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Address: Damascus
What office are you seeking?: Montgomery County Council At Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: colbertforcouncil.com

2 **Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?**

As a life long resident of Montgomery County and witnessing the rapid development along they way, I see the Ag Reserve as a hero of our preserving a away of life. This may sound corny, but I do. If not for the valuable work the reserve accomplishes, there would be no boundaries that developers would not seek to build on. In Damascus for just 13 years years, I have seen mind numbing rapid development with farms as the building lots.

3 **What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?**

To at a very minimum and maintain and at best increase protected areas where ever possible. We are at an urgent time now to take action to preserve land to keep part of the counties identity. This can only be accomplished by working with groups such as the Ag Reserve and not against them.

4 **What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?**

As mentioned above, the need to continue to work with the Ag Reserve is crucial!! My fear is that, as the current county council and planing board continue to allow development, we will soon exhaust property to build on. I would not be surprised at all, that when this time comes, the Ag Reserve set aside will become targets of big builders. Taking action sooner than later to assure this cannot and does not happen would be essential.

5 **Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?**

DEVELOPMENT!!
Education to our county and surrounding areas.
Promote the existing farms
Help to develop a plan that assure preservation. Work with the Ag Reserve and other groups to educate our own community that farms are here and working. I have spoken to people down county that did not know the county has working farmland! Promote our preservation achievements. Encourage filed trips, outings for families etc.

6 **What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?**

Mentioned above

7 **How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?**

The county is the way to making a valiant effort in this area. There is new technology out there for taking biodegradable garbage and turning it into bio fuel for truck and such. A by product of this is a fertilizer for farms. The plant can actually self sustain after it is up and running and very little power form outside source is need to operate.

8 **How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?**

I would like to explore the role our local farms can play in possibly providing meals for our schools in some part. Working with local farmers for thoughts on how we can assist in this. I must admit I am not clear on the last question.

9 **Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?**

The county needs to do a better job in working with local farmers in advertising their products! The master plan should include farms currently in operation and how we can increase this interest and preserve the farming industry instead of selling to developers.

10 **What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?**

I would prefer they look at options outside the reserve!! I am not a big fan of the M83 or n additional bridge. Traffic is what it is and building another bridge for a just a few hours a day of traffic I think would miss the benefit.