

Negroes Protest Harford Project

By FREDERIC B. HILL

[Bel Air Bureau of The Sun]

Bel Air, Md., Dec. 15—Several Negro residents of an Aberdeen community today opposed a rezoning application for a trailer park on part of the same land which was recently refused industrial reclassification.

The Harford county Board of Zoning Appeals heard protests to establishment of a trailer park in the Swan Creek area by Vincent A. Mullins, whose rezoning request for heavy industrial use was rejected by the county commissioners in October following broader opposition.

Whereas the previous application was challenged as being racially discriminatory, most nearby residents attending today's hearing charged that a trailer park would bring devaluation of their property.

To Build Houses

The Swan Creek Community Improvement Association also reiterated their interest in finding a developer who will build houses on the land, which Mr. Mullins has tried to sell.

"At this time," the group's statement said, "it is not known how successful our efforts will be in securing a builder . . . However, we are sure that the need for housing for minority groups in Harford county and other sections (of Maryland) is a critical one."

The land, currently zoned agricultural, is now used for sand and gravel extractions and as an automobile junkyard.

Citing both the current use and housing shortages in the county, N. Paul Cronin, attorney for Mr. Mullin, testified that a properly developed trailer park "would actually be an improvement to the community."

"There are some nice homes in the area, but they are remote from this particular area," Mr. Cronin added.

Mr. Mullin, who also once applied for use of the land as a drag-strip, declared that a trailer park is the best use he can find for the land, on which, he reminded the board, he regularly pays taxes.