

Good morning. Thank you for coming today. My name is Cecelia Kirkman, and I am representing Save Crow's Nest, an organization dedicated to permanently protecting the Crow's Nest peninsula from development. With me here today is Glenn Trimmer of the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites.

I am going to start with a summary of what has happened over the last several days.

- Late on Thursday Save Crow's Nest received an anonymous tip that a large, organized relic hunt was going to take place on Crow's Nest, starting the next day.
- We were of course dismayed to later learn that Supervisor Milde, who ran on a platform of saving Crow's Nest, knew about the hunt before then, and had not taken quick and decisive action to protect our history. Once again we found ourselves in the position of having to take action because our elected leaders had failed to do so.
- On Friday morning, we confirmed that the Grand National Relic Shootout was holding its annual competitive hunt on Crow's Nest. We immediately filed a complaint with Code Administration regarding potential illegal land disturbing activity and potential operation of a recreational enterprise without the required conditional use permit.
- And all of you jumped into action. Hundreds of phone calls and emails have gone out, and because of your outrage, and your action, the property owner was forced to end the hunt.

I want to make clear that we are not "anti-relic hunter." We recognize that when governments fail to preserve historically significant sites, relic hunters who act responsibly can play an important role in preserving historical artifacts. Our beef is not with GNSR, and we extend an open invitation to them to meet with us to set the record straight.

Our fight is with an out of town developer who has not, to this point, been willing to sit down and come up with a fair deal to protect Crow's Nest. In September, when Kamel Tabarra and K&M Properties used dozers and backhoes for illegal clearing and grading, they demonstrated that they have no respect for us, the environment or Stafford's history.

We are all angry at the destruction that has taken place on Crow's Nest. But that outrage needs to be directed at K&M Properties, and the County, not at relic hunters or GNRS. We are here today because the Board of Supervisors has not acted decisively to protect Crow's Nest. It is the responsibility of this Board to find a solution to protecting Crow's Nest, not to point fingers at the past Board.

Last Spring, the Board voted to use eminent domain to acquire a part of Crow's Nest, yet we still have not seen that action taken. It is time for them to act—to file a certificate of take on the entire property. And we will go to the Board on November 14 to remind them of this responsibility.

In summary, this is not about relic hunters. It is about the failure of Stafford County to protect Crow's Nest. Thank you again, and I will see you all on November 14th in Board Chambers.