



South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

April 30, 2019

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Victor Perez,
Associate Professor
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Manager
Southbridge Community Garden

Marvin Thomas,
Past President
Southbridge Civic Association

Ella Edwards,
Health Promotion Advocate
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

Dr. Victor Perez
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
University of Delaware, Smith Hall
Newark, DE 19716

RE: Delaware Sea Grant Application

Dear Dr. Perez:

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) enthusiastically supports the proposal to conduct social research in Southbridge through funding from the Delaware Sea Grant.

The SWPN is a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and government, nonprofit and private agencies. The mission of the Network is to serve as a vehicle for information-sharing and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the community's quality of life.

Regarded as Wilmington's first modern community plan, most of the 2006 Southbridge Neighborhood Plans' recommendations have either been accomplished or are no longer relevant. This is a credit to strong, ongoing community and government/non-profit collaboration.

One key piece of that implementation is the South Wilmington Wetland Park project. While much thought has gone into the complex engineering and floodwater control associated with this important community project, analyses of the wetland's potential social, economic, and health impacts are largely unknown.

This Sea Grant project aims to assess these potential impacts in Southbridge. The SWPN feels the effort will support more socially-equitable long-term outcomes from this green investment. We are also confident that the Sea Grant's project findings will help shape an update to the 2006 Southbridge Neighborhood Plan, which is long overdue.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (484) 686-7694 or via email at brittsalen@ejinitiative.org.

Sincerely,

Brittany Salen
South Wilmington Planning Network, Chair