

Sayers, Margery

From: Dick Boulton <dick.boulton@ca-board.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Michelle Grey
Cc: cgthomas65@verizon.net; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail;
Milton.Matthews@ColumbiaAssociation.org; Chao.Wu@ca-board.org;
Andrew.Stack@ca-board.org; Brian.Dunn@ca-board.org; Reginald.Avery@ca-board.org;
Alan.Klein@ca-board.org; Janet.Evans@ca-board.org; Gregg.Schwind@ca-board.org;
Lin.Eagan@ca-board.org; Nancy.Mccord@ca-board.org; lt.governor@maryland.gov;
oag@oag.state.md.us; gail.bates@senate.state.md.us;
trent.kittleman@house.state.md.us; warren.miller@house.state.md.us; Stephanie
Costello; Susan McDonald
Subject: Re: Howard County - 50 meter indoor competition pool...please!

I looked into this and agree that a 50-meter pool is a much needed amenity. However, I was told that the cost would run around \$20 million, and CA would need to find partners to share the cost. It is my understanding that there have been discussions with the County, although without any resolution. Anyone have further information on how we could proceed?

-- Dick

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 12:32 PM, Michelle Grey <mandmgrey@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Temperatures are expected to be in the low 40s on Monday, May 9th when the 5:30am Columbia Master's Swim Team practices move OUTSIDE!!!! Please build a community indoor 50 meter pool so that we can have more indoor pool space in Howard County and spend our time swimming in an appropriately controlled environment built for competitive swimmers. There are many issues with the current indoor pool situation in Howard County and many reasons why we should have a 50 meter indoor competition pool facility in the area and benefits that will come from it. Many of these issues, reasons and benefits are included in the attached powerpoint presentation. Swimmers have been begging for decades for a new indoor 50 meter pool easily accessible to the community. As you step outside in the 40-50 degree weather this weekend, please think of us...we will be swimming outside in that weather because we do not have adequate indoor pool facilities in the area.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Michelle Grey

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Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Grey <mandmgrey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Ginny Thomas
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; Milton.Matthews@ColumbiaAssociation.org; Chao.Wu@ca-board.org; Andrew.Stack@ca-board.org; Alan.Klein@ca-board.org; Janet.Evans@ca-board.org; Dick.Boulton@ca-board.org; Gregg.Schwind@ca-board.org; Lin.Eagan@ca-board.org; Nancy.Mccord@ca-board.org; lt.governor@maryland.gov; oag@oag.state.md.us; gail.bates@senate.state.md.us; trent.kittleman@house.state.md.us; warren.miller@house.state.md.us; Stephanie Costello; Susan McDonald; Guy Guzzone
Subject: Re: Howard County - 50 meter indoor competition pool...please!

Ginny,

All swimming classes at all swimming levels are turning away people because there just isn't enough pool space to keep up with the demand. The children classes, in particular, have become very highly competitive across the county because the demand to get into the classes are so high...our children can no longer be kids who can swim for the love of swimming because there are so many other kids who are faster than them. The swim meets for the competitive swimmers are also a nightmare. I was at a swim meet just a few weeks ago where the meet lasted for over 7 hours each day over the weekend trying to get all the kids through their races...it was grossly overcrowded, hot, and uncomfortable to sit through...not to mention that most meets are located upwards of an hour away because we can't host any of the meets locally.

And yes, people do still get hurt due to overcrowding. Just last week a swimmer in my lane left practice early because they got kicked in the face/goggles due to crowding.

Do you have addresses for POCs for District 13 and 12 in the Howard County Delegation to the MD General Assembly. I'd be happy to forward it on.

Michelle

From: Ginny Thomas <cgthomas65@verizon.net>
To: Michelle Grey <mandmgrey@yahoo.com>
Cc: Allan Kittleman <akittleman@howardcountymd.gov>; "councilmail@howardcountymd.gov" <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; "Milton.Matthews@ColumbiaAssociation.org" <Milton.Matthews@ColumbiaAssociation.org>; "Chao.Wu@ca-board.org" <Chao.Wu@ca-board.org>; "Andrew.Stack@ca-board.org" <Andrew.Stack@ca-board.org>; "Alan.Klein@ca-board.org" <Alan.Klein@ca-board.org>; "Janet.Evans@ca-board.org" <Janet.Evans@ca-board.org>; "Dick.Boulton@ca-board.org" <Dick.Boulton@ca-board.org>; "Gregg.Schwind@ca-board.org" <Gregg.Schwind@ca-board.org>; "Lin.Eagan@ca-board.org" <Lin.Eagan@ca-board.org>; "Nancy.Mccord@ca-board.org" <Nancy.Mccord@ca-board.org>; "lt.governor@maryland.gov" <lt.governor@maryland.gov>; "oag@oag.state.md.us" <oag@oag.state.md.us>; "gail.bates@senate.state.md.us" <gail.bates@senate.state.md.us>; "trent.kittleman@house.state.md.us" <trent.kittleman@house.state.md.us>; "warren.miller@house.state.md.us" <warren.miller@house.state.md.us>; Stephanie Costello <smcostello6@verizon.net>; Susan McDonald <susan.mcdonald@columbiaassociation.org>; Guy Guzzone <guy@guyguzzone.com>; Ginny Thomas <cgthomas65@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 1:59 PM

Subject: Re: Howard County - 50 meter indoor competition pool...please!

Hi Michelle,

I agree with you and your organization. We are sadly in need of this type of facility which if done correctly will bring in revenue to the County. Tournaments will come if we have the correct type of facility.

Sorry you have been ignored for so long. Are kids still being turned away from swimming groups because of the lack of lanes? Are people still being hurt because of overcrowding in the lanes?

You may want to send this to District 13 and 12 in the Howard County Delegation to the MD General Assembly.

Take care,

Ginny Thomas

410-992-7984

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<2017 Need for a new pool v3.ppt>

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Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 2:00 PM
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Subject: Re: Howard County - 50 meter indoor competition pool...please!

Michelle,

Thanks for sharing this with us. Recently I heard about the need for a 50-meter pool from many parents. They have to drive more than 30 minutes to an hour to other counties for their kids' swimming training.

I totally support the idea of building such kind of pool.

Best regards,

Chao

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--

Chao Wu, *PhD*
Council Representative and Board of Director of River Hill
Columbia Association
Tel: 240-481-9637, Website: <http://chaowu.org>

Note: The opinion in the email does not represent the opinion of the Board of Columbia Association unless it is clearly stated.

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Columbia & Howard County

- The need for a new 50 meter pool -

Proposal by Michelle Grey, Columbia Masters Swimmer

mandmgrey@yahoo.com

410-531-7927

Needed indoor pool space

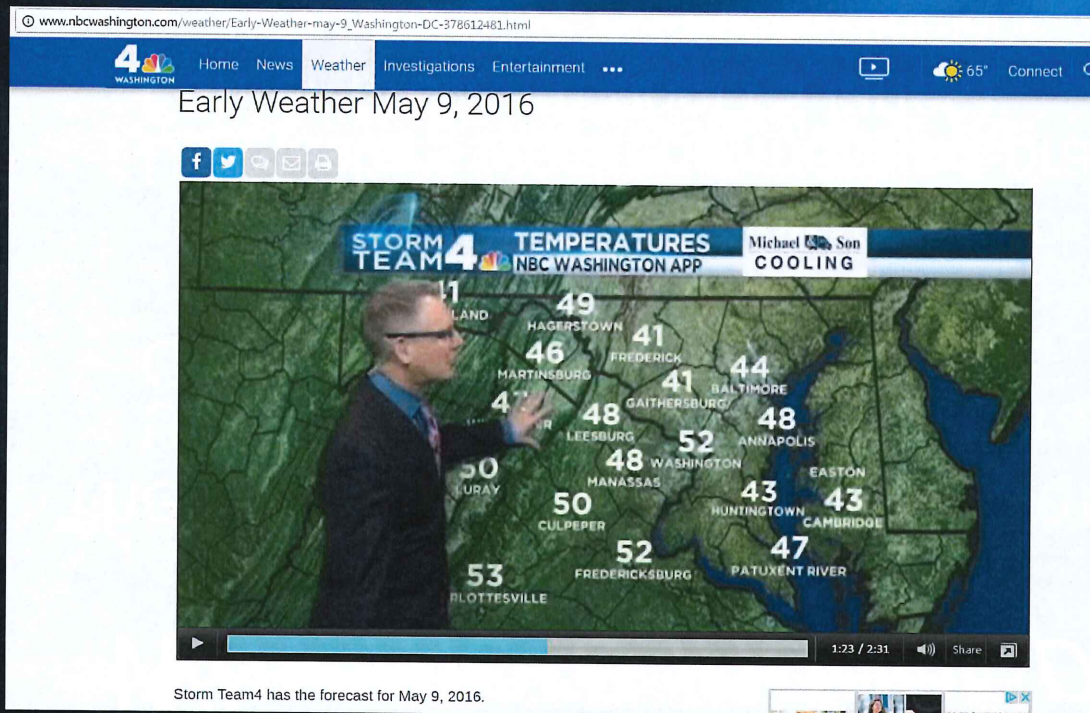
- ⊕ 50 m by 25 m (10 lanes), Olympic, USA-certified competition pool
 - ⊕ Cooler pool temperature for competition swimmers
 - ⊕ Appropriate pool for hosting meets and training
 - ⊕ Appropriate pool for long distance swim events
 - ⊕ Appropriate pool for US Masters/Olympics competitions
- ⊕ 50 m warm up/warm down pool with diving well in deep end
 - ⊕ Can be divided into three 25 meter pools to host more people
 - ⊕ Can accommodate non-competition swimmers, water aerobics and other classes
- ⊕ Large jacuzzi
 - ⊕ Means to provide muscle relaxation to prevent soreness and injury
- ⊕ 10,000 seats for spectators
- ⊕ Children's play area (optional, but nice in keeping with Columbia's family values ideals, however, not required for a competitive training facility)

Why more indoor pool space?

- ⊕ There are too many people crammed in the pool.
 - ⊕ US Masters weekday morning practices in the Swim Center program pool (5 lanes)
 - ⊕ Regularly have 4-5 people per lane and
 - ⊕ Most recently has had up to 8 people per lane
 - ⊕ US Masters weekend morning practices in the Swim Center program pool (5 lanes)
 - ⊕ Regularly have 2-3 people per lane and
 - ⊕ Most recently has had up to 5 people per lane
 - ⊕ The main pool at the Swim Center regularly has 2-3 people per lane, some times more (6 lanes)
 - ⊕ Swimmers will wait 20-30 minutes for other swimmers to finish before getting in the pool
 - ⊕ Other swimmers will leave without getting in the water at all
 - ⊕ The speed of the swimmers vary drastically in each lane making it almost impossible to circle swim without impacting your or someone else's workout.

Why more indoor pool space?

- ⊕ The prevention of swimming outside in cold weather just to access more lanes
 - ⊕ May 9, 2016 was the first day of Master's practices swimming outdoors for the season



- ⊕ Swimming OUTSIDE at 5:30 am while it was in the low 40s!

This year, May 8th ... expect ~41 degrees!

Why more indoor pool space?

⊕ Injury prevention

- ⊕ Most injuries are minor, but occur more often when there are too many people in the pool
- ⊕ Injuries due to impacts with other swimmers and the lane lines due to overcrowding can include:
 - ⊕ Bruised fingers, hands, arms
 - ⊕ Poked in the face or hit in the head
 - ⊕ Damaged fingernails - not superficial breaks
 - ⊕ Bruised fingernail beds
 - ⊕ Broken fingernails into the nail bed (painful & take weeks to heal)
 - ⊕ Scratches across the legs, arms, back, and face
 - ⊕ Twisted ankles trying to avoid other swimmers during flip turns
- ⊕ More severe injuries can include: broken fingers/toes, concussions, torn ligaments, bruised bones, pulled muscles, etc

Why more indoor pool space?

- ⊕ More relaxed and enjoyable workout
 - ⊕ Swimmers feel intimidated to be in a lane when they are slower than other swimmers in that lane
 - ⊕ Faster swimmers can't perform their best when slower swimmers hold them up
 - ⊕ More pool space will allow for the power of stronger swimmers to dissipate making the water less choppy and easier for others to swim in
 - ⊕ A coach can try techniques to alleviate the impact of the crowd, however, this can break down and all the swimmers end up in confusion with a reduced workout
 - ⊕ Swimmers will come to the pool, swim and enjoy swimming rather than leave because it is too crowded.
 - ⊕ Swimmers will experience the full exertion of their workout becoming faster and healthier

Why more indoor pool space?

- ⊕ Competition swimmers and triathletes need a longer pool to practice in on a regular basis
 - ⊕ Columbia has a large group of adult members who compete in various open water swims, US Masters swim meets, triathlons, etc multiple of times throughout the year.
 - ⊕ Columbia also has a large group of children aged 5-18 who swim and compete as well.
 - ⊕ The first time and only times we swim in a 50 m pool shouldn't be during meets. Competitors need to be comfortable in the swim environment when they get there, not inhibited because it is bigger than any other pool they have ever seen before.
 - ⊕ Since there isn't an adequate competition pool in the area:
 - ⊕ Local swimmers go to other pools in other counties (with their money) to train and compete.
 - ⊕ I sent my children to Fairland Aquatics Center in Prince Georges County.
 - ⊕ My husband has suggested that I move to Fairland as well.
 - ⊕ Competitions can't be hosted in Columbia and the revenue from a competition can't be earned in the county.
 - ⊕ People who would otherwise swim, don't.
 - ⊕ A 50 meter pool inherently can help circumvent issues due to overcrowding

Why more indoor pool space?

- ⊕ Revenue and Advertising from competitions
 - ⊕ The 2016 Olympic Trials had nearly 200,000 spectators across 15 sold-out sessions
 - ⊕ More than 36 million television viewers watched live primetime coverage from the eight nights of Trials on NBC
 - ⊕ The event generated more than \$74 million for the city of Omaha
 - ⊕ Smaller events host fewer people and therefore have less revenue for the city, but they do generate revenue for the pool and the surrounding restaurants, hotels and stores.

Why a Certified Pool?

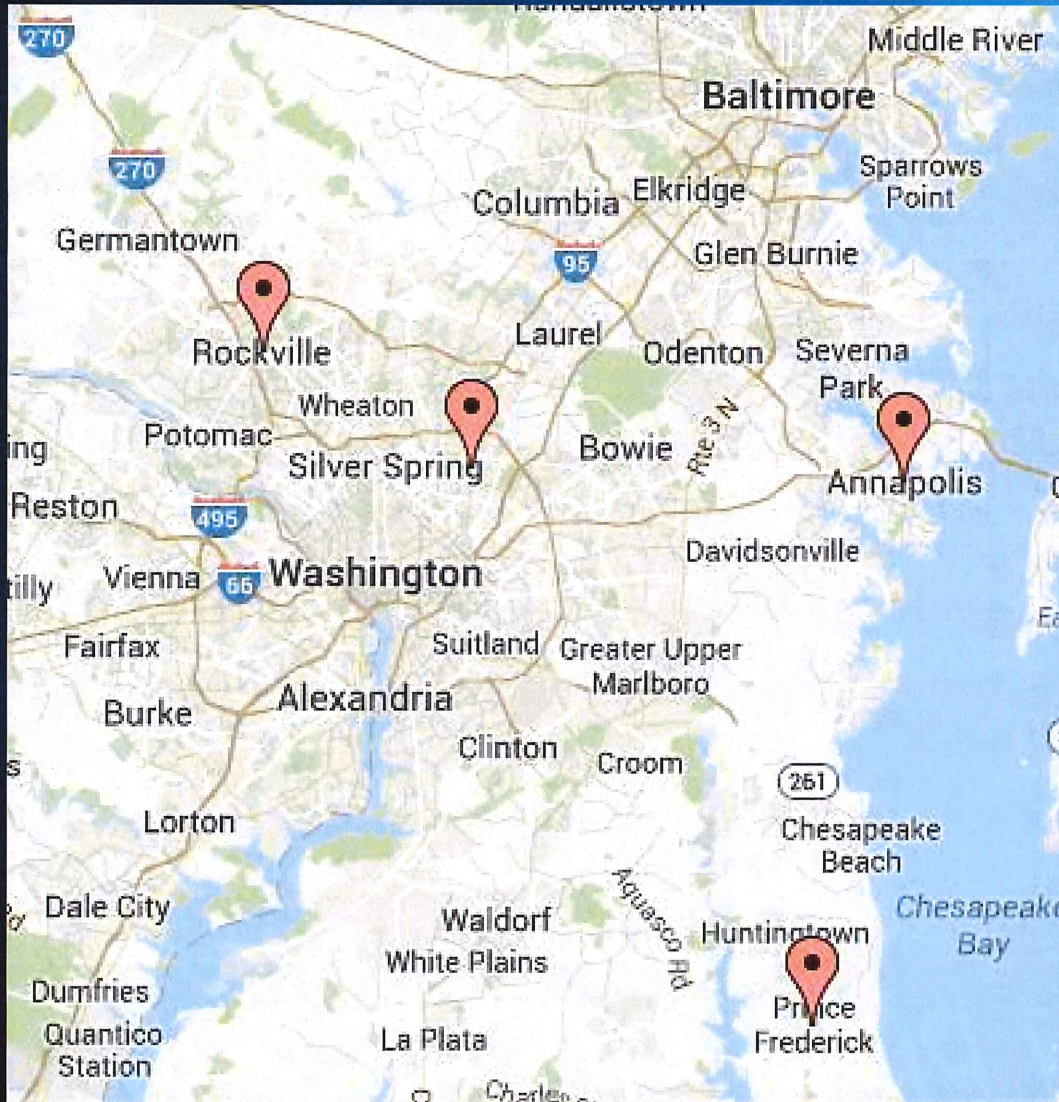
- ⊕ For a World, American or US Open swimming record to be recognized, the racing course must be certified.
- ⊕ Competitors, officials, coaches and swimming enthusiasts all want racing courses to be accurate and consistent.
 - ⊕ Imagine the feeling a swimmer has when he/she swims a best time in a “short” pool and then wonders why it is impossible to repeat the performance.

Certified Places to Swim

Maryland Swim Center Location	Lanes Layout	Date Built
Calvert County Indoor Aquatic Center (Prince Frederick)	10 lane 25 m Short Course 10 lane 50 m Long Course	11/06/2009
Colesville/White Oak Swim Center (Silver Spring)	8 lane 25 m Short Course	11/23/1982
Coppin State University (Baltimore)	8 lane 25 yd Short Course	1/29/2010
Garrett CARC Aquatic and Fitness Center (Garrett College - McHenry, MD)	6 lanes 25 yd Short Course	7/28/2011
Germantown Swim Center (Boyd's)	10 lanes 25 m Short Course	11/23/2005
Johns Hopkins University (Homewood campus - Baltimore)	6 lane 25 yd Short Course	11/7/1980
Lejeune Hall pool (US Naval Academy - Annapolis)	23 lane 25 m Short Course 10 50 m Long Course	10/29/1982
Loyola Blakefield Aquatic Center (Towson)	8 lanes 25 yd Short Course	6/11/2010
Rockville Municipal Swim Center (Rockville)	8 lanes 50 m Long Course (outdoor)	12/01/1989
Towson State College (Burdick Hall - Towson)	8 lanes 25 yd Short Course	3/4/1974
University of Maryland (College Park)	16 lane 25 m Short Course 8 lane 50 m Long Course	3/4/1959

~75% of certified MD aquatic centers contain only short course pools
Swimmers need a 50 meter, long course pool for training and competition

Certified Places to Swim



It is at least a 30-45 minute trip for Columbia residents to get to a certified 50 meter pool.

Since there are no adequate indoor pools in Columbia, we can't host or make profit from competitions.

Who Should Build the Pool?

- ⊕ Choose a company that has vast experience and capability in building certified championship pools.
 - ⊕ Myrtha Pools (www.myrthapoolsusa.com)
 - ⊕ Building pools in +60 countries
 - ⊕ Supplied competitive pools to the Olympic Games, European and World Championships
 - ⊕ High technology, pre-engineered designs, stainless steel construction, fixed costs, rapid assembly, low maintenance, and long life
 - ⊕ Any of the other USA Swimming “Preferred Providers”
 - ⊕ They offer preferred pricing and/or services in order to build and operate more effective and efficient facilities and more successful, profitable businesses.
 - ⊕ http://www.usaswimming.org/_Rainbow/Documents/9b4123d8-0c72-47d1-9814-9f5d1a1e00ac/Professional%20providers%20updates%202013_2-25-13.pdf
- ⊕ Choosing a local, less capable company may be more expensive!

How to pay for a new pool

- ⊕ Create a publicly accessible pool with exclusive swim times in the main pool and rates reserved for the dominate payers.
 - ⊕ Maryland State Government grants
 - ⊕ Howard County Government
 - ⊕ Johns Hopkins University
 - ⊕ The JHU Applied Physics Lab
 - ⊕ Howard County Community College
 - ⊕ Columbia Association
 - ⊕ Local community businesses
 - ⊕ Independent donors
 - ⊕ Federal Grants
- ⊕ USA Swimming hosts several regional “Build A Pool” conferences to help determine cost and recommendations to manage business

Cost & Income of a new pool

⊕ USA Swimming's Facilities Development Department and their Preferred Providers can assist in developing and planning new aquatic facilities as well as renovating and upgrading existing facilities to ensure proper construction meeting Olympic requirements.

⊕ **Estimated cost** (source: <http://www.usaswimming.org/ViewMiscArticle.aspx?TabId=1755&mid=7716&ItemId=3570>)

⊕ Cost is ~\$90/ft²

⊕ 8 lanes x 50 meters = ~12,300 ft²

⊕ ~\$1.107 Million for the pool

⊕ ~\$80,700 for the deck

⊕ ~\$712,950 for a building to house a 50 m pool

⊕ ~\$244,440 for annual operation costs

~\$2M for an enclosed 50 m pool



⊕ **Estimated annual income based on daily attendance**

⊕ ~\$414,000 for an 8 lane x 50 m set up

⊕ ~\$666,540 for an 16 lane, 50 m pool set up for short course

Building Cost Examples

RECENT BID COMPARISON- MYRTHA POOLS VS. CONCRETE / OTHER

No.	Project Name / Location / Scope	Year Bid	Myrtha	Concrete / Other	Myrtha Premium (\$)	Myrtha Premium (%)
1.	San Fernando Regional Pool Facility San Fernando, California 50 Meter Pool, Activity Pool	2004	\$3,196,700.00	\$2,198,700.00	\$998,000.00	45.39%
2.	Northside ISD Natatorium (1) San Antonio, Texas 25 Yard x 50 Meter Pool	2004	\$1,571,139.00	\$1,257,644.00	\$313,495.00	24.93%
3.	Clovis North High School Clovis, California (2) 25 Yard x 50 Meter Pools	2007	\$7,313,000.00	\$6,907,000.00	\$406,000.00	5.88%
4.	P-164 Miramar Combat Training Facility San Diego, California 25 Meter x 50 Meter Pool	2009	\$2,790,000.00	\$1,765,611.00	\$1,024,389.00	58.02%
5.	Crafton Hills College Wellness Pool (2) Yucaipa, California 6 Lane x 25 Yard Pool	2010	\$947,876.00	\$576,719.00	\$371,157.00	64.36%
6.	Mount Diablo USD Concord, California (2) Pools- 6Lx25Y, 25Yx25M	2010	\$2,453,983.00	\$1,809,000.00	\$644,983.00	35.65%

Notes:

(1) For the Northside ISD Natatorium, the CM at Risk received pricing from Myrtha Pools and Natara, also a stainless steel pool system.

(2) For the Crafton Hills College Wellness Pool Project, ADG received pricing from Myrtha Pools and The Pool Company, a Myrtha certified installer.

- ⊕ One 50 meter pool will likely cost <\$3 Million to build
- ⊕ Two 50 meter pools will likely cost <\$8 Million to build
- ⊕ The Hobbit's Glenn Club House cost ~\$6 Million to build

Cost & Income of a new pool

⊕ Additional income sources

- ⊕ US Masters swimmers
- ⊕ Clippers swimmers
- ⊕ JHU and APL swimmers
- ⊕ HCCC swimmers
- ⊕ Diving clubs
- ⊕ Water polo clubs
- ⊕ Scuba diving training
- ⊕ Lifeguard training
- ⊕ Water safety training
- ⊕ Swim lessons
- ⊕ Synchronized swimming clubs
- ⊕ Multiple high school swim teams
- ⊕ Local and nation-wide competitions
- ⊕ Local, regional, state and National Championships
- ⊕ Medical patients needing a heat therapy pool
- ⊕ Concessions
- ⊕ Revenue from: hotel stays, restaurant use, shopping, tourist attraction activities, parking, etc

Cost & Income of a new pool

- ⊕ Encourage more people to attend:
 - ⊕ Offer the most amount of swimming space possible
 - ⊕ More different types of pools under one roof
 - ⊕ Allow more and different types of swimming clubs to use the pool
 - ⊕ Allow the general public to use the pool and all the pools at the center at a reasonable price
 - ⊕ Advertise...several Marylanders are Olympic swimmers, if an Olympics hosting pool was built, they will train there
 - ⊕ If done correctly, it could be the pool environment used to host summer Olympic swimming events
 - ⊕ The Washington DC and Baltimore corridor has been one of the final selections to host the summer Olympics several times and has been repeatedly dropped at least partially due to the lack of an adequate swimming site
 - ⊕ Offer adequate, convenient parking

The Social Impact

- ⊕ A new Aquatic Center directly helps by:
 - ⊕ Creates jobs during building and daily operation of the facility and even more to host meet events and other activities (clubs, lessons, etc)
 - ⊕ Brings travelers into the area to stay at our hotels, eat at our restaurants, shop in our stores, and explore our city
 - ⊕ Potentially can reduce crime by creating a safe, fun environment people want to go to
 - ⊕ Citizens and families live a healthier lifestyle which makes everyone more productive and reduces healthcare costs to businesses
 - ⊕ Organizations can spend their community support dollars more effectively since the community as a whole is healthier.
 - ⊕ Schools can be the beneficiary of a healthier and more socially responsible student body and staff.
 - ⊕ The local government can redirect dollars towards needed services such and streets and parks with fewer dollars spent on solving social issues.

Other Possible Additions

- ⊕ A gym
 - ⊕ Adult gym and/or kid's gym space
- ⊕ Day care services
- ⊕ Day spa services
- ⊕ On-site medical services
- ⊕ Children & adult play areas/slides
- ⊕ Birthday (& other) party rooms

What to do with Older Columbia Pools?

- ⊕ For the pools that are greatly under utilized now, turn them into something else:
 - ⊕ Indoor aquatic park (slides, diving boards, splash area)
 - ⊕ Skateboard parks
 - ⊕ Aquaponics gardens (example: GardenPool.org)
 - ⊕ Ice/roller skating rinks
 - ⊕ Batting cages
 - ⊕ Indoor soccer, track and basketball facilities
 - ⊕ Gymnastics and/or dance facilities
 - ⊕ Huge outdoor playgrounds for kids and adults
 - ⊕ Libraries
 - ⊕ Indoor trampoline facilities

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Attachments: 2017 Need for a new pool v3.ppt

Hello all,

Temperatures are expected to be in the low 40s on Monday, May 9th when the 5:30am Columbia Master's Swim Team practices move OUTSIDE!!!! Please build a community indoor 50 meter pool so that we can have more indoor pool space in Howard County and spend our time swimming in an appropriately controlled environment built for competitive swimmers. There are many issues with the current indoor pool situation in Howard County and many reasons why we should have a 50 meter indoor competition pool facility in the area and benefits that will come from it. Many of these issues, reasons and benefits are included in the attached powerpoint presentation. Swimmers have been begging for decades for a new indoor 50 meter pool easily accessible to the community. As you step outside in the 40-50 degree weather this weekend, please think of us...we will be swimming outside in that weather because we do not have adequate indoor pool facilities in the area.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Michelle Grey

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THE ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY
11735 Homewood Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
T 410 730 0638 W www.archoward.org

May 2, 2017

Good Evening Council Chairperson Weinstein and Council Members:

I am Cindy Parr, the executive director of The Arc of Howard County.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony for The Arc of Howard County's Community Service Partnership grant money.

First, and foremost, I would like to thank you for your continued support of The Arc of Howard County and the work we do with people with disabilities in the community.

We have been fortunate to receive a Community Service Partnership grant from Howard County government for many years. The grant amount of \$159,750 provides critical supplemental dollars to aid us in delivering our respite program and administer residential maintenance for 50 homes.

Our respite care program is a program that provides quality temporary care for children and adults at our Respite Care home located in Columbia. These services are provided on a daily, weekly, and weekend basis. Our Residential Support service provides routine maintenance and/or renovation for the 50 Howard County homes that serve as residences for people supported by The Arc. We also annually choose maintenance projects that will make these homes more accessible and energy efficient.

We are hopeful that you will continue to support our receipt of this grant as it helps to leverage our ability to serve close to 135 individuals in the disabilities community.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Plantz, President
Board of Directors
Arc of Howard County



Cindy Parr
Executive Director
Arc of Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan Pontius <joanpontius@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 8:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony against CR66-2017

I am contacting you to voice strong opposition to CR66-2017 which would provide exemptions for certain entertainment taxes in Howard County. Specifically, I am concerned about the proposal to exempt select activities from the entertainment tax and reduce the tax imposed on other selected activities.

My first concern, when I hear of exemptions from tax, is to wonder: who will pay for this tax reduction? How will the budget compensate for the deficit represented by these uncollected funds? These funds will have to be collected from elsewhere, which means that effectively the proposal is to have these entertainment costs be absorbed by those taxpayers who do not benefit by the proposal. In this proposal, the activities to be subsidized: hot air ballooning, golf fees, concerts, and agritourism, can be outside of the budget of some family households. So the net effect of the tax exemption is to subsidize entertainment of the wealthy, while passing the costs of funding this subsidy on to those who do not benefit from it.

My second concern is regarding the trend in our local and federal government to move away from a free market economy towards corporatism, where government regulations are crafted to financially benefit specific interest groups. In a free market economy, the success and failure of an entertainment establishment would be dictated by the consumer assessment of the cost and benefits of the product or service. This bill would circumvent the free market by subsidizing activities such as agritourism, golf, indoor athletic fees, concerts, and hot air ballooning, artificially lowering their costs relative to other entertainment options. Thus this bill could be thought of as taxing other entertainment options in order to subsidize select activities, used and run by a small minority, rather than to advantage of the general public.

To pass this bill would be a misuse of government authority, and is unbecoming to a representative democracy.

Joan Pontius
4879 Manor Lane
Ellicott City MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: taxes

To the Council,

Please do not vote to raise our property taxes. Putting this large of a tax burden on the homeowners of the county just diminishes our ability to live any longer in Howard County as we age. My taxes are already almost as much as my house payment. This is not how it is supposed to be. Sorry to miss the hearing.

Diane Butler

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Garber <buzysusan23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 5:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Constant yield hearing

Greetings

I find it impossible to take an intelligent position at the Constant Yield hearing this evening when it appears that the critical figures have NOT been made public to date. This seems rather inappropriate and in need of an explanation.

Susan Garber



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Saving a National Treasure

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Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

May 2, 2017

Re: Support the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy in the FY2018 Budget

Dear Chairman Weinstein and Honorable County Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed FY2018 Operating Budget. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and our over 20,000 members in Howard County are vitally interested in the ongoing restoration and protection of water quality in local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. Water quality relies on many factors, such as public education and participation, conservation and restoration efforts, and smart land use planning. Most of these factors, and therefore clean water and healthy communities, depend at least in part on sufficient resources and funding. We appreciate the Council's ongoing support for clean water in Howard County, as evidenced through the County's stormwater program. To build upon and expand the County's stormwater pollution reduction efforts, **CBF urges the Council to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy in the County's FY2018 operating budget.**

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) has proven highly successful in educating the public, assessing community watersheds, and implementing stormwater pollution reduction projects, all of which benefit and complement the County's ongoing efforts in these areas. As you know, the County is currently undertaking stormwater remediation efforts pursuant to the County's federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit as well as the County's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). However, as demonstrated through remediation plans, the County has a difficult time accessing private property. As private residences make up approximately 60 percent of the County's impervious surface, this is a major obstacle to meeting the County's pollution reduction obligations. That is why the Howard County WSA is such a great asset to the county, local communities, and clean water. Through the Extension, the WSA achieves and supplements several of the objectives of the county programs in a highly cost-effective manner that leverages resources and volunteers and can access private land the county has found inaccessible.

CBF members and employees have participated in WSA activities, such as the Master Watershed Steward program and various public forum and speaking events, and found that the WSA truly engages and inspires public action. The volunteer and community based model of WSA reaches citizens and removes common hurdles to project implementation in our communities.

For these reasons, CBF and our Howard County members strongly support the WSA program and urge the Council to approve the University of Maryland Extension's request for the FY2018 WSA program funding.

Please reach out with any questions, and we look forward to continuing working with you to achieve clean water in Howard County!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elaine Lutz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elaine Lutz

To the Honorable Howard County Council,

I am writing to urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the **Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy** (HoCoWSA) into the County's FY 2018 operating budget. HoCoWSA provides valuable services to the Howard County community. The academy trains and educates local citizens in relevant stormwater and watershed issues using trained Master Watershed Stewards. These stewards assess neighborhoods and residential sites for stormwater management problems and potential solutions, while also guiding citizens as they seek to initiate residential-scale best management practices that will reduce the volume and pollution that leaves these sites as stormwater runoff.

HoCoWSA is able to access private property within Howard County – property that is outside of the County's authority/ownership and is thus inaccessible – and has collaborated with a number of county departments, nonprofits, schools, Boys/Girls Scout Troops, homeowner associations, and places of worship conducting education and outreach efforts and acting as an effective bridge between the County and its citizens. With the increase in rain events and their resulting impacts to individual properties, the demand for help from homeowners across the county continues to increase.

Prior to meeting the Howard County Watershed Stewards we had limited knowledge about stormwater runoff. Living in western Howard county we did not believe that it was something we needed to be concerned about. When talking with our neighbors about stormwater runoff, they all have similar beliefs that our runoff doesn't cause a problem. After being educated by the stewards at an outreach event we now realize that stormwater runoff affects all of us. Therefore, we believe it is critical that the Howard County Watershed Stewards program continue if we as a county are going to move forward in controlling stormwater runoff.

Again, I urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) into the County's FY 2018 operating budget.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Ken and Carolyn Derrenbacher