed and resolved through the County.

Madam Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors invite representatives of the RCA Reston Accessibility Committee to come before the Board to be recognized for their commitment to ensuring barrier-free access for persons with physical and mobility impairments within the Reston community. I further move that an Inter-Agency work group be established with representation from key organizations such as Department of Family Services, Disability Service Board, Human Rights, Code Enforcement and other appropriate agencies to review existing policies and determine if there are opportunities to improve the complaint process.