



Multiple Frederick County Officials Signed Rowan Non-Disclosure Agreement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2026

Contact: Steve Black
President, Sugarloaf Alliance
SteveBlack2313@gmail.com / 240-416-0714
www.Sugarloaf-Alliance.org

FREDERICK, Maryland – In response to Public Information Act requests Frederick County has released signed copies of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Rowan Green Data LLC (also known as Rowan Digital Infrastructure). The County has made public a signed copy of the NDA and attachment pages with additional county official's signatures. The September 2023, NDA was signed by Lara Fritts, then Director of Office of Economic Development. Additional signatures came from seven other county officials, including Pat Murray, Chief of Staff to the County Executive.

On September 21, 2026, Sugarloaf Alliance submitted a PIA request for records related to execution of the draft NDA negotiated between Rowan and Frederick County officials. On September 29, 2026, the county released the fully executed NDA with its attached additional signatures. The Frederick County PIA Coordinator Beverly Barou of the County Attorney's office wrote at the time, "Please be advised that we recognize this does not fully satisfy your request, as we are still in the process of completing it."

Sugarloaf Alliance will publish further public records and emails related to the Rowan NDA as they become available.

"We are happy to see the County's rapid compliance with our PIA request," said Steve Black, Sugarloaf Alliance President. "While the fully executed NDA is now available to the public, it does raise additional questions about why specific officials signed the NDA, how those individuals managed to keep Rowan-related information from their superiors, and whether elected officials and senior staff outside the Office of Economic Development knew of the existence of the NDA."

The recently disclosed records, along with the initial Sugarloaf Alliance PIA request, will be posted to the Alliance website: www.Sugarloaf-Alliance.org.

Sugarloaf Alliance, Inc. represents over 680 stakeholders in the Sugarloaf region. The Alliance's mission is to protect the unique natural and historical aspects of the Sugarloaf Mountain area and its environment through education and initiatives in support of watersheds, streams, meadows, forests, and historic sites. Working with volunteers, civic groups, and local, state, and federal agencies, the organization's primary goal is to preserve the unique character and serenity of the area for future generations. Sugarloaf Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization.

###