Dear Ms. Luna,

I am writing in regards to a collection of photographic material that I wish to gift to the **Prince Georges County Archives**. The body of work was produced by a local photojournalist by the name of Michael J. Theis. As a Prince Georges County native, Mr. Thei**s has been committed to reporting the news and making a difference in the Hyattsville and surrounding communities of the Washington, DC metro area.**

As a professor of journalism at **the University of Maryland, School of Journalism at College Park,** I had the honor of working with Mr. Theis during the later years of his career. Theis participated in **a variety of guest lectures here at the UMD J.School on and off from 1999-2010.** He was exceptionally adept at relaying his passion for documentary photography and videography to the emerging professionals in our program. He also was keen to the changing atmosphere of print media into the current bustling sphere of digital publishing.

As an advocate for learning and research it is my belief that Theis’ life’s work deserves to be shared with the public for years to come. **His documentation of City Hall over the past 17** years would provide the county with a link to its history and growth. For this reason, I think Theis’ personal archive would make a fine home amidst the Prince Georges County Archives collections.

Mr. Theis is now reaching into his later years and has entrusted me with the mission of locating a repository to donate his body of work. I will be the acting liaison throughout the gifting process. Should you be interested in arranging a meeting to review the materials please feel contact me by email elissa\_jerome@umd.edu or by phone (301) 429-8856.

Thank you for your time,

Elissa Jerome

Professor of Journalism

University of Maryland,

College Park, MD 20740

Dear Elissa Jerome,

Thank you for contacting the Prince George County Archives about this donation. We are always excited to hear about possible donations that reflect the culturally history and development of Prince George County. The photographs you speak of sound like a great addition to the Prince George County Archives. However due to limited space, we would like to schedule a viewing of the photographs and an interview with Mr. Theis to further evaluate the photographs before we can reach a decision about acquisition.

If we are unable to take the photographs, the Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries would be another repository to contact about these photographs. Some of their collections relate to Journalism and the State of Maryland, and these photographs might be of interest to them as well.

If Mr. Theis is interested in an interview and bringing in the photographs to the Prince George County Archives for evaluation, please let me know time slots that work best, so that I can arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your interest in donating to our archive and I look forward to hearing from the both of you.

Sincerely ,

Ashley Luna

Archivist

Prince Georges County Archives

Hyattsville, MD 20781