

Candy Warden, President
Rosa Bonheur Society, Inc.
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ROSA BONHEUR MEMORIAL PARK TIMELINE

Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park (RBMP) History

Prior to 1935 the block on which the cemetery is located was used as camp meeting grounds due to the lack of established churches in Elkridge. To date it has not been determined whether the grounds were also used by these groups for burial purposes, which was a common practice for that time period.

The cemetery was founded in 1935 by Edmund Gross and after his death operated under various owners and/or managers smoothly, professionally, and successfully until 1978.

WILLIAM GREEN – OWNER RBMP & DEVELOPER (1978-1997)

In 1978, William Green assumed ownership of the cemetery.

In 1979, it became the only cemetery in the world where people and their pets could be buried in adjoining plots.

In 1981, the Office of Consumer Affairs filed an order against Mr. Green for violation of consumer laws for his second pet cemetery, Green Meadows. All charges were dismissed when he paid to move the pet remains to another cemetery. About 125 of these pets were moved to RBMP.

On May 03, 1993, the Howard County Cemetery Preservation Act of 1993 was adopted by Council Bill #13 and became effective on July 06, 1993.

In 1996, the Office of Consumer Affairs filed civil and criminal charges against Mr. Green for deceptive trade practices and misdemeanor theft. The outcome was that he partially reimbursed plot owners for memorials and services not rendered and received an 18 month suspended sentence, 100 hours of community service, and one year probation.

By 1997, the cemetery had gone into receivership and was bought by Gunther Tertel DBA Bonheur Land Co. LLC.

GUNTHER TERTEL- OWNER & DEVELOPER (1997- 2011)

Under Mr. Tertel's ownership the cemetery was operated by an unpaid manager (Marilyn Phillips) who was permitted to live in the house at the cemetery with the agreement that she map the cemetery and plots. Mr. Green had absconded with the cemetery records. Ms. Phillips worked with volunteers to perform cemetery maintenance. Burials were conducted at the cemetery, but people had to repurchase plots and services they had previously paid for as former owner Mr. Green had misappropriated the perpetual fund and other cash assets. Also, Mr. Tertel was not contributing any funds for operations and services.

In 2003, Mr. Tertel announced that the cemetery was no longer providing burial services. However, burials continued to be performed as late as 2004.

During the period of 2005- early 2007 a volunteer group called "Save Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park!" was formed and managed by Gil and Penny Blankenship. The group received significant media coverage for their efforts to protect and preserve the cemetery. Their group also sought cemetery legislation in an effort to protect the RBMP.

Rosa Bonheur Society, Inc.

Since May 2007, the Rosa Bonheur Society, Inc. (RBS) members have worked to maintain the cemetery, advocated for the cemetery's preservation, and provided information to the public about the history and purpose of the cemetery community in efforts to protect, preserve, and secure the future of the RBMP and to bring comfort to the people with loved ones interred that have been repeatedly victimized. The RBS has performed this work without accepting any monetary donations.

For the last 16 years the RBS has provided sustained grounds maintenance for the cemetery including moving, trimming, and edging grass during the growing seasons, removal of fallen trees and tree debris, pick up and removal of trash, and clearing of drains. RBS has repaired and painted masonry and structures including such items as curbs and benches. RBS has planted trees and shrubbery; supplied additional seating where needed, and until the rise of COVID provided an annual Christmas Party for people with loved ones at the cemetery.

RBS has worked on projects including cemetery legislation and rezoning and development issues.

Other projects have included community outreach by providing presentations about the cemetery in public venues and establishing working relationships with government agencies, community groups, and concerned members of the community.

Since the founding of our organization RBS members have performed 1000's of hours of volunteer service and spent thousands of their own dollars to achieve these goals.

In recognition of these efforts in May 2010 RBS was awarded the Periwinkle Award by the Coalition to Protect Burial Sites for “outstanding work, dedication, and preservation of the Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park”.

Progression of Events Affecting RBMP & RBS Work to Protect and Preserve the Cemetery

Spring 2007 – RBS contacted multiple departments of the Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ) and discovered that the cemetery could enter the system at any time for rezoning and/or developments.

January 10, 2008 - Candy Warden/RBS received an e-mail from Mr. Tertel’s attorney Mike Gisrael proposing donation of 1 ½ acres to a nonprofit organization to be chosen by Ms. Warden and the creation of a communal grave for the remains at the cemetery. Ms. Warden contacted Senator Norman Stone’s office and informed Mrs. Stone about the e-mail and the Cemetery Preservation Act of 1991 (CPA) she had received the same day that appeared to legally protect the RBMP. Mrs. Stone referred Ms. Warden to their legal department where Ken Borst researched the CPA and validated its protections.

January 15, 2008 - Senator Norman Stone, Ken Borst/Legal Office, and Joanne Stone/Legal Assistant met with Mike Gisrael/Attorney for Gunther Tertel. Senator Stone and his legal council directed Mr. Gisrael to inform Mr. Tertel that the RBMP was legally protected from development (e.g., CPA).

January 30, 2008 - Candy Warden/RBS received a second e-mail from Mike Gisrael/Attorney for Gunther Tertel repeating the offer previously tendered on January 10, 2008.

January 31, 2008 -Senator Stone’s office was informed of the second e-mail. Consequently, Mr. Gisrael was issued a second warning that the RBMP was legally protected from development and to inform his client.

From 1997 until his death Mr. Tertel repeatedly made statements to the media, people in the community, and those with loved ones at the cemetery that he was going to develop the cemetery grounds (e.g., gas station, trailer park, and/or convenience store). People with humans and/or animals buried at the cemetery suffered ongoing threats and harassment by Mr. Tertel and/or his representatives that were aimed at making them remove their loved ones’ remains from the cemetery. These threats were covered widely in the media and very negatively impacted Mr. Tertel’s reputation.

April 17, 2010 - The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites Periwinkle Award was received by RBS.

The purpose of the Coalition’s Periwinkle Award is to recognize and commend individuals, businesses or organizations who, by their outstanding and sustained efforts, have rescued an historic cemetery from destruction or have otherwise made extraordinary contributions to the

preservation of Maryland cemeteries. The award is an expression of appreciation to those in our state who are willing to “go the extra mile” in order that one more small family graveyard in Maryland may be protected.

August 11, 2011 - Mr. Tertel died and his estate began to be managed by attorney(s) (e.g., Robert Fila).

DON REUWER – OWNER & DEVELOPER (2012 – Approximately 2015)

Fall 2011 – Attorney Nadia Richards represented RBS during the process of the group’s incorporation as a nonprofit 501c(3).

July 15, 2012 – Mark Feinburg appeared at RBMP during RBS volunteer hours. He claimed to be a real estate attorney representing both the Tertel estate and developer Don Reuwer. He stated that Mr. Reuwer was considering removing all remains and building a mausoleum to place them all in. RBS volunteers told him that the cemetery was legally protected.

July 18, 2012 – Attorney Nadia Richards was contacted by “Don Reuwer” stating that he had met us at RBMP last week. We were confused as we had met “Mark Feinburg” who had given RBS members a business card stating so.

December 01, 2012 – RBS sent an e-mail to Marsha McLaughlin/ Director, DPZ requesting that she contact Mr. Feinburg to discuss the legislation, which was supposed to protect the cemetery and to remind him that if the cemetery was sold that he would have to disclose such legislation to any purchasers.

December 02, 2012 – A second letter was sent by RBS to Marsha McLaughlin with an update regarding a letter received from Mr. Reuwer proposing development of the cemetery and again requesting her assistance.

No reply was received from Ms. McLaughlin for either letter.

March 17, 2013 – The Laurel Leader published an article indicating that the cemetery was slated for rezoning that would greatly increase the uses and value of the land thereby making it attractive to developers (“Route 1 a focus in comprehensive rezoning”).

March 20-26, 2013 – RBS worked on contacting people about submitting testimony to DPZ opposing the rezoning.

March 26, 2013 – A conference call between Marsha McLaughlin and Beth Burgess/DPZ and Candy Warden/RBS regarding the RBMP.

March 27, 2013 – Comprehensive Rezoning Hearing – testimony opposing rezoning – RBS was unable to deliver our testimony verbally as our number on the roster was too high to be heard during the hours of the hearing.

April 04, 2013 – Opposed to Rezoning Testimony (Amendment 37.003) submitted by Candy Warden, President RBS electronically and mailed to DPZ.

May 16, 2013 – At a meeting at RBMP plans for development were displayed by developer Don Reuwer including apartment buildings, commercial development, and roadways on the cemetery grounds that would desecrate and destroy burials of humans and animals. Part of the “green space” (or what you and I would call a cemetery) was proposed for use as a dog park. Attendees included: Candy Warden/President, RBS, Paul Miller/CPMBS, Marsha McLaughlin/Director DPZ, Beth Burgess/Chief, Resource Conservation Division DPZ, Don Reuwer/ developer, Robert Fila/Attorney representing Gunther Tertel estate, and Mark Feinburg/Mr.Fila’s brother-in-law and purported manager of RBMP.

June 2013 - RBS garnered significant testimony opposed to the proposed Amendment #13.003 for rezoning of the cemetery. This testimony had previously been submitted to the DPZ, but the DPZ did not forward the testimony to the HCC as it was deemed too expensive to do so.

June 03, 2013 – At the last minute it was discovered that the DPZ does not forward testimony to the Council, so RBS had to scurry to get people to resubmit their testimony electronically to the Howard County Council (HCC) before 4PM.

June 15-July 01, 2013 – RBS contacted RBS members and other interested organizations to submit letters after the HCC testimony deadline – Fred Dorsey/President, Howard County Preservation Advisory Board (HCCPAB) suggested in may be helpful.

July 25, 2013 - Howard County Special Session (4PM – midnight). The HCC voted in favor of Amendment #48 for the rezoning of the block including the RBMP (4-1 in favor/except Courtney Watson). The rezoning permitted a wider variety of development including the potential for higher density projects, such as, apartment buildings.

August 12, 2013 – Meeting with State’s Attorney Dario Broccolino wherein he stated he would need a good reason to reject any development plans that came across his desk and being a cemetery didn’t fit his “good reason” criteria. He also mentioned that he planned to attend Don Reuwer, the developer, daughter’s wedding. Attendees included: Barbara Sieg/CPMBS, David Zinner/OCO, Fred Dorsey/HCCPAB, Beth Burgess/DPZ, and Candy Warden/RBS.

August 23 – early December 2013 – FIXHOCO (Citizens Working to Fix Howard County), referendum training and petitioning with RBS members actively participating. Protections for RBMP were included on the referendum petition.

October 03, 2013 - Developer Don Reuwer proposed a plan that was shared by Calvin Ball with RBS via e-mail that depicted structures built on the RBMP grounds, roads crossing the cemetery and portions of the grounds missing. All three of these projected plans were to be carried out on

human and animal burial plots. Also, the entrance to the cemetery was obstructed and/or blocked off, which would curtail people from visiting their loved ones.

October 12, 2013 – RBS Rally at RBMP – Well attended by members of many groups including CPMBS, FIXHOCO, HCCA (Howard County Citizens Assoc.), and the community at large. Robert Fila and Mark Feinburg/Tertel Estate attended the event also. Candy Warden/RBS, Carolyn Jacobi/Eternal Justice, Barbara Sieg/CPMBS, and Jane Gray/FIXHOCO gave speeches. The Baltimore Sun and Channel 2 News attended and reported on the rally.

October 25, 2013 – Calvin Ball/HCC hosted a meeting in which it was decided that until the decision was rendered by the Howard County Board of Elections on the FIXHOCO referendum petition that it would be best to delay making any plans concerning the cemetery. Attendees included: Calvin Ball (HCC, District 2), Marsha McLaughlin and Beth Burgess/DPZ, Fred Dorsey/HCCPAB, David Zinner, Joseph Rutter/Reuwer employee, Barbara Sieg and Eileen McGuckian/CPMBS, Carolyn Jacobi/Eternal Justice, and Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS.

November 04, 2013 – Mosko Cemetery Monument Services performed an assessment at RBMP in the wooded Lots 64 & 65 at the rear of the cemetery at the request of RBS. Robert Mosko found that there were many areas that suggested gravesites.

November 21, 2013 – RBS received an e-mail from Calvin Ball (HCC) stating that a Letter of Intent was being generated by the County and HCC and that a letter from Marsha McLaughlin (DPZ) to Sharon J. Pierce (Howard County Community College/HCCC) was attached to the e-mail regarding the remote sensing of RBMP by an HCCC Anthropologist.

December 2013 – July 2014 – Under the direction and supervision of Dr, Laura J. Cripps, HCCC Associate Professor of Anthropology, remote sensing (i.e., magnetometry survey) was performed at the cemetery. There were 10+ sensing session with many of them being conducted during the winter. Attendees over sessions included: Beth Burgess/DPZ, David Zinner, Fred Dorsey/HCCPAB, Joseph Rutter/Reuwer employee, and Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS

RESULTS: The areas sensed revealed a significant amount of ground disturbance indicating a multitude of burials.

August 23 – early December 2013 – FIXHOCO collected more than the number of required signatures.

Despite the petition being vetted by the Howard County Board of Elections prior to distribution they later rejected the petition stating that the summary was not “fair and accurate”. This was an unusual decision as they had approved the petition prior to distribution and stated that it wasn’t their role to assess the summary.

Candy Warden/RBS wrote several letters to local newspapers about the referendum situation – some of which were published (e.g., August 24, 2013, November 11, 2013, December 03, 2013).

RBS gave presentations at Greater ElkrIDGE Community Association (September 26, 2013, November 21, 2013) and Howard County Citizens Association (September 03, 2013) seeking help and support for the cemetery and referendum petition.

Legal actions were undertaken by people in opposition to the the right to referendum, which included threats toward attorneys and petitioners.

November 2013 – December 2014 – RBS members attended many public hearings and meetings regarding comprehensive zoning and referendum issues.

March 18, 2014 - Candy Warden/RBS submitted written testimony in support of Senate Bill 1003 with amendments.

March 28, 2014 – Senator Anthony Muse proposed Senate Bill 1003: Business Regulation - Pet Cemeteries – Establishment and Operation Requirements. The scope of this bill encompassed definitions, restrictions of land usage, the provision of perpetual care, maintenance, etc. in relationship to and of pet cemeteries.

Oral Testimony in support of the Senate Bill1003 was provided by: Carolyn Jacobi/Eternal Justice, Eileen McGuckian/CPMBS, and RBS members including Candy Warden and members of the Gray, Umberger, and Lamb families.

The legislative session ended before the bill could be voted on.

Howard County Design Panel (DAP/DPZ)

April 11, 2016 – Candy Warden/RBS submitted testimony to the DAP regarding Proposed Project #16-08. RBS testimony voiced concerns about the potential impact of the development on the RBMP and tendered suggestions that were contingent on the accuracy of the plans being presented. Testimony is not usually accepted, but for this particular instance it was accepted from RBS and CPMBS.

April 12, 2016 – Eileen McGuckian/CPMBS submitted testimony to DAP in support of protecting and preserving the RBMP.

April 13, 2016 – At a DAP meeting DAP Board members unanimously (6-0) approved 3 motions supporting the protection of the RBMP:

1. “That the applicant look at how you can simplify [turning] movements onto Dorsey Road, and if site distance is an issue that you look at how far you need to go to have two way turning movements and turn the second entrance into a green fire lane that extends the visual depth of the park and provides a much nicer edge to the cemetery.”
2. “That the applicant look at the landscaped areas in general, and specifically in the amenity areas, courtyard areas and along the adjacent cemetery.”

3. “That the applicant consider a hedge and fence along the park to provide adequate buffer adjacent to the cemetery.”

Attendees Included: Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS and H & H Rock employees (e.g., H & H Rock employees including Chris Ogle).

Howard County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC/DPZ)

May 31, 2016 - Candy Warden/RBS submitted testimony to HPC for Item #16-31 detailing concerns and suggestions about the impact of development on the RBMP and contingent on the accuracy of the plans presented as Proposed Project #16-08.

May 31, 2016 – Eileen McGuckian/CPMBS submitted testimony to HPC in support of protecting and preserving the RBMP.

June 02, 2016 – HPC Meeting

Advisory Comments:

Background & Scope of Work

1. The RBMP is listed on the Historic Sites Inventory as HO-829.
2. The only land from the cemetery that is part of the development is the amenity area consisting of Lots 64 and 65 bordering Dorsey Road.
3. The 7.27 acre remainder of the RBMP are not part of the development.

Staff Comments

1. A thorough survey of the wooded area needs to be performed to confirm there are no burial sites among the trees (NOTE: Lots 64 & 65).
2. Section 16.118 of the County Code states, “Cemeteries should be dealt with in accordance with subtitle 13 of this title, in any case, no grading or construction shall be permitted within 30 feet of a cemetery boundary or within 10 feet of individual gravesites.
3. Section 16.1304(3)(c) states that “property owner shall submit to the DPZ the documentation of the boundaries of the cemetery, and a plan showing how the cemetery will be accommodated with the development and how public access to the cemetery will be provided”. The Applicant should explain how Section 16.304 of the County Code, Development or subdivision in a cemetery has been addressed.

Recommendations

1. Signage be created and installed for the cemetery.
2. An enhanced entryway for access to the cemetery be created.
3. A thorough analysis of potential burial sites be researched prior to the start of construction.
4. The sidewalk be continued around the entire perimeter of the amenity area and include pedestrian access to the cemetery.

Attendees included: Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS, and H & H Rock owner Mark Levy and employees (e.g., Chris Ogle). Ms. Warden gave oral testimony in addition to her previously submitted written testimony.

MARK LEVY – OWNER & DEVELOPER (Approximately 2015 – Present)

June 23, 2016-July 26, 2019 - RBS members had at least 12 meetings with developer Mark Levy with the goal of reaching an amicable agreement that would help to protect and preserve the RBMP. Discussions focused on generating an Memorandum of Understanding that would provide access, perimeter fencing, signage, plantings, etc that would serve to protect and preserve RBMP. At the last meeting with RBS members Mr. Levy finally revealed that he planned to desecrate the cemetery through development that would destroy significant areas of the cemetery that contain thousands of graves including those of humans and animals. Attendees at all meetings except the last meeting included: Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS, David Zinner, and Mark Levy/H & H Rock. Mr. Zinner did not attend the last meeting.

June 23, 2016 – Initial RBS meeting with Mark Levy/H & H Rock sponsored by Councilman Calvin Ball/HCC. The purpose of the meeting was to foster a working relationship between the RBS and Mark Levy that would result in an agreement that would facilitate the protection and preservation of the RBMP.

Attendees included: Dr. Calvin Ball (Councilman, District 2, HCC), Kim Prium (Special Asst. to Councilman Ball), Grace Fielhauer (Special Asst. to Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman), Beth Burgess (Chief Division of Resource Conservation), Eileen McGuckian, President, CPMBS, David Zinner (Executive Director Kavod v' Nichum and Gamliel Institute), Candy Warden (President, RBS) and James Lanier (Board Member, RBS) and Mark Levy and other H & H Rock Companies employees.

July 28, 2016 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

July 20, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

September 12, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

September 18, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

November 01, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

December 13, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

January 18, 2017 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

February 14, 2018 – RBS Meeting with Mark Levy.

April 19, 2018 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

January 15, 2019 – Candy Warden/RBS was contacted by Mark Levy about animal remains that were discovered in Lots 64 and 65 by a heavy equipment operator working for him. The heavy equipment operator reported the find to authorities. A meeting at RBMP was scheduled for the next day.

The presence of these remains was not a surprise to RBS and should not have been a surprise to Mr. Levy. Countless reports of previous owner William Green having dumped in the back lots of the cemetery the bodies of deceased pets collected from veterinarians that he was supposed to have cremated had been received since 2007. Also, the Mosko Cemetery Monument Services assessment at RBMP of Lots 64 & 65 found that there were areas that suggested a significant number of gravesites. Furthermore, Mr. Levy had been informed about the dumping reports and the Mosko assessment.

January 16, 2019 – Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS met with Mark Levy to pick out a large plot for the remains found in Lots 64 & 65. Mr. Levy agreed that he would provide a memorial for the disinterred, relocated, and reburied remains (As of January 2024 this memorial to date has never been provided).

January 16, 2019 – Candy Warden/RBS received an e-mail from Lt. Aaron Dombrowsky/Howard County Police requesting contact. Ms. Warden called Lt. Dombrowsky and confirmed that a plot had been chosen and approval for the disinterment, relocation, and reburial of the remains and had been approved by the RBS Board.

January 16, 2019 – WBAL reported that police spokeswoman Sherry Llewellyn stated “We’re doing our best to work with the volunteer society (RBS) that now maintains that pet cemetery to see if there are remains that can be salvaged that they be moved and properly buried on their property”. Also, she stated that, “Police are working to collect the remains and bury them in the pet cemetery (“A Grim Discovery As Animal Remains Found Dumped Next to Pet Cemetery”, Jan. 16, 2019).

Prosecution of William Green was not sought, because he was deceased.

January 18, 2019 – Mark Levy contacted Candy Warden/RBS to report that more pet remains had been discovered in Lots 64 & 65.

January 2019 – Throughout the remainder of the month disinterments of animal remains from Lots 64 & 65 that were previously were wooded cemetery grounds until Mark Levy had them totally denuded were collected by police officers and relocated and reburied in a plot on RBMP grounds.

April 16, 2019 – RBS meeting with Mark Levy.

July 26, 2019 - RBS meeting with Mark Levy. Mr. Levy finally revealed to Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS that he planned to desecrate the cemetery through development that would destroy significant areas of the cemetery that contain thousands of graves including those of humans and animals.

October, 01, 2019 - David Zinner discovered through the State Highway Commission that during the years that he and RBS had been meeting and working on forging an agreement with Mark Levy that Mr. Levy had been seeking to have Route 1 widened. If in the event Route 1 were widened to provide a traffic light and benefit Mr. Levy's proposed project(s) 20-30 of the front of the RBMP would be destroyed. Specifically, loss of access to the cemetery via Route 1, hundreds of burials including humans and pets would desecrated with only humans disinterred and relocated. Animal gravesites and remains, memorial markers, and grave goods would be plowed under, and historic structures would be destroyed (e.g., stone frontage wall, entry gates, structures). Mr. Zinner continues to monitor the situation.

March 25, 2022 - Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge contacted Candy Warden/RBS. He stated that his company had an agreement with Mark Levy's representatives for the disinterment, removal, and reburial of 8 human beings interred at RBMP. The remains were to be relocated to Meadow Ridge. Mr. Anderson was informed that none of the families wanted their loved ones' remains disturbed.

March 29, 2022 – A conference call with Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge, Candy Warden and James Lanier/RBS and David Zinner. Mr. Anderson stated that an entity representing Mark Levy wanted to locate particular graves, disinter the remains and relocate them to Meadow Ridge. That Meadow Ridge was paid under \$100,000.00 for 8 disinterments and the relocation and reburial of remains. Mr. Anderson was informed by RBS members that the people with loved ones did not want their remains disturbed and that we would not help to destroy our cemetery through the compromise he kept stressing of facilitating the removal of remains.

RBS contacted families that were on the list for disinterment to write letters objecting to the disinterments. Families wrote the letters and sent the originals to Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge and sent copies to RBS, which were then scanned and sent via e-mail to Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge to ensure receipt.

February 06, 2023 - HB676 was proposed by Delegate William Wivell and sponsored by 29 other legislators. The bill makes “certain provisions of law governing cemeteries applicable to pet cemeteries, providing that a certain registered cemeterian, registered cemetery operator, or permit holder who sells or offers to sell to the public certain services for pet remains owes a duty of perpetual care for the cemetery in which certain pet remains are interred; and requiring the

Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight to adopt regulations to enforce certain provisions of the Act.”

March 01, 2023 – David Zinner discovered that State’s Attorney Richard Gibson had approved exhumations and/or removals at RBMP. Mr. Zinner informed Mr. Gibson that the families objected to their loved ones being exhumed and removed from their plots at RBMP.

March 01, 2023 – On behalf of RBS attorney Alan Schneider requested a copy of the request for exhumations and/or removal from the State’s Attorney’s Office and was told a Public Information Act form would have to be submitted and that it could take 30 days to receive a copy. Mr. Schneider stated that the families did not agree and objected to the removal and relocation of their family members graves.

March 07, 2023 – David Zinner visited the State’s Attorney’s Office and viewed a notice for disinterment of the remains of 8 human beings buried at RBMP. The notice was published in the Baltimore Sun on December 29, 2022. Mr. Zinner again informed Mr. Gibson that the families objected and did not want their loved ones exhumed and removed from their plots at RBMP.

RBS tried to access the exhumation notice through the Baltimore Sun website, but was unable to access and/or locate it.

March 08, 2023 – After being unable to contact Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge a certified letter was sent by Candy Warden/RBS to Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge restating that families with loved ones at RBMP objected to the disinterment of their remains.

March 28, 2023 – RBS discovered that the USPS had not delivered the certified letter to Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge by this date, so an e-mail containing a copy of the letter restating that families with loved ones at RBMP objected to the disinterment and relocation of their remains.

March 27, 2023 – Candy Warden/RBS submitted written testimony favorable to HB676.

May 08, 2023 – HB676 was passed and approved by the Governor (Chapter 591) on this date.

The law provides protection to pet cemeteries and lot owners and will help them from becoming neglected.

September 08, 2023 – RBS was contacted by Russell Allen to report that his family had been contacted by Ed Sagel (Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care) about the potential disinterment of his grandparents at RBMP. Mr. Allen spoke with Mr. Sagel who was surprised that the family had not been previously contacted. He told Mr. Allen that he would not disinter his grandparents.

September 08, 2023 – Candy Warden/RBS contacted Ed Sagel (Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care) who stated that he was told that the families could not be contacted and/or didn’t care. It took him 5 minutes to locate a living relative of one of the families. He

further stated that he would not disinter any remains at RBMP and that he had never disinterred any burial that was not approved of by family members of the deceased.

It was not until this date that RBS became aware that Robert Anderson/Meadow Ridge had been able to break their agreement to perform the disinterments and relocations at RBMP since no replies to any attempts at RBS contact after March 29, 2022 were answered.

September 20, 2023 – Bernadette Pettie/RBS reported that she had gone to RBMP to perform volunteer duties and that a car detailing business was being operated on cemetery grounds. There were approximately a dozen cars on the property mostly with no tags or out of state tags. When Ms. Pettie approached the men to ask what was going on she was threatened with being run over by a truck by one of the men. She then phoned 911 and requested assistance. A police officer arrived with Bruce Huffman, an employee of Mark Levy's. The police officer did not take a report and informed Ms. Pettie that Mr. Huffman owned the cemetery (not true) and could do whatever he wanted. The police officer avoided answering most of Ms. Pettie's queries. Ms. Pettie was insulted and slandered by the detailers who eventually left the cemetery grounds. Ms. Pettie took photographs of the incident.

This incident was reported by RBS to Beth Burgess/DPZ, Eileen McGuckian/CPMBS, and David Zinner.

October 01, 2023 – HB 0676 the new law took effect.

December 20 - 21, 2023 - Multiple reports were received by the RBS from RBS Board members Bernadette Pettie, Gary Meyers, and Dennis Green of the desecration of RBMP including disinterment of human burials, destruction of multiple burial sites, the removal and haphazard piling of grave memorials, and other despoliation. This extensive desecration was concentrated in the first 30-40 ft. of the cemetery.. These reports were accompanied by photographic evidence. Additional reports of desecration were received from other RBS members that had come to the cemetery to honor their loved ones during the holiday season.

Further investigation revealed that more graves than the original 8 listed in the Baltimore Sun notice of December 29, 2022 had been exhumed and desecrated.

December 22, 2023 – Robert Mosko (Mosko Cemetery Monument Services) at the request of RBS assessed the desecration of the RBMP. He stated it was easy to tell what had been done. The burial sites had been exhumed using a backhoe, the area was heavily dug up with evidence of searching blindly and wantonly destroying surrounding graves, tractor tracks across graves, memorial markers were strewn about, and areas of the grounds were torn up and churned. He stated that the work would not have been performed in such a manner by a professional funeral service in that there was significant destruction of property and there had been no attempts to rectify the damage incurred.

December 22, 2023 – Candy Warden/RBS contacted Meadow Ridge to ascertain whether the firm had been responsible for the disinterment of human remains at RBMP. Robert Anderson no

longer works for the firm, so she was referred to Lance Williams/Location Manager who stated that Meadow Ridge did not perform the disinterments.

December 22, 2023 – Candy Warden/RBS filed Case #230109031 with Howard County Police Officer James (Badge #5606) reporting the exhumation of human beings, and damage and desecration to both human and pet burials.

December 23, 2023 – RBS held a Press Meeting RBMP to report the desecrations that had occurred at RBMP. David Zinner discussed the desecration, the relationship that RBS had with the developer Mark Levy, that Richard Gibson (States Attorney) had approved exhumation without families' approval and asked, "Where are the remains?". He also read a statement written by Eileen McGuckian/President, CPMBS and Candy Warden/President, RBS provided a summary of events and encouraged viewers to contact politicians about the situation. A handout was provided summarizing the history of RBMP, issues with developers over the years, and the impact of the repeated victimization of those with loved ones buried in the cemetery. People with loved ones buried at Rosa and RBS volunteers were also asked to make statements. WBAL subsequently aired their report on the RBMP exhumations and desecrations at least four times and placed several articles about the situation on their website.

January 02, 2024 – David Zinner reported via e-mail:

"Rich Gibson, Howard County State's Attorney, called me back this morning. He said a second Rosa Bonheur authorization for disinterment (of nine human burials) was approved on August 9, 2023, published in the Baltimore Sun on July 6, 2023. The requesting company was Naples Asset Recovery - Levy Mann Caplan Hermann & Polashuk, LLP, 400 Redland Ct Suite 110, Owings Mills, MD 21117."

"Gibson again reiterated that his job was only to verify publication of the notice. When I questioned him about whether Naples Asset Recovery was the true owner, he said that wasn't his job to check on ownership."

January 04, 2024 – Russell Allen whose grandparents' remains have been desecrated, exhumed and memorial markers and grave goods strewn about contacted RBS about a discussion he had with Deputy State's Attorney Christopher Sandmann. Mr. Sandmann informed Mr. Allen that Ed Sagel of Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care had performed the exhumation, etc. Mr. Sandmann said that the process used was legal but based on outdated law. Specifically, that placing an article in the back of a newspaper for one day is not sufficient notice for the notification of effected families.

The following is the text of an e-mail dated January 04, 2024 sent by Mr. Sandmann to Russell Allen:

"Mr. Allen,

Here is the information I have with respect to disinterment/reinterment of your family members. Larry Caplan, an attorney for the law firm Levy, Mann, Caplan, Hermann, Schwartzberg and Polashuk located in Owings Mills, sent a letter to State's Attorney Rich Gibson back in August of 2023. The letter indicated that attorney Caplan represented Naples Asset Recovery LLC, who was requesting to remove the remains of 9 individuals and place them in another part of the same cemetery in order to provide room for public road improvements and safer access to the cemetery.

Naples Asset Recovery contracted with Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care to conduct the relocation of the remains. The individuals listed were William Quigley, Dorothy C. Brandy, Annie M. Bowen, Ernest K. Bowen, Edward Fortmiller, Bernadette Fortmiller, Alexander Egress, Harry Royale Cartwright and Robert William Wyatt. They are likely the best place to call for information on where your family members were moved to. Their information is:

Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care

1091 Rockville Pike

Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-340-1400

I will include the law firm information in case you'd like to reach out to them for information as well.

Larry Caplan, Esquire

Levy, Mann, Caplan, Hermann, Schwartzberg and Polashuk, LLP

400 Redland Court, Suite 110

Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

410-998-2000

Chris Sandmann

Deputy State's Attorney

Howard County State's Attorney's Office

9250 Judicial Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Office: 410.313.3002

Cell: 443.355.5622

January 03, 2024 – Tina Simmons/CPMBS sent an e-mail to RBS containing photographs of straw that had been tossed on the desecrated areas of the cemetery and stakes and tape that had been put out.

January 04, 2024 – Russell Allen reported to RBS that his grandparents' desecrated graves had straw thrown over the top of them. Also, that the straw was not there during his visit to on December 31, but had appeared by his visit the next day on January 01.

January 05, 2024 – Ed Sagel (Sagel, Bloomfield, Danzansky and Goldberg Funeral Care) was contacted by RBS and stated that he had not performed any exhumations at RBMP. He had filed paperwork with the States Attorney's office in the past for the exhumation of human remains at RBMP, which was stamped. However, the stamp doesn't give permission to do anything in and of itself. That the process was backward in that the stamp should be issued after families have been contacted and have agreed to exhumation and relocation of their family members remains. He had filled in the paperwork that was submitted to the States Attorney's Office and stamped by their office before he realized that none of the families wanted their loved ones exhumed and relocated. He then declined the job of exhumation.

Monday, January 08, 2024 – RBS Board members and David Zinner met with the OCO's Executive Director, Debbie Rappazzo and Assistany Attorney General, Matthew Venuti, RBMP was visited first for review of the extensive damage and desecration of December 2023. The second part of the meeting was conducted in a private room at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, which is located directly across Route 1 from the RBMP. RBS submitted to OCO this same timeline without the updates after January 05, 2024. Ms. Rappazzo expressed strong support for providing OCO oversight for RBMP. She also requested that RBS notify people to submit complaints to OCO.

Tuesday, January 09, 2025 – RBS began the process of notifying people to submit complaints to OCO. Over the next few months so many complaints regarding the desecration and destruction were received that Dreama Anderson, OCO Investigator, stated that "there were too many to count".

Thursday, June 26, 2025 – The OCO dismissed the complaints filed by RBS and people with loved ones at the RBMP against Memorial LLC/Mark Levy and associates. The RBMP was not registered with the OCO as an operating cemetery at the time of the desecration and destruction

of human and pet graves. Therefore, the OCO was unable to pursue the case further even though prosecutable actions had occurred.

September 18, 2025 – Howard County Planning Board Rezoning Meeting

Case No: ZB-1130M-Corridor Square, LLC – Mark Levy’s Corridor Square, LLC is seeking rezoning of two parcels including the RBMP from TOD to B-1:

If you have any further questions or need additional help, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone.

Sincerely,

Candy Warden

Rosa Bonheur Society, Inc

(443)341-6433