

JT, JF, MS

Dorothy Friedman
7183 Peace Chimes Court
Columbia, MD 21045

2018 APR 20 PM 1:16
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Jen Terrasa
George Howard Building - 1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Terrasa

While I am pleased that funds have been placed in the Capital Budget allocated to Project CO335 for a new East Columbia 50+ Center, I am not satisfied with the proposed timetable that extends to Fiscal Year 2021. Since the County already owns the several pieces of land that have been identified as possible locations, I do not think we need an entire year for land acquisition. I strongly urge you to accelerate the project by moving \$1.5 million forward so construction can begin in Fiscal Year 2019 with completion no later than Fiscal Year 2021.

At recent budget hearing you have heard about how cramped and inadequate the center is given the dense 50+ population in East Columbia. The center is at capacity and many activities have to turn people away because there is insufficient space. The demand for activities is high and there is simply no space to meet that demand. This is not fair to the seniors of East Columbia.

The need for the new Center *sooner* is compelling. We in East Columbia have been patient long enough. Aside from the very cramped conditions inside the Center, the common entrance with the East Columbia Library often gets congested, especially when the school day finishes and 50+ members leave from activities and others arrive for the start of activities.

Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county government to do its best to address our needs. As you have heard, the Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate, we need a replacement center sooner than Fiscal Year 2022. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely,



Dorothy Friedman

CMBRS, JF, MS
CB25-2018

6602 Windsor Court
Columbia, MD 21044
April 18, 2018

Mary Kay Sigaty
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

2018 APR 20 PM 1:16
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Sigaty:

While I am pleased that funds have been placed in the capital budget for Project CO335, a new East Columbia 50+ Center, I am not satisfied with the timetable that stretches to FY22. Because the County already owns the several pieces of land that have been identified as possible locations, I do not think we need an entire year for land acquisition. I strongly urge you to accelerate the project by moving \$1.5 million forward so construction can begin in FY19 with completion no later than FY21.

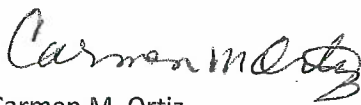
At recent budget hearings you have heard about how cramped and inadequate the center is given the dense 50+ population East Columbia. The center is at capacity and many activities have to turn people away because there is insufficient space. The demand for activities is high and there is simply no space available to meet that demand. This is not fair to the seniors of East Columbia.

I play bridge on Mondays. We often have 12 to 16 bridge players. Since the small room only holds 2 tables, one to two tables have to be set up in the small hallway. This also inconveniences the people coming out of the large room after their classes finish because they have to walk around us. We would like to take exercise classes, but the few that are offered are full.

The need for the new Center *sooner is* compelling. We in East Columbia have been patient, but we are now impatient. Aside from the very cramped conditions inside the Center, the common entrance with the East Columbia Library often gets congested, especially when the school day finishes and 50+ members leave from activities and others arrive for the start of activities.

Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county government to do its best to address our needs. As you have heard, the East Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate; we need a replacement sooner than FY22. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely,


Carmen M. Ortiz


Rafael C. Ortiz

HISTORIC ELLICOTT CITY FLOOD WORKGROUP

Debbie Slack Katz (Chair)	443-629-5224	Ken McNaughton	410-418-9340
Kevin Bloom	410-365-7733	Dave Myers	443-812-4260
Frank Durantaye	410-750-1418	Ron Peters	443-802-6681
Lori Lilly	443-518-7666	Bruno Reich	410-984-7564

“Return developed space to the natural environment where possible.
 Protect and preserve existing green and forested areas in the watershed.
 Where development must take place, make no adverse impact on the environment.”

Howard County Council
 3430 Courthouse Dr.
 Ellicott City, MD 21043

April 12, 2018

RE: FY2019 Capital Budget Letter of Support for Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Projects

Dear County Council Members:

The Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup wishes to offer full support for D1165 Flood Mitigation and Stormwater/Waterway Enhancement in the FY2019 Capital Budget for the study, design, and construction of flood mitigation and stormwater/waterway enhancement efforts in downtown Ellicott City. We feel that these structural improvements are long overdue and are needed to save future lives and property from damage from future floods.

The Flood Workgroup has worked extensively since 2015 to study and analyze the flooding issue in Ellicott City. We made professional recommendations to the County Executive in a report delivered in December 2015 and have engaged and educated the community about our findings. We have continued our efforts after production of our report and through and after the 2016 flood event.

Sincerely,
 Debbie Slack Katz

 Chair, Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

The HECFW is supported by the following Howard County Departments/Offices: Office of Community Sustainability; Office of Emergency Management; Department of Inspections, Licenses & Permits; Department of Planning & Zoning; Department of Public Works; Howard County Council District 1.

2018 APR 17 PM 12: 27
 HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
 RECEIVED

The Howard County Executive created the Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup through Executive Order 2015-06, tasked with recommending flood mitigation solutions: Acting on initiatives to reduce flooding, Evaluating priorities for mitigation/infrastructure improvements in the future, Outreach to the community related to projects and initiatives, Seeking community input and feedback, Seeking opportunities for additional funding sources, Providing community educational opportunities on reducing impact of future flooding, Work towards possible reductions in Federal Emergency Management Agency insurance rates.

JT, JK, MS

CB25-2018

Sample Letter to County Council
(Your address here)

2018 MAY -9 PM 2:13
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Jen Terrasa
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

4616 E. LEISURE CT,
ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Terrasa:

While I am pleased that funds have been placed in the capital budget allocated to Project CO335, a new East Columbia 50+ Center, I am not satisfied with the timetable that stretches to FY22. Because the County already owns the several pieces of land that have been identified as possible locations, I do not think we need an entire year for land acquisition. I strongly urge you to accelerate the project by moving \$1.5 million forward so construction can begin in FY19 with completion no later than FY21.

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The need for the new Center *sooner is* compelling. We in East Columbia have been patient, but we are now impatient. Aside from the very cramped conditions inside the Center, the common entrance with the East Columbia Library often gets congested, especially when the school day finishes and 50+ members leave from activities and others arrive for the start of activities.

Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county government to do its best to address our needs. As you have heard, the East Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate; we need a replacement sooner than FY22. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely, *Beverly T. Worsey*

CB25-2018
CM325
JF
MS

April 18, 2018

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

2018 APR 24 AM 11:33

To: Calvin Ball
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

From: Henrietta S. Milward
10570 Twin Rivers Road C2
Columbia, MD, 20144

Dear Calvin Ball:

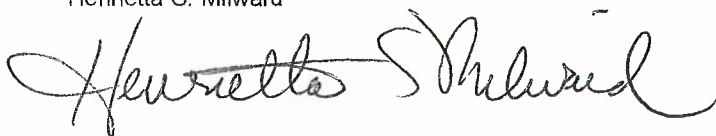
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When you ran for election you promised to do things for seniors. Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county government to do its best to address our needs. As you have seen, the East Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate; we need a replacement sooner than FY22. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely,
Henrietta S. Milward



CB25-2018
JF
RS

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Allison Korn
6550 Carlinda Avenue
Columbia, MD 21046-1020

2018 APR 18 PM 2:47

April 14, 2018

Jon Weinstein
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

While I am pleased that funds have in the capital budget have been allocated to Project CO335, a new East Columbia 50+ Center, I am not satisfied with the timetable that stretches to FY22. Because the County already owns the several pieces of land that have been identified as possible locations, I do not think we need an entire year for land acquisition. I strongly urge you to accelerate the project by moving \$1.5 million forward so construction can begin in FY19 with completion no later than FY21.

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The need for the new Center *sooner* is compelling. We in East Columbia have been patient, but we are now impatient. Aside from the very cramped conditions inside the Center, the common entrance with the East Columbia Library often gets congested, especially when the school day finishes and 50+ members leave from activities and others arrive for the start of activities. Some of the exercise classes are so crowded that we bump into each other. The Tai Chi classes have to curtail their sword work, my watercolor class is in the multipurpose room which has no water source, card players are jammed into crowded rooms and spill over into other activity areas.

Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county officials to do its best to address our needs. As you have heard, the East Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate; we need a replacement sooner than FY22. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely,



Allison Korn

CB25-2018
JP
MS
GF

JOAN BRANCH
9895 PALACE HALL DR
APT # 413
LAUREL MD 20723

Greg Fox
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Fox,

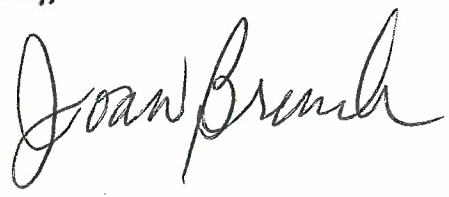
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When you ran for election you promised to do things for seniors. Seniors pay taxes, we vote and we expect our county government to do its best to address our needs. As you have seen, the East Columbia 50+ Center is woefully inadequate; we need a replacement sooner than FY22. Please push the funding forward so we can get this project done!

Sincerely,



2018 APR 30 PM 3:47

RECEIVED
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

CONKS, JW, JT, JF MS

Joan Branch
9895 PALACE HALL DR
APT #413
LAUREL MD 20723

Calvin Ball
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mr. Ball,

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Sincerely,



2018 APR 26 PM 12:45

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

KEVIN & WANDA DAYE
5705 Little Bells Row
CLARKSVILLE MD 21029

JON WEINSTEIN
George Howard Building-1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

DEAR MR. WEINSTEIN,



While I am pleased that funds have been placed in the capital budget allocated to Project CO335, a new East Columbia 50+ Center, I am not satisfied with the timetable that stretches to FY22. Because the County already owns the several pieces of land that have been identified as possible locations, I do not think we need an entire year for land acquisition. I strongly urge you to accelerate the project by moving \$1.5 million forward so construction can begin in FY19 with completion no later than FY21.

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Sincerely,

2018 APR 26 PM 12:45

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Ohalloran <kohall@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay; Ball, Calvin B; Weinstein, Jon; Terrasa, Jen; Fox, Greg; CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia East 50+ Center

I am writing to request that you please support the amendment that puts \$1 million into the FY19 budget for the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335).

This is an existing need - which can be satisfied sooner rather than later.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kathleen O'Halloran

Sayers, Margery

From: Betty Myers <bettymyers@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 10:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Capital Project C0335

I'm an active user of the current senior center in East Columbia. While I appreciate what the center has to offer, it's need has outgrown the space.

I'm requesting support for the amendment that puts \$1 million into the FY19 budget for the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335) This permits full design and planning and will accelerate the schedule so that construction begins in FY20. The seniors who use the East Columbia 50+ Center urge your support.

Thank you.

Betty Myers

www.willowbrookpainters.com

Only the curious will learn and only the resolute overcome the obstacles to learning. The quest quotient has always excited me more than the intelligence quotient. -Eugene S. Wilson

Sayers, Margery

From: Dolores Boyles <boylesdolores@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 7:14 AM
To: Ball, Calvin B; Weinstein, Jon; Terrasa, Jen; Fox, Greg; CouncilMail; Sigaty, Mary Kay
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335)

My name is Dolores Boyles. I have been resident of Columbia and Howard County for almost 42 years. I retired in 2014 and started using the East Columbia 50+ Center 4 to 5 days per week. This section of Columbia has grown so rapidly the past few years that the Center is extremely overcrowded and will continue to expand as the 50+ crowd grows in this area.

Please support the amendment that puts \$1 million into the FY19 budget for the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335) This permits full design and planning and will accelerate the schedule so that construction begins in FY20. The seniors who use the East Columbia 50+ Center urge your support. Thank you.

Dolores Boyles

|

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen Ortiz <cmortiz3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:30 PM
To: CouncilMail

Mr. Kittleman:

Please support the amendment that puts \$1 million into the FY19 budget for the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335) This permits full design and planning and will accelerate the schedule so that construction begins in FY20. The seniors who use the East Columbia 50+ Center urge your support. Thank you.

Carmen Ortiz

--

Carmen

Sayers, Margery

From: JOAN <joanbranch28@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335)

Please support the amendment that puts \$1 million into the FY19 budget for the East Columbia 50+ Senior Center (Capital Project C0335) This permits full design and planning and will accelerate the schedule so that construction begins in FY20. The seniors who use the East Columbia 50+ Center urge your support. Thank you.

Joan Branch

Sent from XFINITY Connect App

Sayers, Margery

From: Pearl. Atkinson Stewart <pastewart4@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia senior center

Please vote to add additional funds in the proposed budget for escalating the East Columbia Senior Center. We are unable to meet the growing demand of the senior community at this center. Waiting is not an option if you see the statistics on this center.

I appreciate each of your Council votes.

Pearl
Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: C0335

Hello,

I am writing to support the amendment add ing 1 million dollars to project C0335, East Columbia Senior Center. I thought that the timeline was also accelerated in the news release. I fully support construction in FY20 instead of FY21.

--

Fran
LoPresti

6985 Deep Cup

Columbia, MD 21045

410-995-6160

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Garber <buzysusan23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 4:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Capital Budget

Dear County Council Members,

Due to having been out of town, I am not as up to date as I usually strive to be regarding the FY 2019 budget. A friend shared with me that the Council is considering reducing funding for the North Laurel Pool.

I am writing to urge you NOT to do so. Citizens of the southeast were pleased that the Executive allotted sufficient funding to assure the pool is not further delayed by making an honest commitment to the project. Residents have waited well over 20 years since the pool was first promised and was designed to be a part of the North Laurel Community Center. when it opened 7 years ago.

The pool is not an extravagance and will be particularly beneficial for senior citizens coping with arthritis and other health issues. While Columbia is flush with pools there are no public pools in the region. The latest independent study undergone for the Dept. of Recreational and Parks to create their multi yest plan indicated that a County the size of Howard should have three public swimming facilities and only the Roger Carter Center exists currently.

I know that you must select priorities, but the long postponed pool for the southeast is not the thing to eliminate or further delay. Long time taxpayers would like to see this health supporting pool in their life time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Garber
North Laurel Senior Council Vice-president

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Wisner <nancywisner16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 3:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: North Laurel Community Center Pool

I'm Nancy Wisner, President of the North Laurel Senior Council, and I've testified for several years on keeping money in the budget for the North Laurel Community Center Indoor Pool.

Our Community has been very excited as the 2019 Budget supported moving forward with a pool that was envisioned 30 years ago.

We were elated to get the endorsement and support from County Executive Kittleman as he stated " This year's capital budget includes \$5 million for the design and construction of a swimming pool at the North Laurel Community Center. The community has requested this pool for many years and I am pleased to be able to make this project a REALITY!"

The 8 lane pool, therapeutic pool and water feature for our younger members will increase the Quality of Life for all our residents from babies to older adults. Swim Classes, Exercise Classes and Lap Lane Swimming will benefit all.

This past year I've attended meetings for our pool with John Byrd and Architects. Our ideas and desire were put into motion. The architects came back with plans for the pool that were WITHIN the proposed budget. Ground breaking would start in June of 2019 and be completed at the end of 2020. We cheered, we celebrated, we're so thankful our pool is becoming a REALITY!

We realize the pool is a large part of the budget, but it will serve 20,000+ residents not only from the Southeastern part of the County, but also other parts of the county and our surrounding counties, Prince George's and Anne Arundel.

We ask you to please keep the North Laurel Community Center Pool fully funded in the Budget and on schedule for opening at the end of 2020.

Thank You,
Nancy Wisner
10575 Grae Loch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20723
301-725-2223

Sayers, Margery

From: m a nolan <margaretannolan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 2:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Feldmark, Jessica; Talvacchio; Trish and Bob Hemler; Vilma Anderson
Subject: TESTIMONY- CAPITAL BUDGET--Font Hill

Councilmembers:

In preparation for our testimony tomorrow night, please see the videos from Font Hill:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ohPnJhNdMumbqIm33>

and the County Executive:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1629cbd54d1e0352?projector=1>

Thank you,

Margaret Ann Nolan

Sayers, Margery

From: pres@springglenhoa.com
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 6:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testify Online 3/8/18 Budget Meeting

My name is Montel Anderson I am a proud resident and homeowner in Spring Glen Community in Elkridge District 2. Our community for 14 years has suffered with the following:

- 1) Drainage issues adversely effecting the rain pond rendering it ineffective.
- 2) Narrow streets creating impassible challenges for access and deliveries. The causation of safety issues due to splintered and exposed culvert pipes with barely wide enough streets for one car to pass during peak hours of activity. The narrow streets have created major parking issues and challenges coupled with daily frustrations for the community.

We as a community want very much to thrive in a community but are suffering terribly due to the delays of project D1174 commencing and delayed funding.

We have been in touch with Ms. Bai in Planning and Projects and are very excited to have been informed of that progress as of recent. We are glad to work with Councilman Ball and his office. We are excited to see the money in the budget and hope the allocation can be improved upon to assist our community. We are thrilled to see action in the funds appropriation and are in hope for continued progress. Please continue with your efforts as we are very appreciative.

Sincerely,

Montel Anderson
President
Spring Glen Homeowners Association, Inc

This website is voluntarily monitored Monday-Friday between the hours of 10am-3pm. Email responses are provided within 48-72 hours of received correspondence

Sayers, Margery

From: Ralph Ballman <RalBallman@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2018 10:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: African Art Museum; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: FY2019 Operational Budget

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

I would, respectfully, like to encourage the members of the Howard County Council to support the County Executive's request, in the FY 2019 Operational Budget, for \$12,000.00 to be appropriated to the African Art Museum of Maryland, as provided under Arts and Tourism. For thirty-eight (38) years, the African Art Museum of Maryland has been dedicated to collecting, displaying and preserving for the public the art of Africa. During those years, it has sought to encourage a broader understanding and appreciation of the art and culture of Africa. It has done this in many ways, one of which is its African Experience Tours, which are given both on site and off site to school, governmental, institutional and various other groups from within Howard County and Maryland and from out of state.

It has always been the desire of the founder, Mrs. Doris Ligon, that the museum would continue on in perpetuity as an important and unique institution of art and education in Howard County and Maryland. As treasurer and a member of the board of trustees, I believe the County's continued support is one of the best ways to ensure that the African Art Museum of Maryland will continue to serve the public of Howard County and Maryland, for many years to come.

I would like to point out to the members of the County Council that the African Art Museum of Maryland was the sole recipient of Howard County's Board of Education's "2018 Friends in Education Award". See article below.

Sincerely,
Ralph Ballman
9927 Rose Trail
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
(410) 480-2801

Board of Education Recognizes African Art Museum of Maryland with 2018 Friends of Education Award

Posted: March 28th, 2018

The Howard County Board of Education recognized the African Art Museum of Maryland with the Friends of Education Award at a reception on April 10. An award presentation was at the Board meeting immediately following the reception.

The African Art Museum of Maryland located in Fulton, Maryland, has been involved with the students of the Howard County Public School System since 1980. The museum's partnership with the school system, mentoring of HCPSS students, and African Experience Tour program affirms its goal to enhance students' awareness of diverse cultures through the exploration of African Art.



The Friends of Education Award was established in 2001 to salute exemplary volunteer contributions of time and talent that directly support academic achievement and safe learning environments for the HCPSS.

A list of previous award winners can be found on the Board of Education website.

Sayers, Margery

From: Beverley Meyers <kingscontrivance@columbiavillages.org>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 4:52 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter to Howard County Council & Kittleman - Senior Center East Columbia.doc

Attached is a letter of support from the Kings Contrivance Village Board for funding for a new Senior Center in East Columbia.

Beverley Meyers
Village Manager
Kings Contrivance Community Association
7251 Eden Brook Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 381-9600
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KingsContrivance>
Website: kingscontrivancecommunityassociation.org
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/villageofkc>



Kings Contrivance Community Association

Amherst House 7251 Eden Brook Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21046

(410) 381-9600 Fax (410)381-9628

kingscontrivance@columbiavillages.org

April 20, 2018

Allan Kittleman, Howard County Executive
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Subject: Letter of Support for East Columbia Senior Center

Dear County Executive Kittleman and the Howard County Council:

The Kings Contrivance Village Board supports the project to build a new standalone Senior Center in East Columbia on an accelerated schedule to begin in FY2019 and be completed in FY2021 not FY2022. The new standalone Senior Center will serve all of Howard County, including residents of Kings Contrivance who live close by. The current building is too small and is inadequate. Our residents would benefit from this proposal and we hope you agree and will support this funding for FY2019 to benefit all of Howard County's senior population.

Respectfully,

Barbara N. Seely
Chair, Kings Contrivance Village Board

Sayers, Margery

From: Larry Carson <karasov1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 1:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The budget

Hi, Once the council gets the budget, I hope each of you will support inclusion of the Howard County Watershed program, which includes the READY program, in the money allocated for the University of Md. Extension Service.

I left video testimony for the county executive in March asking that he not cut funding for this program, which built a large rain garden at Elkhorn Landing townhouses, next to Lake Elkhorn, using young people they pay and train. I'm the HOA president.

The program is grant funded and has lost money to cuts the last several years. Please preserve it! I'll be out of town May 1, so this is my attempt to help them. thanks.

Sayers, Margery

From: ROBERT Burnett <rfdlc@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: East Columbia 50+

Jen and all council members,

I am sending this request with hope.

Hope that you will keep the 50+ Senior Center East in the budget.

As we are aging we need to be active and engaging in all aspects of life.

This center is much need to help all the citizens of Howard County achieve this goal.

Keep the East 50+ center in the budget.

Debbie Crabtree

actively aging 68 yer old Howard County resident.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeryl Baker <villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2018 4:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCGH Funding
Attachments: TCCA Memo to Howard County Council supporting funding for HCGH.docx

Please see attached letter from the Town Center Village Board regarding financial support for the Hospital expansion plus annual funding.

Jeryl Baker

Village Manager, Executive Director

Town Center Community Association
Historic Oakland Manor
5430 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-4744 phone
410-730-1823 fax
villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org
www.columbiatowncenter.org
www.historic-oakland.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Stu Kohn <stukohn@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:12 PM
To: howard-citizen@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; Wilson, B Diane; CouncilMail; Steven Snelgrove; David Nitkin
Subject: HCCA Fully Supports Howard County General Hospital's Budget Request to the County

FYI,

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA is in full support of the Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) budget request to the County. HCCA reiterated this when we provided further testimony at County Executive, Kittleman's Budget Hearing on 8 March 2018. Our testimony can be read at <http://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HCCA-Testimony-Hospital-Budget-Request-8-March-2018.pdf>.

Perhaps a question needs to be answered as to what has precedence the Economy, our quality of life, or the environment? Obviously all three are very important. We simply cannot continue to afford to keep growing if we are unable to handle the infrastructure which should include the Hospital. The President of the Hospital. Steve Snelgrove has stated, "The hospital is not the right size for the community we serve. And despite operating at capacity, we are planning to care for a senior population that will double in a decade, while also keeping pace with the county's population growth. It should be abundantly clear by now that Howard County's health care environment needs have outpaced the hospital's resources and without action now, our quality of life will be eroded. Many residents ask whether HCGH has the capacity to accommodate expected growth and an aging population. The frank answer is we do not."

It is our obligation to ensure that sound strategic planning is in place for our future.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Sayers, Margery

From: stukohn@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 5:33 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; Wilson, B Diane; CouncilMail; PlanningBoard; ssnelgr1@jhmi.edu; dnitkin1@jhmi.edu; howard-citizen@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Hospital Request Should be County's Highest Budget Priority

FYI,

We, the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would like to share the following Letter to the Editor that was published in this week's local papers. Below is the original version. The posted version which was edited (but still very meaningful) can be found on page 24 in the Howard County Times. The title used in the posting is "Rallying Behind Howard's Hospital Expansion Plans." If the County fully believes that our Quality of Life really matters for all residents then the Hospital's budget request should undoubtedly be declared the highest priority.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

+++++

Subject: Letter to the Editor

Stop, Look, and Please Listen as our Quality of Life Needs Full Support. Our Howard County Hospital is in an emergency situation. Quite simply we residents need HELP! The Hospital is requesting \$5million for next year's budget, and \$3 million annually for expansion to support our community.

This is certainly justified when one considers Howard County's population of 317,233 according to the 2016 Census. In addition, future growth projections continue to be prolific. When you examine the following FY-16 statistics found on the Hospital's website, it is impressive, but exemplifies the major concern. The Hospital provided services to approximately 220,000 people or 69% of the County Population, evaluated and treated 78,072 patients in the Emergency Room or 25% of the County Population, admitted to or observed in the Hospital 25,205 patients, performed 12,390 surgeries, delivered 3,597 babies, provided outpatient services to 68,680 patients, and provided outreach and wellness programs to more than 40,000 people.

We, the Howard County Citizens Association, only hope our decision makers will readily see that the patients (us) require strong support in an attempt to ensure our Quality of Life in no way deteriorates because of poor strategic planning. When the Hospital, President, Steven Snelgrove stated to the County Council in September (Howard County Times, 9 Nov. 2017, pg. 6): "We just see huge growth and need going forward. The aging of the population alone is going to more than consume probably any capacity we can develop in the short term. We really need to get on this now."

Yes – based on the aforementioned, this budget request needs to be the County's Highest Priority and immediate attention.

Stu Kohn
Howard County Citizens Association, President

Sayers, Margery

From: Lois Gutman <lois1101@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 11:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Howard County General Hospital Expansion Budget Request
Attachments: HCGH_Testimony.docx

re-send

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lois Gutman <lois1101@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 11:16 PM
Subject: Howard County General Hospital Expansion Budget Request
To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov, councilmail@howarcountymd.gov
Cc: David Nitkin <dnitkin1@jhmi.edu>, Steven Snelgrove <ssnelgr1@jhmi.edu>

To the Honorable Allan Kittleman and Howard County Council members,

Attached please find testimony in support of the proposed Howard County General Hospital Expansion Budget Request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Gutman
Columbia, MD

Lois A. Gutman
11402 Elfstone Way
Columbia, MD 21044

To the Honorable Allan Kittleman,

I am writing in support of the proposed budget request for an expansion project for Howard County General Hospital. I have lived in Howard County for 41 years. I am a member of the Howard County General Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) and I have served as a Patient Advocate volunteer in the Howard County General Hospital's Emergency Room for nearly 17 years. I also worked briefly in Howard County General Hospital Emergency Department from 1976 - 1977. I believe it is vitally important to include at least \$5 million in the FY19 budget to support Howard County General Hospital's expansion project.

I have witnessed first hand the challenges faced by the hospital as the last two Emergency Room expansions failed to meet the needs of the growing and aging County population. The current Emergency Room was expanded in 2002 to triple the capacity for acute care, urgent care and pediatrics, to include a small number of psychiatric beds. I maintained that the new ER was too small the first weekend it was open. The prior planning simply did not adequately forecast the County growth over the construction period and into the next decade. The desirability of Howard County residency has served as a magnet for unending growth. A thirty-six bed ER and the more recent ten bed Behavioral Health unit expansion are woefully small for a county with approximately 318,000 people in a hospital that also draws patients from the surrounding counties. In the US in 1960, the average number of hospital beds per 1,000 people was 9.2. In 2011, the number dropped to 2.9 per 1,000 people. Dropping that number to 2 beds per 1,000 people for 318,000 residents yields a requirement of 636 beds. That simply is not feasible for Howard County General Hospital, but serves to illustrate the magnitude of the problem of providing adequate inpatient and emergency beds in the County's only hospital. The hospital places a priority on providing quality patient care and attaining high patient satisfaction HCAPS scores. HCAHPS (the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) is a patient satisfaction survey required by CMS (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for all hospitals in the United States used by patients to choose desirable hospitals. This goal has been made even more difficult by the closure of Laurel Regional Hospital. As a member of the Board of Visitors of the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, you are well aware of the challenges facing hospital emergency service centers.

The proposed new and expanded facilities are an essential requirement to improve options for care, especially for the growing and aging County population, as well as to address the growing number of behavioral health patients. I request that you enthusiastically endorse the request for \$5 million in the FY19 budget and \$3 million in the following years. In an operating budget of \$1.5 billion, this is a token amount that is essential in order to provide quality hospital medical care in the County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Gutman

Cc: Howard County Council
David Nitkin, Chief of Staff/Senior Director of Administration, Howard County General Hospital
Steve Snelgrove, President, Howard County General Hospital

Sayers, Margery

From: Melissa Banach <melisbanach1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 6:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in Support of Howard County General Hospital Budget Request
Attachments: BanachLetter.docx; ExpansionFactSheet12.2017.pdf

Dear County Council Members,

I am unable to personally testify before at the County Executive's Budget Hearing in support of Howard County General Hospital's request for FY 19 construction funding and a commitment from the County to provide a guaranteed revenue stream to the Hospital. Please accept this letter in my absence.

-

My name is Melissa Cunha Banach and I have been a resident of Howard County for 46 years. Howard County General Hospital has been an integral part of my family's life. It is a wonderful community hospital providing excellent medical care close to home.

The hospital has grown with Howard County. In turn, the hospital has grown to meet the changing needs of my family for more than four decades.

My daughter was born in 1974 in the recently built Howard County General Hospital, throughout the years the hospital ER set many fractured bones, dedicated medical staff saved my mother's life, pastoral caregivers provided comfort to my grieving family and the Breast Center became an important part of my journey back to good health after dealing with breast cancer.

More recently, Howard County General Hospital, working with Johns Hopkins Downtown, saved my life from a rare lethal sarcoma. Subsequently, the talented staff in the outpatient physical therapy rehabilitation unit worked diligently to get me back up and running again!

I have much to be thankful for.

I am thankful to be living in Howard County where I have world class medical care close to home.

I am thankful for my community hospital, Howard County General Hospital, and its affiliation with Johns Hopkins.

I have become a benevolent benefactor of the Hospital by volunteering my time, energy and resources to support the important work of its dedicated staff.

Howard County General Hospital is a vital element in the overall health, economic and social well-being of the County. Please think of the future.

I am hopeful the Executive will include funding for this project and you all, the County Council, will support this important budget request for \$5 million toward the hospital's expansion program in the FY19 budget and \$3 million in future annual funding that would pay for important community programs.

Melissa Cunha Banach

11165-A Chambers Court

Waverly Woods

Woodstock, MD 21163

410.598.4876

BanachLetter

DRAFT LETTER TO HOWARD COUNTY ~~COUCL~~Executive RE HCGH BUDGET REQUEST

I am unable to personally testify before ~~the County Council~~at the County Executive's Budget Hearing in support of Howard County General Hospital's request for FY 189 construction funding and a commitment from the County to provide a guaranteed revenue stream to the Hospital. Please accept this letter in my absence.

My name is Melissa Cunha Banach and I have been a resident of Howard County for 46 years. Howard County General Hospital has been an integral part of my family's life. It is a wonderful community hospital providing excellent medical care close to home.

The hospital has grown with Howard County. In turn, the hospital has grown to meet the changing needs of my family for more than four decades.

My daughter was born in 1974 in the recently built Howard County General Hospital, the hospital ER set many fractured bones throughout the years, dedicated medical staff saved my mother's life on two occasions, pastoral caregivers provided comfort to my grieving family and the Breast Center became an important part of my journey back to good health after dealing with breast cancer.

More recently, Howard County General Hospital, working with John's Hopkins Downtown, saved my life from a rare lethal sarcoma. Subsequently, the talented staff in outpatient physical therapy rehabilitation worked diligently to get me back up and running again!

I have much to be thankful for.

I am thankful to be living in Howard County where I have world class medical care close to home.

I am thankful for my community hospital, Howard County General Hospital, and its affiliation with Johns Hopkins.

I have become a benevolent benefactor of the Hospital by volunteering my time, energy and resources to support the important work of its dedicated staff.

Howard County General Hospital is a vital element in the overall health, economic and social well-being of the County. Please think of the future and support this important budget request for \$5 million toward the hospital's expansion program in the FY19 budget and \$3 million in future annual funding that would pay for important community programs.

Melissa Cunha Banach

11165-A Chambers Court

Waverly Woods

Woodstock, MD 21163

Howard County General Hospital Campus Construction Project

What?

- Howard County General Hospital plans to build a new 36,000-square-foot, two-story addition and make 18,000 square feet of renovations. The project would add approximately 40 new treatment spaces across the following areas of the hospital: general inpatient medical-surgical, observation and psychiatry units and the adult and pediatric emergency rooms. Phases of the project include:
 - **Early emergency room renovations and site preparation** – If local government approvals are granted, site preparation and utility work to support the new addition could begin in early 2017. At that time, the hospital also plans to renovate the emergency room evaluation area and expand treatment spaces in both the adult and pediatric behavioral health units.
 - **New construction** – A new two-story hospital addition, anticipated to be completed in late 2018, would consist of a new emergency room entrance, triage and waiting areas. The first floor would hold an observation unit, and the second floor would hold a psychiatry unit, both with an increase in treatment spaces.
 - **Renovation to existing buildings** – Once the observation and psychiatry units move into the new space, the existing space would be renovated by late 2019. A new 25-bed general unit for patients who stay in the hospital for medical needs or surgery will feature private rooms and bathrooms, as well as space for family members to comfortably stay with them overnight.
- Building designs and budgets are being finalized. Bed count, treatment spaces and square footage may be adjusted as plans are finalized and zoning approval is received.
- The expansion will cost approximately \$45 million. The Howard Hospital Foundation will work to raise funds to support this effort from local donors. The hospital will fund a portion of the expense. The Howard County government also recently dedicated funding to the renovation of the hospital's existing emergency department to improve patient flow while we wait for the additional capacity the new wing will provide.

Improvements to the Inpatient Medical-surgical, Observation and Psychiatry Units

- The inpatient medical-surgical unit renovation to the first floor of the existing north building will create approximately 30 new beds delivering increased inpatient capacity (by late 2019).
- The observation unit on the first floor of the new addition would include a complement of private rooms and enhanced patient rooms (by late 2018).
- The psychiatry unit on the second floor of the new addition would increase capacity by approximately five beds, including additional private rooms, safety enhancements, contemporary patient amenities, modern treatment spaces and a new nurses' station (by late 2018).

Improvements to the Emergency Rooms

- The pediatric emergency room would grow with approximately five additional beds for pediatric behavioral health patients in order to ensure sufficient space for the treatment of young children as well as adolescents with behavioral health needs (by mid-2017).
- The adult emergency room would grow with approximately two additional behavioral health treatment spaces and a four-bed evaluation area (by early 2017), as well as a new registration and waiting area and two additional triage bays (by early 2019).

Why?

Market factors

- Howard County is growing and aging. The population of those 55 and older in Howard County is projected to increase by 22 percent in the next five years, which will increase demand for health care. In addition, the population is projected to grow by 6 percent overall.
- The Affordable Care Act increased the number of insured patients. HCGH experienced a record year for admissions and observations, representing an increase of 9.6 percent over last year alone (fiscal year 2016 compared to fiscal year 2017). We also saw a record number of births last fiscal year.
- Howard County General Hospital's year-over-year increase in admissions was the highest of all of the 23 hospitals in the greater Baltimore region (fiscal year 2016 to 2017).
- Howard County General Hospital emergency room volumes are up. The adult emergency room treated a record 60,310 patients last year, a 4.8 percent increase. One in four patients who visit the emergency room needs a higher level of care, whether admitted as an inpatient or to the psychiatry or observation units. The volume has been growing every month this fiscal year and, as a result, units providing a higher level of care are busier, which can contribute to longer wait times in the emergency room.
- Laurel Regional Hospital's reduction in services is affecting Howard County General Hospital, with admissions and emergency room visits from the Laurel service area increasing by 16 percent between July and April when comparing fiscal years 2015 with 2016.

Hospital Facility Factors

- Howard County General Hospital is currently licensed for 267 inpatient beds, but only has space for 244 patients. The general medical-surgical beds are 90 percent full most days and 19 percent growth in inpatient volume is projected by 2024.
- The observation unit achieves nearly full occupancy daily, and the hospital treated a record number of observation patients last year. New space will include private rooms that are more welcoming to patients and families.

- The pediatric emergency room treats 18,000 patients annually, including adolescent patients with behavioral health issues, such as depression and substance use. The number of pediatric behavioral health patients has increased 46 percent in the past two years, and having additional clinical space will allow us to meet the needs of patients who benefit from a more private and protected setting of care.
- Often three to five beds in the inpatient adult psychiatry unit are not able to take new patients because patients are too ill to share a room or cannot be co-located for other reasons, resulting in the need for more space and improved design.

Sayers, Margery

From: David Nitkin <dnitkin1@jhmi.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 2:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Feldmark, Jessica
Subject: Howard County General Hospital budget request
Attachments: FundingRequestFY19Signed.pdf

Dear members of the Howard County Council: Attached please find a letter which serves as a formal budget request for funding in FY19 and beyond for Howard County General Hospital. We are requesting \$5 million for our expansion project, and \$3 million annually for community health programs. We appreciate your support of this request, and are available to answer any questions or provide any supporting information you may need.

Sincerely,

David

David Nitkin
Chief of Staff/Senior Director of Administration
Howard County General Hospital
5755 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
Desk: 410-740-7740
Mobile: 443-610-5044



HOWARD COUNTY
GENERAL HOSPITAL
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

Steven C. Snelgrove
President

December 4, 2017

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Executive Kittleman:

The quality of our community's health care makes Howard County a special place – and is just as important as our public schools, our parks and our vibrant business climate in sustaining a nation-leading quality of life.

Howard County General Hospital is now, and will continue into the foreseeable future, to be the only hospital in Howard County. Nearly every ambulance operated by Howard County Fire and Rescue brings a county resident to our Emergency Department. The pediatricians in our Emergency Department treat students in our elementary schools via telemedicine. A large percentage of the population was born here.

We are this community's hospital.

However, as you know, we are not the right size for the community we serve. And despite operating at capacity, we are planning to care for a senior population that will double in a decade, while also keeping pace with the county's population growth.

It should be abundantly clear by now that Howard County's health care needs have outpaced the hospital's resources, and without immediate action our quality of life will be eroded.

County residents are well aware of this clear and present danger. When you and I came together for a Town Hall Forum on Health Care, we heard residents ask whether Howard County General Hospital had the capacity to accommodate expected growth and an aging population. The frank answer, as I said then and repeat now, is that we do not.

We need your leadership to ensure that aging residents who have called this place home for decades, and new residents arriving every year, can continue to count on HCGH to meet their needs.

HCGH simply can't do this on our own. As a non-profit organization operating under a complex regulatory system, our ability to collect revenue is capped by state regulators.

Without local support that you can provide on behalf of the community, our family and friends will wait longer in our Emergency Department or for patient rooms, and may have to travel elsewhere for their health needs. We are at grave risk of losing the ability to provide the service and care that Howard County residents expect and deserve.

Howard County Government has an admirable history of contributing to the hospital, but the time has come to augment and memorialize those efforts, in recognition of the growing challenges we face. A year ago, I requested that Howard County continue its practice of supporting capital expansion by contributing to our current \$45 million expansion to provide new psychiatric and observation space and ultimately add 30 inpatient beds. Unfortunately, we were not successful in securing an allocation in the county's FY18 budget.

This letter serves as a formal request for **\$5 million in FY19** – which truly is the minimum necessary to meet our current demands.


But we are beyond the point where one-time capital requests can meet the county's health needs. We believe that to develop a true, sustainable and ongoing partnership that benefits the residents of Howard County, Howard County General Hospital should be assured a portion of county funding that is annually set aside for non-profit organizations.

Our request is a \$3 million annual contribution – similar to funding for non-profit organizations which has been in the county budget for years -- which will directly benefit the more than 200,000 county residents who rely on our services every year.

This critical funding would help create the partnerships and build a system of care that would provide care coordination for county residents, would further our population health efforts, would allow us to meet the needs of a diverse community and would assist with physician recruitment to address the shortage of primary care physicians in Howard County.

I know we share the same goal of ensuring that Howard County is the healthiest community possible, and a place where all residents – particularly our growing senior population – receive the right services in the right setting. This funding commitment would ensure that outcome. Thank you as always for your leadership and commitment to the health of Howard County residents.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Snelgrove
President

Cc: Howard County Council

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Soscia <bsoscia@mcrchoward.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2018 10:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. testimony
Attachments: testimony county council.docx

Howard County Council Members:

Please see our attached letter which we submit in lieu of in-person testimony at the May 1st budget hearing. We ask that you review this written testimony while considering our funding request for FY2019. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Soscia
Executive Director
MCRC, Inc.
443-514-7694



Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 306
Columbia, MD 21046
info@mcrchoward.org · 443-518-7694

May 2, 2018

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

RE: Written testimony – FY 19 Operating Budget

Good morning Dr. Ball, Mr. Fox, Ms. Sigaty, Ms. Terrasa and Mr. Weinstein:

Due to prior scheduling, I was unable to be present with you last night to provide testimony in support of funding for the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. (MCRC, Inc). I wish to submit this letter to you in place of in-person testimony.

Because some of you are familiar with MCRC in our previous structure, as part of Howard Community College, I will begin with a quick recap of how we have come to this point where we are seeking CSP funding. In the fall of 2016 MCRC under HCC was informed that funding and support of the program would cease through the college budget on June 30, 2017. In an effort to continue the services provided by MCRC, dedicated Center volunteers approached County Executive Kittleman to secure funding to form and launch an independent nonprofit corporation. In March 2017 MCRC, Inc. became a legal entity. Through guidance and assistance of the County Executive, MCRC, Inc. was able to locate office space within the Howard County Nonprofit Collaborative and most importantly to first-year success, County Executive Kittleman allocated \$125,000 of his budget to fund MCRC, Inc. for FY2018. Now entering its second year, MCRC, Inc., like other nonprofits in the county, is seeking funding through a Community Services Partnership grant to continue its vital community work and build the organization.

In the first 9 months of FY2018, MCRC, Inc. has reached over 700 people through our services and outreach! We expanded our community mediation program which provides a neutral space for people to come together to resolve their disputes without the need to rely on an overburdened court system. We continued to support youth through our restorative justice programs that stress accountability for wrongs done without criminality, thus stemming the school-to-prison pipeline. Our school circles teams continued to give voice to youth and encourage diversity and inclusion.

Some of the goals we have for the next year are:

- MCRC will continue to expand its reach of services throughout the county;

- MCRC will launch an outreach strategy designed to bring conflict management and conflict resolution awareness to all areas of the county and deliver our services in communities where conflict occurs;
- MCRC will provide multiple opportunities to staff and volunteers for advanced skills development;
- MCRC will, in conjunction with HCPSS, develop and deliver peer mediation training to students and staff advisors in the county's high schools;
- MCRC will pilot a new mediation and conflict management education program to people early in their substance use recovery process, thus reducing a major contributor to relapse for the addict/alcoholic;
- MCRC will expand the number and diversity of our Board of Directors; and finally
- MCRC will launch a fee-for-service structure charging a small fee for mediation services to those who can afford to pay, while continuing to provide these services at no cost to low income earners

This last goal highlights our awareness and willingness to put in place programs and procedures that will lead this organization towards self-sufficiency. Also, towards that goal, MCRC has developed fee structures with our partners to support the programs we offer to them. Customized workshops to businesses and groups are provided at an affordable fee. And, we will also be seeking grant funding to offset the cost of developing its new recovery program. All that said, our goals for the coming year cannot be realized without operating funds that keep our doors open, our phones ringing, fair wages for our tireless staff and the many other costs of keeping a small nonprofit doing what it does best – serving the public! Please fund our continuing efforts to support civility, peace and understanding in Howard County.

I welcome the opportunity to come before you to address any questions you may have pertaining to our services or our request for funding. Thank you for all you do collectively and individually to keep Howard County among the best counties in the nation and thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Soccia
Executive Director
MCRC, Inc.

Remarks of Mr. Nelson Pollack

Need for Stand-Alone East Columbia Senior Center Expedited Funding

Introduction

Good afternoon distinguished HD County Council members.

My name is Nelson Pollack, and my wife and I have lived at 6252 Golden Coin Ct, Columbia, MD, in District 2, for about half a century. I'm testifying this afternoon to advocate the expedited construction of an additional Senior Center facility in HD County, CO335.

Importance of the East Columbia Senior Center

The tai chi program at the East Columbia Senior Center has become a focal point in my life.

After taking tai chi for about 4 years, I see an improvement in my overall ability to balance and to approach life more calmly.

Outreach and Support to County-wide Events

The tai chi program is similar to other Senior Center efforts, such as the 'Bridges Out of Poverty' program, in that it not only benefits individuals – it benefits the whole county. We senior tai chi'ers outreach the proven physical and mental benefits of tai chi at many annual HD County public events, such as the HD County Diversity Day, the Owen Brown Village Fair, the Senior Expo ... as well as periodically at the Columbia Lakefront.

Enhancing HD County Diversity and Quality of Life

Diversity of people, opportunity, and experience are just a few things that make living in HD County very special. The pictures attached to my testimony show that the tai chi program brings together a very diverse group of HD county residents who might not otherwise meet and start up a friendly relationship.

Need for a New East Columbia Facility

We are grateful that the county recently funded some much-needed improvements to the Senior Center. However, the increased publicity and awareness of the tai chi program has brought in a record number of potential tai chi'ers ... but, I understand that the Center has had to turn away many of them – like it has had to curtail other worthwhile activities – simply because of a lack of floor space and a lack of some of the amenities found at other Senior Centers.

Possible "Win/Win" Solution

I suggest a "win/win" scenario that could satisfy the needs of – and provide benefits to – many of the interest groups represented here.

One hand, you have groups and individuals with very worth-while positive needs – and, on the other hand, here this afternoon are a group of people with diverse skills and life-long real world

experience ... all of whom have a burning desire to use their remaining time on this earth to do good for others.

A **multi-generational/multi-use** facility that is fully integrated into the existing and hopefully improved HD county public transportation, bike path, and hiking trail infrastructure, could be an additional place where many civic groups come together in positive ways to address a variety of HD county needs.

Conclusion

So, I urge you to consider expediting construction of a multi-use stand-alone facility that could become a cost effective method to address a wide variety of HD needs and serves the widest possible HD county population.

Its benefits would be greater than the sum of its parts.

Thank you for your time and hard work on our behalf ...

Exhibits

1. Examples of East Columbia Senior Center Tai Chi Activities
2. East Columbia Senior Center Tai Chi Community Outreach
3. Highlights of the Trip to China
4. Articles on Benefits of Tai Chi

Exhibit 1
Examples of East Columbia Senior Center Tai Chi Activities



Figure 1-1. Tai Chi “Qigong” Warmup Exercises



Figure 1-2. Tai Chi “Fan” Form (Advanced Class)



Figure 1-3. Tai Chi “Fan” Form (Intermediate Class)



Figure 1-4. Chinese New Year Celebration



Figure 1-5. December Holiday Celebration

Exhibit 2
East Columbia Senior Center Tai Chi Community Outreach



Figure 2-1. World Tai Chi Day at Columbia Lakefront



Figure 2-2. Sword Form Demonstration at Senior Expo 55+



Figure 2-3. “24 Form” Demonstration at Owen Brown Lake Elkhorn Festival



Figure 2-4. Howard County Diversity Day

Exhibit 3

Highlights of Tai Chi Program Trip to China



Figure 3-1. China Trip Participants



Figure 3-2. China Trip Individual/Group Tai Chi Competition Awards

Surprises greet 50+ Center's tai chi class in China

Group amazed by trophies, gold medals earned along with warm welcome.

By KATIE V. JONES
kvjones@baltun.com

Seventeen older adults, ranging in age from their late 50s to 82, departed for China on Nov. 1 to compete in a tai chi competition. The travelers were all students of East Columbia's 50+ Center's tai chi classes taught by Jian Ping Mao, an instructor there for the past 10 years.

To everyone's amazement, the group won three trophies and several gold medals for their routines in tai chi, a martial art studied for both defensive training and health benefits.

"They did an excellent job," boasted Mao. "Everybody had a good time."

No one quite knew what to expect when they touched down in China. Mao, a native of China, had planned the trip carefully, he said.

"I was very nervous," Mao said. "Their age. Not being used to the air quality or food. It was a big group, also."

Hosted in Mao's hometown of Shaoxing in the Zhejiang province, the competition required the group to do several original four-minute routines. At a recent class back home, the group showcased the various routines they did, some of which featured the use of fans and swords.

"Martial arts is slow, meditative movements," said Ann Benjamin, 69, of Columbia, who started taking tai chi lessons 10 years ago to exercise her mind, spirit and body.

"I don't take any medication, only vitamin supplements," Benjamin said.

At 82, Elsa Ponce, of Columbia, started doing tai chi eight years ago after she hurt herself doing yoga.

"I love it," Ponce said. "It is really great for balance."

Both didn't hesitate when the idea of competing in China was first mentioned.

"It was super," Ponce said. "It went really well. We saw so many things and did so many things."

"Everything was in place for it to happen," Benjamin said. "I'm so glad I did it. Ping [Mao] worked hard to make sure we made memories."

For many in the group, those memories will include the welcome they



Jian Ping Mao, tai chi instructor at the East Columbia 50+ Center, leads members of a class in a demonstration Dec. 6. The group recently traveled to China for a competition and surprised themselves by coming away with several gold medals. PHOTOS BY BRIAN KRISTA/BSMG



A member of the tai chi class displays one of the medals she won in China.

received from many in China.

"We were an attraction," said Ernie Hilsenrath, 79, of Fulton. "You can see how diverse our group is, with ages 50 to 80, and we're all different sizes, different

colors. We were a hit. They were very enthusiastic about us being there."

At the competition, the group discovered that they were not really competing against other teams but rather being judged on their own abilities and skills, Mao said.

"We had many good comments," Mao said. "Good technique and a lot of detail. We were also not nervous."

The group often performs outside of class for various events around the county, he said.

"They are used to performing," Mao said.

Of Chinese descent, Pamela Segawa, 67, of Columbia, almost didn't participate in the trip, she said, because it did not include some sites she had wanted to see in the country. Now she says she is so glad she did because not only did she enjoy the competition, she enjoyed traveling with the group afterward.

"We saw the countryside," Segawa said. "The people were very interesting. ... Their mannerisms and movements were so reminiscent of my grandparents."

The group traveled, staying at a different hotel every night and visiting various gardens and temples and Shanghai, the largest city in China. They returned on Nov. 13.

"We had Chinese food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The same dishes were prepared differently within cities and within different regions," Benjamin said. "The dialects were all different. It was amazing. I learned so much."

For Hilsenrath, who had traveled to China twice before for business, the trip was an unexpected joy.

"How in the world could I ever imagine being in a tai chi tournament in China?" Hilsenrath said. "I had no idea."

Figure 3-3. Columbia Flyer China Trip Article

Exhibit 4

Example Articles on Benefits of Tai Chi

Tai chi helps arthritic knees, study says Martial art also may give relief from depression

Rauf, Don . The Baltimore Sun ; Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md]02 June 2016: C.3.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT

"Tai chi is safe and has been shown to reduce falls in the elderly." [...]he said, his patients who practice tai chi often report an increased sense of wellness, "which is consistent with the emotional benefits described in this study."

FULL TEXT

Legions of arthritis sufferers try physical therapy and anti-inflammatory drugs to no avail. Now a new study looks East for relief - to the martial art tai chi.

Researchers concluded that tai chi offers an alternative to physical therapy for common knee osteoarthritis - and it might also boost well-being.

This ancient Chinese exercise may particularly benefit overweight older adults, the researchers said. Heavier people are more likely to develop osteoarthritis than people with a healthy weight, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This research strengthened the evidence that the effectiveness and durability of both tai chi and physical therapy extend to obese older adults with knee osteoarthritis," said Dr. Chenchen Wang.

"Such people typically face limited options due to ineffectiveness of osteoarthritis treatments," Wang said. She is director of the Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine in the division of rheumatology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

The study authors also noted that tai chi produced significant improvement in depression among patients with knee osteoarthritis.

The 12 Benefits of Tai Chi for Seniors

March 22, 2010 By [Ryan Malone](#) [50 Comments](#)

The benefits of Tai Chi for seniors are incredible. If you are looking for a low-impact, relaxing form of exercise that only requires about 20 minutes a day and rewards your efforts, Tai Chi is for you. Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art in the sense that it focuses on mental and spiritual aspects integrated into movement. This meditative form of exercise consists of a series of 19 movements and one pose. You may have seen groups of people demonstrating its slow-moving circular forms in public parks.

Many seniors and senior care facilities have been enjoying this style of workout and conditioning for more than 20 years. Here are 12 benefits of Tai Chi for seniors:

1. Relieves physical effects of stress
2. Promotes deep breathing
3. Reduces bone loss in menopausal women
4. Improves lower body and leg strength
5. Helps with arthritis pain
6. Reduces blood pressure
7. Requires mind and body integration through mental imagery
8. Accumulates energy by releasing endorphins rather than depleting it
9. Enhances mental capacity and concentration
10. Improves balance and stability by strengthening ankles and knees
11. Promotes faster recovery from strokes and heart attacks
12. Improves conditions of Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's

Many senior care facilities and community centers are offering Tai Chi classes (some free of charge) not only because of the extensive health benefits but also because it does not require any equipment or furniture. Many seniors find it an easy activity and a peaceful environment in which to meet other seniors with common interests.

To learn the benefits of Tai Chi for seniors and find a Tai Chi class in your area, simply input Tai Chi and your city into any search engine. If you add the word "free" to your search you are likely to find a community center or other informal group that meets in a nearby park. Your local library may have demonstration DVDs you can use if you cannot find an instructor or class that is convenient for you.

Fran LoPresti
fflopresti@gmail.com
6985 Deep Cup
Columbia, MD 21045

- I have already testified about the gross inadequacies of the East Columbia Senior Center and the need to get the construction of a new Regional Center back to its original schedule.
- I have since learned that amendments to the capital budget originate from the County Executive's office. I have requested such a meeting. I am asking each of you to write a letter to Mr. Kittleman asking him to put construction funds into the FY19 budget for this center. Let me give you a brief history.
- In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to Create an Age Friendly Community. That Master Plan called for a 35,000 square foot Regional Senior Center to be built in East Columbia to replace the dinky few rooms set aside in 1992. It was adopted in September 2015, FY16.
- Before you, you have the schedule for the East Columbia center from Appendix E of that Master Plan. By that plan, I should be in a brand-new center next year, FY19. The plan was simply ignored.
- I have also reviewed the capital budgets for FY16, FY17, and FY18. Here is the synopsis.
- The FY16 plan called for the new center to be completed and in use by FY20. Money was allocated for design. Construction was to be in FY19. Note the slippage already.
- In FY17, the completed budget had both design and land acquisition occurring. It was put on hold for analysis and possible reorganization. That's 2 years.
- In FY18, the design was there again with a completion date in FY22. That's 3 years.
- In FY19, we see the same thing –design. So, this is the 4th year of design. Too many years have been wasted. The Seniors of East Columbia simply deserve better from their government.
- So how can we fix this? In the current capital budget plan, FY20 is now listed as land acquisition but the county owns the land so this step is not necessary. We want to get as close to the original schedule as possible for this project. Monies should be allocated in FY19 to complete the design, do the land transfer and begin construction. That way we can complete the Regional Center in FY20 or FY21.
- I strongly request that you speak to the County executive to amend the capital budget for this proposed schedule and for the Council to approve that amendment. Let's do what is right.

Appendix E

Capital Budget for Recommended 20-Year Building Program

The following is a capital budget estimate for the senior center construction and renewal program described in this report. Construction of neighborhood centers would be considerably less costly than full-service, regional centers and could occur sooner as funding becomes available.

FACILITY	YEAR OF PLANNED CONSTRUCTION	SQUARE FEET	CONSTRUCTION COST ¹	DESIGN ²	FFE ³	TOTAL
Regional Center: East Columbia	3	32,340	\$ 10,493,683	\$ 1,361,996	\$ 2,269,994	\$ 14,125,673
Renovation/Addition: Bane Center	5	8,000	\$ 2,807,661	\$ 394,148	\$ 656,913	\$ 3,858,722
Neighborhood/Regional Center: East Ellicott City	8	8,000	\$ 3,158,236	\$ 498,723	\$ 831,205	\$ 4,488,164
Neighborhood Center: Marriottsville/Waverly	12	8,000	\$ 3,694,690	\$ 682,537	\$ 1,137,561	\$ 5,514,787
Neighborhood Center: Clarksville	15	8,000	\$ 4,156,023	\$ 863,627	\$ 1,439,378	\$ 6,459,028
Neighborhood Center: Downtown Columbia	18	16,000	\$ 9,349,922	\$ 2,185,526	\$ 3,642,544	\$ 15,177,922
Total		80,340	\$ 33,660,216	\$ 5,986,556	\$ 9,977,594	\$ 49,624,366

¹ Current Construction Cost per Square Foot = \$300, with 4% Escalation per Year

² Planning and Design is 12% of Construction Cost

³ Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment is 20% of Construction Cost

Figure 31: Proposed capital budget. Please note: No land acquisition costs are included.

	1 FY2014	2 FY2015	3 FY2016	4 FY2017	5 FY2018	6 FY2019	7 FY2020	8 FY2021	9 FY2022	10 FY2023
Facility 1		P 1,362	C 10,494	F 2,270						
Facility 2				P 394	C 2,808	F 657				
Facility 3							P 499	C 3,158	F 831	
Total Capital Request	0	1,362	10,494	2,664	2,808	657	499	3,158	831	0

	11 FY2024	12 FY2025	13 FY2026	14 FY2027	15 FY2028	16 FY2029	17 FY2030	18 FY2031	19 FY2032	20 FY2033
Facility 4	P 683	C 3,695	F 1,138							
Facility 5				P 864	C 4,156	F 1,439				
Facility 6							P 2,186	C 9,350	F 3,643	
Total Capital Request	683	3,695	1,138	864	4,156	1,439	2,186	9,350	3,643	0

Note: P=Planning and Design. C=Construction Cost. F=Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment.

Figure 32: Proposed 2014-2033 capital construction program.

Fiscal 2016 Capital Budget
Project: FY2014 CITIZEN SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS
GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS
Number: C0335

Appropriation Object Class	Prior Appr.	FY2016 Budget	Appr. Total	Five Year Capital Program						Master Plan					Total Project	
				Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Sub Total	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025			
PLANS & ENGINEERING	300	0	300	175	1,150	0	0	0	0	1,325	0	0	0	0	0	1,625
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	2,500
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	0	1,200	0	10,500	0	0	0	11,700	0	0	0	0	0	11,700
ADMINISTRATION	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	0	0	0	0	300	0	410	0	0	710	0	0	0	0	0	710
Total Expenditures	300	0	300	1,375	3,950	10,520	410	0	0	16,255	0	0	0	0	0	16,555
BONDS	250	0	250	1,375	3,950	10,520	410	0	0	16,255	0	0	0	0	0	16,505
PAY AS YOU GO	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Total Funding	300	0	300	1,375	3,950	10,520	410	0	0	16,255	0	0	0	0	0	16,555

Project Status :
\$299,959 spent and encumbered through February 2015
 FY14 - Selected Consultants through QBS process; awarded contract; started master plan process; Master Plan 50% complete; FY15 - Master Plan complete.
 FY16 Phase II of Master Plan to begin. Design and construct of improvements to Florence Bain Citizen Services Center identified during analysis of existing facilities.
 FY17 Planned Site Acquisition of New Citizens Services Center and design of Center.
 FY18 Construction of new Center.

Final

Fiscal 2017 Capital Budget
Project: C0335-FY2014 CITIZEN SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS
Number: C0335

Description
A project to determine the additional facility needs for the Department of Citizen Services. This is to include Senior Centers, Senior Center Plus sites and space needs for other departmental programming.

Operating Budget Impact
Annual Bond Redemption \$ 111,250
Bur of Facilities sees no impact to FY17 operating budget.

Justification

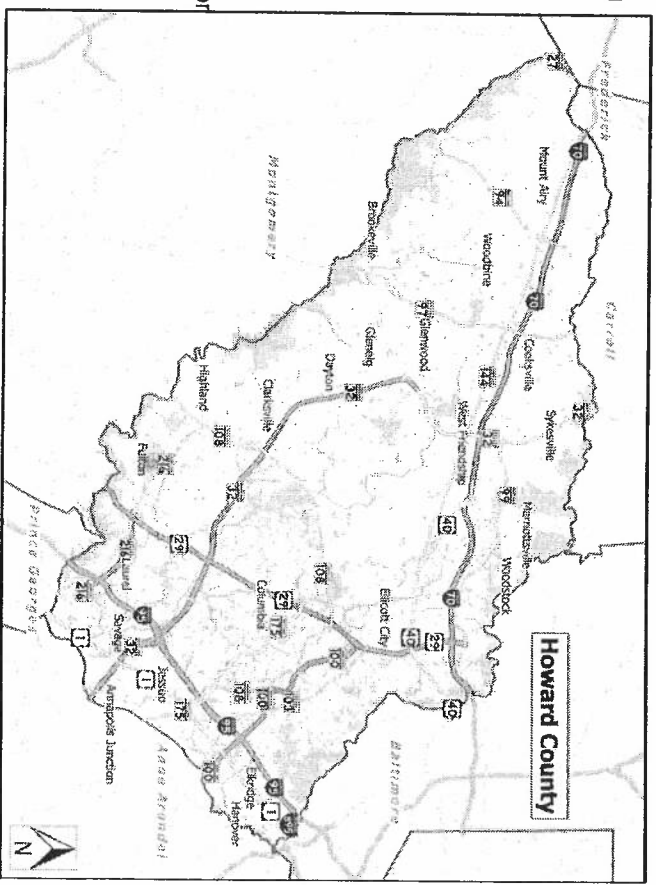
Existing Senior Centers/Senior+ Facilities are not adequate to support the tremendously increasing demand for such services/facilities, nor are the existing facilities necessarily located to effectively service all the expanding aging population. We need to develop a master plan to define how we can best serve this growing segment of the County population. In order to prepare for plan development, we will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine community needs and identify gaps in existing services.

Remarks

Master Plan is complete. Next step is the identification for a site for a new 50+ center.

Project Schedule

FY17 - obtain property and complete POR for new 50+ center. Project on hold for further analysis, and consideration with reorganization.



Fiscal 2017 Capital Budget

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS

Project: FY2014 CITIZEN SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Number: C0335

(In Thousands)	Appropriation Object Class	Prior Appr.	FY2017 Budget	Appr. Total	Five Year Capital Program							Master Plan						
					Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2022	Sub Total	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Total Project			
	PLANS & ENGINEERING	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
	Total Expenditures	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
	BONDS	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
	PAY AS YOU GO	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
	Total Funding	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300

Project Status :

\$296,982 spent and encumbered through February 2016

FY16 Master Plan for Citizens Services Complete.

Fiscal 2018 Capital Budget
Project: C0335-FY2014 COMMUNITY RESOURCES and SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM
ENHANCEMENTS

Final

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS
Number: C0335

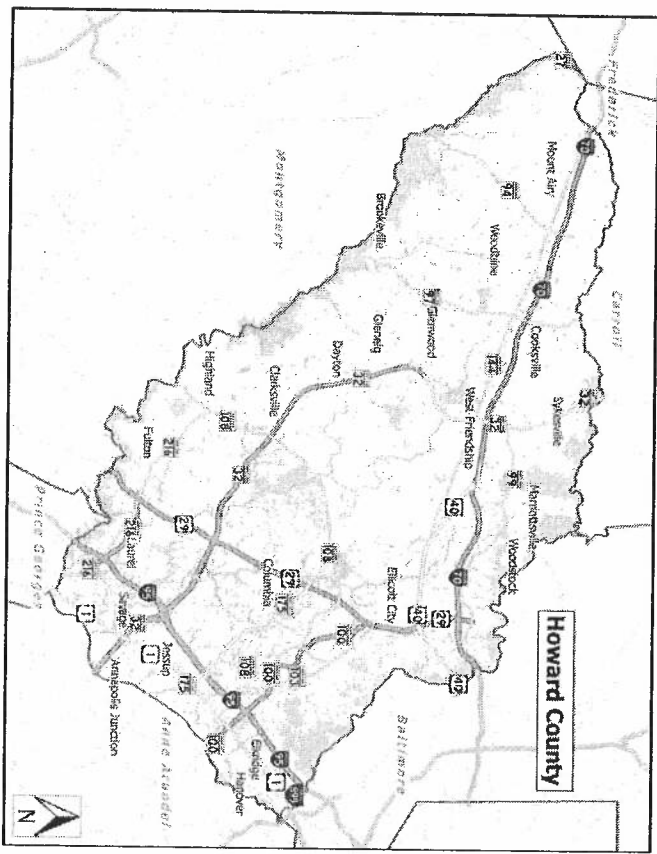
Description
 A project to determine the additional facility needs for the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS). This is to include Senior Centers, Senior Center Plus sites and space needs for other departmental programming.

Justification
 Existing Senior Centers/Senior+ Facilities are not adequate to support the tremendously increasing demand for such services/facilities, nor are the existing facilities necessarily located to effectively service all the expanding aging population. We need to develop a master plan to define how we can best serve this growing segment of the County population. In order to prepare for plan development, we will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine community needs and identify gaps in existing services.

Remarks
 Master Plan is complete. Next step is the identification for a site for a new 50+ Center. Additional funds are requested in FY18 to make immediate repairs and improvements to the Florence Bain Senior Center, the most actively used senior center in the County. Those improvements include a small addition to house a fitness room, upgrades to building HVAC, installation of perimeter lighting and other minor interior improvements.

Project Schedule
 FY18- Request represents renovation of 50+ Center at East Columbia Library. Complete POR for New 50+ Center.
 FY19- Design and Renovation of Bain Center, Design of New 50+ Center.
 FY20 - Land Acquisition for New 50+ Center.
 FY21- Construct New 50+ Center.
 FY22 - Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for New 50+ Center. Project Close Out.

Operating Budget Impact
 Annual Bond Redemption \$ 729,000
 Bureau of Facilities sees no impact to FY17 operating budget.



Fiscal 2018 Capital Budget
Project: FY2014 COMMUNITY RESOURCES and SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM
ENHANCEMENTS

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS
 Number: C0335

Appropriation Object Class	Prior Appr.	FY2018 Budget	Appr. Total	Five Year Capital Program					Master Plan					Total Project		
				Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Sub Total	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Fiscal 2027			
PLANS & ENGINEERING	300	200	500	150	1,050	0	0	0	0	0	1,200	0	0	0	0	1,700
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500
CONSTRUCTION	0	0	0	1,050	0	10,500	0	0	0	0	11,550	0	0	0	0	11,550
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	500
Total Expenditures	300	200	500	1,200	3,550	10,500	500	0	0	15,750	0	0	0	0	0	16,250
BONDS	250	200	450	1,200	3,550	10,500	500	0	0	15,750	0	0	0	0	0	16,200
PAY AS YOU GO	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Total Funding	300	200	500	1,200	3,550	10,500	500	0	0	15,750	0	0	0	0	0	16,250
\$296,982 spent and encumbered through February 2017 \$296,982 spent and encumbered through February 2016 Project Status : FY16 Master Plan for DCRS Complete.																
FY 2017 Budget	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
Difference 2017 / 2018	0	200	200	1,200	3,550	10,500	500	0	0	15,750	0	0	0	0	0	15,950

To Council

Fiscal 2019 Capital Budget

Project: C0335-FY2014 COMMUNITY RESOURCES and SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS

Number: C0335

Description

A project to renovate and expand the facilities for the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS). This is to include 50+ Centers/ sites and space needs for other departmental programming.

Justification

As determined by the 2015 Master Plan, the existing 50+ Facilities are not adequate to support the tremendously increasing demand for such services/facilities, nor are the existing facilities necessarily located to effectively service all the expanding aging population.

Remarks

The Master Plan was completed in 2015. The next step is the identification for a site for a new 50+ Center or an expansion at the current East Columbia location. Additional funds are requested in FY19 to make immediate repairs and improvements to the Florence Bain Senior Center, the most actively used senior center in the County. We are currently assessing the exact needs for the building. Requested improvements include modifications to house a fitness room, upgrades to building HVAC, installation of perimeter lighting and other minor interior improvements.

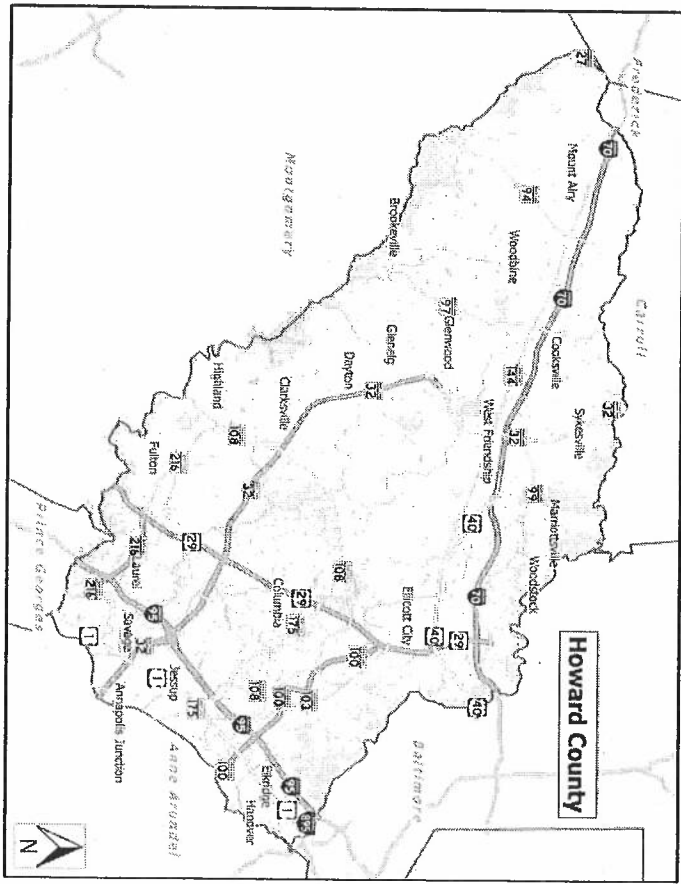
Project Schedule

- FY19 - Design and Renovation of Bain Center. Complete POR and design of New 50+ Center.
- FY20 - Land Acquisition for New 50+ Center.
- FY21 - Construct New 50+ Center.
- FY22 - Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for New 50+ Center. Project Close Out.

Operating Budget Impact

Annual Bond Redemption \$ 729,000

Bureau of Facilities sees no impact to FY18 operating budget.



Fiscal 2019 Capital Budget

GENERAL COUNTY PROJECTS

Project: FY2014 COMMUNITY RESOURCES and SERVICES FACILITY/PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Number: C0335

(In Thousands)

Five Year Capital Program

Master Plan

Appropriation Object Class	Prior Appr.	FY2019 Budget	Appr. Total	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Sub Total	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Fiscal 2027	Fiscal 2028	Total Project
PLANS & ENGINEERING	500	350	850	850	0	0	0	0	850	0	0	0	0	1,700
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500
CONSTRUCTION	0	1,050	1,050	0	10,500	0	0	0	10,500	0	0	0	0	11,550
EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	500
Total Expenditures	500	1,400	1,900	3,350	10,500	500	0	0	14,350	0	0	0	0	16,250
BONDS	450	1,400	1,850	3,350	10,500	500	0	0	14,350	0	0	0	0	16,200
PAY AS YOU GO	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Total Funding	500	1,400	1,900	3,350	10,500	500	0	0	14,350	0	0	0	0	16,250

\$339,382 spent and encumbered through February 2018

\$296,982 spent and encumbered through February 2017

Project Status : Facility improvement study for Bain has begun. Programming/POR for 50+ Center to begin in early 2018 with EOI Architect.

FY 2018 Budget	500	1,200	1,700	3,550	10,500	500	0	0	14,550	0	0	0	0	16,250
Difference 2018 / 2019	0	200	200	(200)	0	0	0	0	(200)	0	0	0	0	0

My name is Lori Lilly and I live at 10520 Old Frederick Rd in Woodstock. I am the Executive Director of Howard EcoWorks, a new non-profit whose mission is to empower an under-served workforce to respect and restore our natural systems for future generations. We have made a local home for administration of our flagship, the READY program, a nationally recognized model workforce program and recipient this past year of the Melanie Teems award by the Chesapeake Bay Trust that recognizes an exemplary project or program that engages residents in efforts to improve the region's natural resources, serving as a model for other organizations.

We are grateful for the County's support as we transitioned administration of the READY program from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to Howard EcoWorks. It was a challenging undertaking but we have been fully operational since July 1, 2017 and are happy to report that we are off and running, enjoying our new home at the Non-Profit Collaborative and continuing to develop and formalize our programming. I am also grateful for the time that 4 of you spent in individual meetings with me, my Board and staff this past spring to learn more about what we have been doing.

Despite a second decrease in funding in FY18, we have been able to accomplish a significant amount of work. While gaining valuable job skills, our teams have been able to construct projects that treated nearly 3 acres of drainage in the County that is being accounted for under the MS4 permit. This brings our total drainage area treated in the County since the inception of the READY program in 2012 to over 38 acres. We also continue to provide direct service to the DPW, DRP and OCS through maintenance of County stream restoration projects, forest conservation easements, Students Branching Out tree planting projects and high profile County stormwater management facilities. Last spring, we expanded our debris management program to the Valley Meade area at the request of DPW and this past fall, we continued with our debris management efforts in Ellicott City, removing more than 5,000lbs of debris and bulk trash between Rt. 29 and the Patapsco.

We are continuing with program development and fundraising for our work with the Corrections Dept. where we are operating our native plant nursery and engaging in-mates with seeding, plant propagation and overall nursery maintenance. I was excited to participate in the Changemaker Challenge event this past fall on behalf of our work with Corrections and, although we were not a final winner, the event brought great exposure to our work there while raising overall awareness of the value of vocational training in prison systems. We have received a small grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust this past winter to assist Corrections with their vegetable garden. The funding will be used to create a sustainable garden, train the guards and in-mates in maintenance of the garden and deliver the produce to the local food bank.

This past winter we also began implementing our Ellicott City Soak It Up campaign, a community engagement effort with a goal of converting 700 acres of turf grass to native vegetation on private property to better infiltrate stormwater and encourage the watershed community to Be a Part of the Solution in efforts that will collectively alleviate flooding in downtown Ellicott City. In addition, we have received grant funding for restoration and community engagement in the Wilde Lake area and are excited about our partnerships there with the Wilde Lake Village Board and seven neighborhoods that

are already willing to educate their communities and implement projects much as we did with the Greenleaf neighborhood where you toured with us over the summer.

We are very respectfully requesting that Council support D1164, our READY program budget, at 400k for FY19. The rate of budget reduction of 50k for the past two years has been difficult, particularly as we have been striving to develop local ownership and administration of the READY program through Howard EcoWorks. We are a new and growing business and request some time to continue developing relationships and alternative funding sources that will sustain us for the long term. We believe that we are demonstrating a high return on investment, in part evidenced by increasing requests for more and more direct service to the County as well as increasing requests from the community for assistance with stormwater management concerns, services which we are happy to provide.

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful year of innovative programming that can only be found in Howard County and are counting on your support to help us achieve multiple objectives of job skills development, career-readiness, environmental restoration and community engagement.

Thank you!

Lori Lilly

Good afternoon Honorable Councilmembers,

The Howard County Tourism Council's team of destination marketing professionals and Board of Directors, made up of tourism and hospitality industry leaders, thank you for your support of our mission to enhance the tourism industry in Howard County.

The Howard County Tourism Council respectfully requests that the council approve the full amount of the Executive's Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal for the Howard County Tourism Council. This allocation will sustain strong marketing campaigns for the entire county while also allowing us to continue to support many small hospitality businesses.

In making this request on behalf of the 10,000+ employees of Howard County's hotels, shops, restaurants, farms, museums, attractions, the arts, and parks we recognize how fortunate we are to live and work in a County with leaders who understand how a continued investment in tourism is part of the economic solution. For our part, we are currently following a strategic plan with input from government and sector leaders. This plan will guide our efforts to most effectively market and sell Howard County as a fantastic place to visit, live and run a tourism business.

The tourism, travel and hospitality industry all across Maryland continues to be a bright spot in the economy. The many small businesses in our community and the people they employ benefit from our marketing and sales efforts. Those efforts continue to grow in effectiveness as we aggressively pursue groups and perform more effective and targeted digital advertising.

During the first half of Fiscal Year 2018 our organization focused on promoting a series of actionable travel activities including Restaurant Weeks, agricultural tourism opportunities like farm-to-table, our growing population of breweries, and a campaign encouraging holiday travelers to use Howard County as their base when they're visiting Washington D.C. and Baltimore. Additional marketing campaigns highlighting the events and seasons in Howard County have been exceptionally successful in driving customers.

Our measurables are showing progress in marketing the community as a destination for spending customers. Website traffic is up 58% in the first quarter with the increase coming from our trackable marketing campaigns and events and attractions we promote are claiming increases in attendance.

Tax revenue generated from hotel stays have continued to grow since a stable investment in tourism promotion was legislated in 2012. Since 2012 \$28.7 million in tax revenue has been collected and invested not only in boosting the tourism economy, but also in the Economic Development Authority, and other county programs.

As our organization looks forward to Fiscal Year 2019, Howard County residents, local businesses and visitors alike will see benefits from significant initiatives intended to promote and enhance the attractions in Howard County. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Any questions? Thank you.

Enclosures:

- FY2019 Budget Request
- About the Howard County Tourism Council
- Summary of Successes FY17/18

FY2019 Budget Request

Our three-year rolling plan will guide our efforts by identifying opportunities for growth in the tourism industry in both the short-term and long-term. With funding support for our programs, we will focus on key customers including visitors, residents and the tourism business community.

With \$1,060,080 in funding we will focus on the following in FY2019:

Group visitors

- Work with partners in Howard County Recreation and Parks, hotels and other meeting venues to attract new and retain existing sports tournaments, conferences and meetings that provide economic benefit to the community.
- Aggressively sell the venues and amenities in Howard County to meeting planners that host events that will fit into existing vacancies at hotels, meeting venues and sports complexes.
- Market and sell Howard County as an excellent destination for weddings and family reunions.

Leisure travelers and locals

- **More targeted, niche marketing focusing on ROI**
 - Focus on marketing niche opportunities for visiting Howard County like the breweries and distilleries and agritourism.
 - Complete shift to digital marketing.
 - Video marketing.
 - Social media and storytelling through quality content.
- **Events and destinations that make Howard County unique**, including our festivals at the Fairgrounds and the events and attractions in communities like Ellicott City, Columbia, Elkridge, Maple Lawn, Savage and Western Howard County.
- **Brand Howard County**, our initiative that is uniting several organizations in an effort to turn residents into our champions for all things Howard County.

Media

- Pitch positive stories about Howard County to writers and other media.
- Gain more positive exposure for Howard County's tourism industry.

Tourism cultivation

- Support and represent hundreds of local hospitality businesses through advocacy and marketing initiatives.
- Provide educational opportunities in various relevant topics.
- Work with the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, the Howard County Economic Development Authority, the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association, the Maryland Restaurant Association, and the Maryland Tourism Coalition to advocate for Howard County hospitality business needs.
- Work with various local organizations to support a more vibrant community.
- Provide sponsorships to eligible events and attractions to help cultivate new reasons to visit Howard County.

Howard County Welcome Center and other Visitor Services

- Continue the research and design phase for a potential renovation of the Howard County Welcome Center to better reflect the county's attractions, culture and events.
- Continue to operate the Howard County Welcome Center during posted hours.
- In cooperation with the Ellicott City Partnership and the Howard County Government, use the Howard County Welcome Center as a base of operations for promoting the resurgence of Old Ellicott City through promotions and events.
- Provide on-site visitor information at several major visitor events.
- Service groups holding events in Howard County.

About the Howard County Tourism Council

The Howard County Tourism Council is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) that in addition to membership dues, cooperative marketing programs, and retail sales is funded largely by allocations from the Howard County Government and the Maryland Department of Commerce marketing grant.

The Howard County Tourism Council is the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, as per the Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development. The objectives of the Organization are:

- To Promote travel to, and tourism within, Howard County Maryland.
- To support the preservation and restoration of historical buildings and landmarks, festivals, museums, parks, leisure pursuits, tourists, and cultural, recreational and other activities in Howard County, Maryland.
- To foster and promote common business interests in tourism in Howard County, Maryland, as well as to support and assist in the improvement of business conditions in Howard County, Maryland, as they relate to the tourism trade.
- To compile tourism, travel and leisure pursuit data and statistics which can be utilized by political jurisdictions, governmental agencies, educational institutions, private business affected by the tourism trade, and the general public, in assessing the economic and social impact of tourism in Howard County, Maryland.

Summary of Successes FY2017-18

These successes and others are due in large part to the support from the Executive branch of the Howard County Government, the quality attractions, dining lodging professionals in Howard County and the hard work of the Howard County Tourism team.

Digital marketing - using research to better inform marketing campaign targeting as well as focusing on media that performs we've driven nearly two years of significant increases in website users. Most importantly, partners are showing increases in customers, and significantly, when we dedicate our resources to advertising their events and attractions.

Official Howard County Visitor and Resident Guide - Distributed guides, many to potential visitors, to promote the County as a destination.

HowardOnTap - in partnership with the state office of tourism we launched an aggressive campaign pushing the local brewery scene in Howard County, including a beer bus tour and the Hops and Harvest festival.

HoCo Holidays Stay and Play Campaign - Launched an aggressive campaign targeting potential visitors in the feeder markets identified by the Maryland State Tourism. The campaign promotes Howard County as the most convenient, best option to stay while visiting the nearby large cities for the holidays.

Restaurant Weeks - Continued success with the restaurant weeks campaign during winter and summer led to sales at restaurants during the slowest times.

Media stories - Pitched stories to media and got coverage from the Washington Post, Brit+Co, RedbookMag.com and Cosmopolitan.com and more. Attended the Mid Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance Annual Conference to promote Howard County and connect with travel writers.

Welcome center - Hosted events and welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from countries across the world. The Welcome Center continues to be an excellent point of contact for upselling visitors on spending more time and money in Howard County.

Product development - Worked with many organizations and businesses to cultivate new or improved events and attractions in Howard County. Events and attractions impacted include the Hops and Harvest Festival, National High School Lacrosse Showcase, Korean Festival, multiple soccer tournaments, Festival of Lights, Howard County Arts Council, Blossoms of Hope, and more.

Cooperative marketing and education - working with industry partners we created aggressive marketing campaigns for several products including the local brewery scene. Our education efforts focused on the training needed by small businesses to be successful online; these courses were attended by dozens of small business owners and managers.

HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
Testimony submitted to Howard County Council
Regarding FY2018 Proposed Budget
May 1, 2018

Good evening Chairperson Sigaty and members of the County Council. I am Coleen West, Executive Director of the Howard County Arts Council located at 8510 High Ridge Road. On behalf of the Arts Council, I want to thank you for your past support. We appreciate all that you do on behalf of the arts and the citizens of Howard County.

The Arts Council was established in 1981 to fulfill the provisions of County Code # 12.804a. This year we are celebrating - 37 years of fostering the arts and serving the community. I am here tonight to ask you to support County Executive Allan Kittleman's proposed budget of \$865,000 – a 4% increase over last year's arts appropriation.

Seventy percent of the proposed funding will be used to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project support to county arts organizations, K-12 schools through Parent Teacher Associations, and Baltimore City arts and cultural organizations. These grants support 50-60 organizations that provide a broad range of arts and arts education programs for both children and adults. Attendance at arts events funded through these grant programs was 317,000 and volunteers for local arts groups receiving grants donated 95,525 hours – a value of \$2.2 million – clear indicators that the arts are important to the citizens of Howard County.¹

In addition to the intrinsic value of the arts; a strong arts sector improves our quality of life and is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism revenue, and retains a high quality work force. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector made up 4.2 percent, or \$763.6 billion, of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than agriculture, transportation, or warehousing. In addition, arts and culture generates 4.9 million jobs and U.S. exports of arts goods (e.g., movies, paintings, jewelry) resulted in a \$20 billion arts trade surplus.²

Local companies face a global marketplace where value is increasingly determined by technology, knowledge and ideas. A study published by the Conference Board (serving the Fortune 1000 U.S. companies), found 97% of employers say creativity and innovation skills are important in U.S. workplaces, while 85% of these employers say they can't find the creative, innovative applicants they seek.³

In an economy that is driven by creativity and innovation, we will need to attract the creative class – artists, entrepreneurs, and innovators. In order to attract - and retain them - we will not only need strong public education, safety and transportation systems, but we will have to have state-of-the-art entertainment, arts, and recreational amenities and unique live-work options that appeal to their active, 24-7 lifestyle

Howard County has positioned itself well to meet these expectations. We have a vision for a vibrant arts, retail and entertainment district in Downtown Columbia, ownership of Merriweather Post Pavilion has been turned over to the Downtown Arts and Culture Commission, the iconic Chrysalis amphitheatre opened with great fanfare a year ago, and Ellicott City was recently named one of the “Top 20 Leading Creative Class Cities” by Richard Florida.⁴ In addition, we have a growing state-of-the-art community college, the arts curriculum in our public schools is one of the strongest in the nation, we have excellent recreational facilities and libraries, and we are home to 763 arts-related businesses that employ 3,511 people in the County.⁵ The arts sector accounts for 3.9% of the total businesses in the County, 1.7% of the people they employ, and is made up of major tourist attractions, for-profit media and design businesses, and a vibrant network of non-profit arts groups.

Further, the National Center for Arts Research just released a study that measured arts vibrancy across the United States. Based on the 5 characteristics assessed, Howard County scored:

- higher than 91% of counties in the US for the number of Arts and Culture Organizations and Individual Artists in our community;

- higher than 96% of counties for the amount of contributions raised and program revenue earned;
- higher than 94% of counties in terms of local, state and federal government support for the arts;
- higher than 99% of counties in terms of its socio-economic status
- and higher than 82% of counties for leisure characteristics like restaurants and hotels.⁶

Howard County is a special place that has developed a strong community for the arts. To illustrate this point, a 2015 study by Webb Management Services⁷ found:

- Howard County residents spend more per capita on arts and entertainment out of the seven Baltimore-Washington metro counties.
- Howard County has the second highest number of individual artists and creative industries per capita out of the seven metro counties.
- And, Howard County has the second highest level of arts participation per capita out of the seven metro counties.

The arts (both for- and non-profit) are an important part of the County's small business sector AND the heART of the arts community are non-profit groups such as the Columbia Festival of the Arts, HoCoPoLitSo, Candlelight Concerts and others. These non-profits provide opportunities for engagement and participation, they incubate artistic ideas and enterprises, and they create distinctive experiences that attract tourists, businesses and residents alike.

It takes a special ecosystem to maintain a vibrant arts community on a local level – you need the talent and dedication of practicing artists, strong arts organizations, innovative businesses, enthusiastic audiences, financial support and arts-friendly policies from government, and contributions from businesses and individuals. In addition, you need

affordable space to incubate, create, and produce the arts and you need appropriate space to present the work and engage the public.

The non-profits work year round to make the arts available to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They do an incredible amount of work with very little resources. Even in good times, their budgets are extremely fragile. County funding provides them with a reliable source of unrestricted support that they use to underwrite their core activities and to leverage private dollars.

County investment in the arts serves the public interest by broadening public access to the arts and by fostering diverse forms of expression. The non-profit arts groups, in turn, give back to our community by enhancing our quality of life, attracting businesses and jobs, and generating revenue for the County. In FY17, not only did Howard County grantees provide us with exceptional programming, they used these funds to leverage \$3.8 million in revenues – 44% from earned income and admissions, 22% Howard County, 13% individuals, 9% State and Federal, 6% corporations, 3% foundations, 3 % from the Columbia Association– and 140 FTE jobs.⁸

Statewide, there are 13,185 arts-related businesses that generate 52,723 jobs⁹, including 304 non-profit arts groups that generate 16,624FTE jobs. The non-profit sector alone has a total annual impact of \$1.3 billion.¹⁰

The arts add tourism dollars to the local economy as well. Locally, 20-30% of our non-profit arts audiences are made up of people who reside outside of Howard County,¹¹ these visitors come to our County and spend money at local restaurants and businesses. The Maryland State Department of Commerce reports that every \$1 of operating generates an additional \$3.94 in spending on goods and services.¹² Using this formula, the non-profit arts groups in Howard County, generated an extra \$15 million in secondary spending to our local economy in FY17 for a total economic impact of \$18.8 million (this does not include revenue from for-profit venues such as Merriweather Post

Pavilion, Toby's Dinner Theatre, movie theaters, or design, marketing and printing companies, or others that do not receive direct funding from the Arts Council).

Seventy percent of the proposed county funding will go to support 4 grant programs that provide operating and project grants to 50-60 organizations and schools.

- 1) The Community Arts Development (CAD) program provides operating and project grants to local arts organizations as well as non-arts groups interested in presenting arts programs. In FY18, the Arts Council awarded \$351,051 (CAD: \$327,116, JRT: \$18,935; OD: \$5,000) to 22 Howard County organizations through this grant.
- 2) The Baltimore City Arts and Culture (BCAC) program awards grants to city organizations that have regional significance and provide considerable services to Howard County residents. In FY18, we awarded \$162,350 to 11 city organizations.
- 3) The Outreach Howard program awards grants to City grantees to produce projects IN Howard County. In FY18, \$43,868,000 was awarded to 7 organizations.
- 4) The Artist-in-Education (AiE) program, a partnership with the County PTAs, provides grants to place visiting artists in school classrooms to enhance student experiences and skills and meet local and state goals for arts education. In FY18, we awarded \$31,325 to 15 schools.

The CAD, BCAC, and AiE programs must be matched at least 1-to-1 by the grant recipient. The goals of the grant programs are:

- To foster excellence, diversity and vitality in arts offerings for Howard County residents.

- To broaden opportunities for Howard County audiences, artists, and arts organizations.
- To increase the availability of arts activities in Howard County. And,
- To increase awareness of arts.

All grantees are required to submit final reports, which the Arts Council uses to evaluate grant programs, to track attendance and budget figures, and to hold grantees accountable to their request. These FY17 reports show that community interest and support, in terms of participation, is very strong – 317,000 attended arts events sponsored, in part, through County funds and 95,525 volunteer hours were donated. We also provided opportunities for 5,000 artists through these grant programs.

In addition to the grants program, the proposed budget provides funds to support the Arts Council's other principle program, the 27,000 square foot multi-purpose Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. At the Center, we sponsor year-round classes, art exhibits in our galleries, and performances in the community black box theatre. We also provide low cost studios for 14 visual artists, office space for 3 resident arts groups, and meeting space for 6 volunteer run groups that participate in our Arts Advancement Program. In FY17, 35,660 people visited the Center and we provided opportunities for 3342 artists and 1,938 students to showcase their work. Whether they take a class, view an exhibit, drop in a studio, or enjoy a performance in the black box theatre, the Center provides rewarding experiences in the arts for people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Funds we receive from the County also support county-wide initiatives, such as, our on-line arts calendar, ARTsites, a partnership with 12 sites throughout the County to place sculptures in public spaces for one year, as well as free community-based arts activities for underserved audiences, such as our Head StART in ART program.

Head StART in ART is a model artist-in-residence program for preschoolers from low-income families that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and

the Maryland State Arts Council as an exemplary early childhood arts program. This program introduces 100-120 children to practicing artists and provides them with experiences and training in the arts that would otherwise not take place. Each residency is designed to provide age-appropriate activities that complement Head Start's curriculum and reinforce core life and learning skills that are needed for future success. This program is free to participants. It received the John W. Holland Service Award from the Community Action Council in 2011. Cuts to the Arts Council budget would cause us to reduce or eliminate free public programs such as this and limit free public access to the arts.

Cuts would also adversely affect the groups that receive County funding through the Arts Council's grant programs. Local treasures, such as the Columbia Orchestra, the Columbia Festival of the Arts, and HoCoPoLitSo rely on these grants to meet their day-to-day operational needs. Unrestricted funds for general operations are rare, the Arts Council is one of the only sources of such support. As mentioned earlier, the operations of the non-profit arts groups, both large and small, are extremely fragile – any cuts to the arts budget will have a negative impact on our local arts groups, our community, and the people we serve.

In addition to the economic impact mentioned earlier, the arts impact our daily lives in other tangible ways. Numerous independent studies from the academic, arts, business, law enforcement, medical and technology fields confirm that the arts are an effective means to address a wide variety of issues and challenges in our community such as:

1) Workforce Development

Early encouragement and training in the arts help students develop core life and social skills that lead to future success, both academically and in the work place. To quote educator, Paul Lehman, "A lot of what is taught in schools suggests that there are correct and incorrect answers – as evidenced by the use of multiple choice and true/false questions. In the real world, questions are not posed that way." He goes on to say that the academic, business, and public sectors say

today's graduates are not prepared to keep our workforce competitive in the new global economy. This is supported by the Conference Board study cited earlier. In order to be competitive and address real-life circumstances, employers need people who can do more than check off an answer from a prepared list of options or people who have only been taught what is tested - they need people who are able to make independent, complex judgments and decisions. The arts, by their very nature, teach people to seek multiple interpretations and solutions, weigh options and think critically. They also teach us how to be more tolerant and open.

In order to attract and maintain a creative workforce, greater emphasis on arts education and practice is needed in our schools and communities.

2) Education

The contributions the arts make to academic success are well documented, I will take this opportunity to cite two important studies. First, a report from the College Board Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, which has been tracking tests for decades, shows that students who studied the arts or music for four or more years, on average, score 100 points better on their SAT scores than students with just one-half year of arts or music.¹³ Second, is a study from UCLA that followed a sample of 25,000 American high school students over a ten-year period. The results of this study show that students who studied the arts had higher grades, scored better on standardized tests, had lower dropout rates, and were more active in community affairs than other students. In addition, it found that students from disadvantaged families who studied the arts improved their overall school performance more rapidly than other students.¹⁴

While studying the arts, students hone their perceptual, analytic and interpretive skills while developing creative thinking, communication and problem-solving abilities – providing them with the critical skills needed to succeed in school and in life.

The arts also provide a common ground for understanding. They facilitate intercultural understanding and provide a common lexicon for building relationships in an increasingly diverse and global society. With the growing number of non-English speaking students enrolling in our public schools, it is important to maintain a strong arts curriculum, one that is integrated with other subjects, in order to connect with non-English speakers and bridge the cultural gap.

3) Community Health and Wellness

The arts have a positive impact on community health and wellness. Nearly one-half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and staff; 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.¹⁵ Physicians and therapists use visual art, music, dance, and drama to treat patients with a variety of therapeutic needs. Here, the arts are used to strengthen speech patterns, self-image, and socialization skills; they help patients overcome or reduce physical dysfunction; and music therapy, in particular, has been very successful in treating seniors with Alzheimer's Disease. Military service members and Veterans rank art therapies in the top 4 (out of 40) interventions and treatments.¹⁶ The arts not only help patients cope with loss, isolation, depression, and the effects of mental and physical illnesses, but help families cope as well.

The arts provide a means for seniors to remain active and productive in the community as participants, volunteers and audience members. Controlled research by the Center on Aging found that older Americans involved in the arts demonstrated better health, fewer doctor visits, and less medication usage – saving money and improving the quality of life of seniors.¹⁷

As Howard County's special needs and senior populations grow, more programs, such as the Arts Council's Fabulous Fifty+ Players musical theatre program for

older adults and the No Boundaries musical theatre program for people with developmental disabilities, will be needed to meet their needs. In addition, infrastructure and specialized training and professional arts service providers are needed to integrate the arts into community health and wellness service delivery systems.

4) Youth At Risk

The arts help at-risk youth. Numerous studies have found that arts education programs can help reduce dropout rates - increasing the retention and engagement rates of students and raising educational attainment levels. Participation in arts programs decreases young people's involvement in delinquent behavior, increases academic outcomes for disadvantaged children, and improves students' attitudes about themselves and their future. Studies by the U.S. Department of Justice demonstrate increased pro-social behavior among adjudicated youth involved with arts programs.¹⁸ Similarly, an evaluation of Core Arts examined the effect of arts programs on adjudicated youth in Mississippi and found that participants in this program made notable improvement in cooperation, self-control, academic performance, interpersonal skills, attitude, and incidence of disruptive or risky behavior.¹⁹

As the number of youth-related incidents continues to rise, Howard County may want to explore options to use the arts as a preventative measure or as an alternative teaching method for troubled youth or those suffering from mental health issues.

While many of us value the intrinsic impact of the arts on our lives - as an advocate for the arts, the Arts Council knows it is important to show how the arts impact the wider community. As County leaders look for ways to improve our economy and maintain our quality of life, the arts can be – and should be - part of the solution for economic and workforce development, for community revitalization, for academic success, for life-long learning, for community health and wellness, and for our own personal growth.

In closing, the arts entertain, engage, and enlighten us in many different ways and on many different levels. They are a good investment with many great returns.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you this evening.

¹ Source: Howard County Arts Council Attendance Report for FY17 Grantees, 2017.

² Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, <http://mcs.smu.edu/artsresearch2014/articles/blog-white-papers/how-arts-vibrant-are-americas-cities-heres-every-county-ranked>, March 2018.

³ *Ready To Innovate*, Conference Board, 2008, cited on www.artsusa.org/information_services/tookkit by Americans for the Arts.

⁴ *America's Leading Creative Class Cities in 2015*, Richard Florida. *City Lab*, The Atlantic Monthly Group, April 20, 2015.

⁵ *Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

⁶ *Interactive: Arts Vibrancy Across the US*, National Center for Arts Research, Southern Methodist University, 2017. <https://sites.smu.edu/meadows/heatmap/index.html>

⁷ *Needs Assessment For Arts Facilities*, Howard County, MD, Webb Management Services, 2015, pg 20.

⁸ Source: Howard County Arts Council Revenue Sources for FY17 Grantees, 2017.

⁹ *Creative Industries 2017: The State Report*, Americans for the Arts and Dun & Bradstreet, 2017.

¹⁰ *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, 2016.

¹¹ *ArtsVision: State of the Arts in Howard County 2003*, Howard County Arts Council and Vision Howard County, 2003, page 21.

¹² *Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, 2011.

¹³ *2012 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report*, The College Board, 2012.

¹⁴ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation, 2002, pp 76-77.

¹⁵ *2009 State of the Field Report: Arts in Healthcare*, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, 2009.

¹⁶ Source: blog.americansforthearts.org/2017/02/14/top-10-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2017.

¹⁷ Source: Americans For the Arts, www.artsusa.org.

¹⁸ Source: Americans For The Arts, www.artsusa.org.

¹⁹ *A Study of Model Community Arts Programs*, Howard County Arts Council and the Horizon Foundation, 2002, pp 77-78.

**Eunice Braimoh – Student at Howard High
Testimony for Howard County Arts Council**

I come from a family that believes STEM is the sturdy path to survival in society. As immigrants to America, I understand why my father would rather have me be a doctor, or a lawyer, or an engineer. I do not blame him—there is a certain instability regarding careers in the arts. While I am fully aware of the risk, I believe with wholehearted tenacity—or maybe just plain old stubbornness—that our society can't continue without art, without poetry, without fiction.

This scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden caused by college tuition, but also serves as a testament to me and to other artists that Howard County is a community that believes in art and self-expression. This scholarship testifies that there is a community that believes in conversation, that there is a community that does *not* believe in the “starving artist” trope, but rather believes that art and the STEM fields hold equal ground, and should be likewise compensated.

As a writer, the moments of self-doubt are infinite. Even when applying for this scholarship, there were several times I considered backing out, of scrapping everything away. Receiving the scholarship from the Howard County Arts Council was them whispering, *We believe in your art. Speak your truth.*

After receiving the scholarship, I was invited to share my writing at the Blackbird Poetry Festival, where I met other artists that have eagerly told me about more creative opportunities, thereby reminding me that the arts community in Howard County is a family that wishes to elevate voices in all its diverse forms. Art is provocative. It is sensual. And it is essential in order to rupture the polarized echo chambers in society. I am grateful to the arts council for providing me with the opportunity to share my voice, and I am excited to watch the generations of voices they will uplift in the future. Thank you.

I am pleased to submit my testimony on behalf of Howard County Arts Council. I would first like to thank everyone in this room for taking to time to listen to my testimony and the Arts Council for allowing me to speak.

Head Start has built a long lasting relationship with the Arts Council and all of the artists that have been in our classrooms have had a positive powerful impact on our 3 – 5 year old students. When you enter our school and see the mural or you're in the classroom and you see the children engaged in an art project. The arts have assisted in fueling the imaginations of our young people and are an essential part of our children's learning. Artist who have come from the Arts Council have supported in ways they could never imagine. It is what they bring to the classroom that has assisted us with attendance, academic success and our assessment scores. They are exposing our students and involving them in music, dance, drama, visual arts, and media arts. This exposure has contributed to the success of our students. This is especially true for students of color, low-income students, and English as second language students.

I urge you to support funding for Howard County Arts Council. This sound investment pays huge dividends and stimulates significant academic growth and cultural vitality.

Thank you for the honor of testifying before this committee today. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding this testimony or if I can be of assistance to you.

Don Corbin

Education Coordinator

Howard County Head Start

443-736-0606

Testimony IN SUPPORT OF the
Howard County Arts Council's FY19 Proposed Budget
Before the Howard County Council
May 1, 2018

Good evening. My name is Sarah Richardson Fahrendorf and I have had the honor of serving this year as the PTA Cultural Arts Liaison between my children's school, Hammond Elementary, and the Howard County Arts Council (HCAC). I live in North Laurel at 10723 Twin Overlook Place.

For the first time in many years, our PTA applied for and received a grant from the Howard County Arts Council for \$1,489.00. Our PTA was so excited by the idea of bringing in local mosaic artist Ali Mirsky and beautifying our school, that we voted for a \$2,000.00 supplement to our art budget for this project, which ultimately topped off at \$5,505.00. At present, the mosaic is 95% complete, pending the installation of a mosaicked plaque that will commemorate the work and recognize the Arts Council. There is also a bit of cleaning up to do, to remove stray bits of grout and adhesive; our mosaic of the Chesapeake Bay takes up 125 square feet, so there's some extra grout to clean off. We don't mind!

There are so many special things that have happened because of this project, because of this grant, and because of the Howard County Council's support of the arts. I'd like to advocate for your continued support of the arts and for your approval of the HCAC's proposed budget.

This grant from the HCAC opened up a beautiful window for community building. This grant was a tremendous catalyst – I think we don't even know all the special and beautiful ideas we have set in motion. Here are a few remarks from some of our students in the 3rd to 5th grade classes: "I will remember the artist most because she was nice and helpful." "I remember the blue ocean made out of glass and I was glad nobody in my class got hurt by the glass." "That kindergarten- fifth grade did it together and that we worked with a famous artist!" "Seeing the amazing glass form into a project that i never knew students and adults together can

make.' I will remember seeing my work on display" "That we saw the artist's painting" "how beautiful it was when we finished" "Making the clay pieces for the mosaic and I saw my sea shell clay piece" "Meeting Ms Ali and helping her create the best mosaic in the world."

Our students' testimony says it best, but please know that this project impacted our entire school and more. When there is a project of this magnitude, it opens people's eyes to each other and to what is possible. A vote for the arts is a vote for enlightened imaginations. Thank you.

May 24, 2017

HCCA

Dear HCCA Grant Selection Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for our school to apply for a grant that would enable us to enrich our instructional program. As principal of Hammond Elementary School, I am excited about the potential of having mosaic artist, Ali Mirsky; serve as an artist in residence at Hammond during the 2017-2018 school year.

The planning, design and construction of a mosaic for the school building will engage all our students in collaboratively completing a project that the school community will treasure and enjoy. The process will provide students with a range of talents, interests, and diverse backgrounds in contributing creatively to a process that offers cross-curricular connections in reading, writing, and mathematics. Our students will be supported not only by the Art Team but by classroom teachers and paraeducators/ Although the Art Department will specifically work with Ms. Mirsky, the teachers will share information with our instructional grade level teams so that teachers can infuse the work of the project within classroom instruction as students read, write, and perform math related to the work.

The outcome of this project will hold long-term meaning and value for our community, as it will be placed in a location where all can see for years to come. Having been in schools where similar experiences occurred in the past, I can testify that students will return after leaving elementary school to admire the work completed many years prior.

Our staff looks forward to our students having the opportunity to learn from and work with Ms. Mirsky and the many parent volunteers who will support this project. This grant proposal is respectfully submitted, and I appreciate the work of our PTA as well as the commitment of HCAC in considering this request.

Sincerely,



Kimberlyn Pratesi
Principal

2018 Mosaic Project at Hammond Elementary School

As an art teacher at Hammond Elementary, my experience with the 2018 Mosaic project funded by The HES PTA and the HCAC was a very positive one. Working with mosaic Artist Ali Mirsky was a joy. She was extremely organized, professional and flexible. Ali's expertise was evident from our first meeting. She has strong leadership skills but was mindful of working with PTA members, teachers, administrators and students. Ali is an outstanding artist in her own right and offered a variety of possible designs for the school mosaic which were beautiful. She welcomed ideas from many people and worked tirelessly to adapt the initial design to ongoing suggestions.

Ali's communication with the Art Department was excellent. She was clear in her expectations, respectful in her requests and practical in her approach to getting tasks done. The Mosaic required many hours of preparation outside of the school setting and Ali and her team were always prepared, well organized and reliable.

The students were excited to work on the Mosaic project and showed great enthusiasm in the variety of tasks they performed. HES students had the opportunity to create clay tesserae for the Mosaic, paint the tesserae, make clay oysters, paint the oysters, paint clay fish, work with glass and mirror and even participate in the grouting process. This was a unique experience that enriched their art curriculum and provided them with the opportunity to work cooperatively with other students, contribute to a large installation and work with a professional artist and her team.

It was wonderful to see the smiles of students as they worked on the Mosaic and witnessed the process of the final assembly. The finished Mosaic is absolutely stunning and has transformed the school hallway where it is located. Both teachers and parents have commented that the final product exceeded their expectations in terms of size, beauty and complexity.

Heidi White, Art Teacher Hammond Elementary

**Hammond Elementary School
Mosaic BUDGET**

HES PTA	HCAC grant	HES	Mosaic Artist fee: (Rate is \$80/hour)
	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00 3 teaching days (5 hours per day; 15 hours total)
\$640.00			\$640.00 Set up and preparation of materials
\$11.00	\$289.00		\$300.00 Design
\$500.00			\$500.00 Layout/install
\$150.00			\$150.00 Travel (HCAC cannot cover)
			\$2,790.00 MOSAIC ARTIST FEE SUBTOTAL
			\$2,640.00 MOSAIC ARTIST FEE (minus travel)
			Clay Tesserae and Component Production
		IN KIND	IN KIND Instruction Time by HES Art Teachers (32 hours)
		IN KIND	IN KIND Kiln Firing Expenses (10 days)
		IN KIND	IN KIND Planning Time by HES Art Teachers
			Materials:
\$80.00			\$80.00 Substrate (30 sq feet)
\$85.00			\$85.00 Adhesives/grouts
\$35.00			\$35.00 Tools
\$300.00			\$300.00 Glass
\$35.00			\$35.00 Misc items (gloves, masks,tape)
\$12.00			\$12.00 Hardware
\$150.00			\$150.00 Glaze
\$120.00		\$120.00	\$120.00 Clay
\$8.00		\$8.00	\$8.00 Supplement to Kiln Firing Expenses (6 Cones for firing)
\$2.00			\$2.00 Plaque (attribution to Mosaic Artist, HES PTA, HCAC)
			\$827.00 MATERIALS SUBTOTAL
\$2,128.00	\$1,489.00	\$128.00	\$3,617.00 Total





ETHIOPIA
SKATE

KEEP
OUR
STUFF
WAZZ



Small, colorful vertical labels or signs, possibly indicating different sections or topics.





PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.

P. O. Box 96, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 | info@patapsco.org

May 1, 2018

Chairperson Sigaty and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. asks your support for the County Executive's FY19 proposed \$50,000 funding for our organization. It is what we requested and will be used to match our request for a \$100,000 Management from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

We have accomplished a lot since May 2017. Our organization joined with all other Heritage Areas to increase the funding cap for Maryland Heritage Areas from \$3 million up to \$6 million annually. This increase was included in the State's FY19 budget and will be used to support both capital and non-capital State Heritage grants to be awarded in all 13 Heritage Areas.

Howard County received over \$45,000 in Heritage Area grants effective July 1, 2017. Grants were awarded to the Ellicott City Historic District, Howard County Department of Rec and Parks, and Patapsco Heritage Greenway.

Our organization also provided the mini grants to the Howard County Conservancy \$2,000 and Columbia Families in Nature \$2,500.

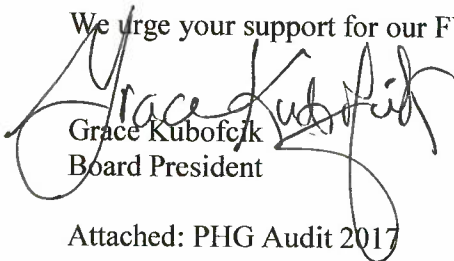
In March, our Board ranked and forwarded to the State 7 MHAA Project Grant Requests received for July 2018. Our hope is that all of these will be approved by the State.

Administratively, the Patapsco Heritage Greenway selected a new Executive Director, Lindsey Baker who started mid January. We are delighted to have her. She brings a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm. This fall we completed the audit and have a copy for your review. We are pleased with the report and lack of findings.

A new initiative is paSNAPsco, a photo contest and exhibit to depict the diverse beauty of the Patapsco Valley. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. We seek images that creatively feature historic structures, the Patapsco River and its environment, Main Street moments and recreational and cultural activities. This initiative has a private sponsor and winners will be announced in September. Credit for photos will be given in our Patapsco Heritage Area 2019 pa"SNAP'Sco calendar.

The Oella and Ellicott City Community garden is 10 years old this year. The garden honors the historic mill community and started from the proceeds of a Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage tour. John Slater, the president of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway designed the site. Over 25 volunteer gardeners organized by our Board members Paul Farragut and Lisa Wingate provide the work between May and October. Howard County Recreation and Parks and Baltimore County Public Works provide assistance. Residents and visitors enjoy this space overlooking the river and the bridge that connects our Heritage Area Counties.

We urge your support for our FY 19 \$50,000 funding.


Grace Kubofcik
Board President

Attached: PHG Audit 2017

PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization working to preserve, protect, interpret, & restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY
AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2017

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT



To The Board of Directors
Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc.
Ellicott City, Maryland

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2017, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc. as of June 30, 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

KAHN, BERMAN, SOLOMON, TAIBEL & MOGOL, P.A.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kahn, Berman, Solomon, Taibel & Mogol, P.A.' The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name of the firm.

Timonium, Maryland
November 15, 2017

Kahn, Berman, Solomon, Taibel & Mogol, P.A.
9515 Deereco Road • Suite 801 • Timonium, MD 21093-2108
Telephone 410-308-0300 • Facsimile 410-308-0303 • email: info@kbstm.com

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	79,035
Grants receivable		65,000
Accounts receivable		2,265
Prepaid expenses		9,985
		9,985

Total current assets		156,285
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OTHER ASSETS

Property and equipment		2,293
Deposits		1,250
		1,250

Total other assets		3,543
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TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 159,828
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	20,864
Deferred revenue		8,435
		8,435

Total current liabilities/ total liabilities		29,299
--	--	--------

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted		
Undesignated		110,135
Board designated		10,394
Temporarily restricted		10,000
		10,000

Total net assets		130,529
------------------	--	---------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$ 159,828
----------------------------------	--	------------

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Grants	\$ 233,763	\$ -	\$ 233,763
Contributions	22,840	10,000	32,840
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	10,000	(10,000)	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	266,603	-	266,603
EXPENSES			
Program services	209,094	-	209,094
Administration	40,095	-	40,095
Fundraising	2,979	-	2,979
TOTAL EXPENSES	252,168	-	252,168
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	14,435	-	14,435
NET ASSETS			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	106,094	10,000	116,094
END OF YEAR	\$ 120,529	\$ 10,000	\$ 130,529

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	Program Services	Supporting Services		Total
		Administration	Fundraising	
Salaries	\$ 109,018	\$ 19,584	\$ 1,958	\$ 130,560
Payroll taxes	9,280	1,667	167	11,114
Fringe benefits	4,175	750	75	5,000
Total salaries and related expenditures	122,473	22,001	2,200	146,674
Accounting	-	10,299	-	10,299
Advertising & marketing	3,064	550	55	3,669
Contractual services	23,681	-	-	23,681
Environmental program supplies	3,344	-	-	3,344
Events	277	-	-	277
Software fees	1,662	299	30	1,991
Insurance	3,741	672	67	4,480
Miscellaneous expenses	281	51	5	337
Mini-grants & donations	10,925	-	-	10,925
Office supplies & expenses	6,047	1,086	109	7,242
Printing & publications	10,094	1,813	181	12,088
Rents & utilities	12,595	1,365	136	14,096
Staff development & travel	3,822	686	69	4,577
Telephone & website	2,181	392	39	2,612
Workshops & training	4,907	881	88	5,876
Total other expenses	86,621	18,094	779	105,494
Total functional expenses	\$ 209,094	\$ 40,095	\$ 2,979	\$ 252,168

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Change in net assets	\$ 14,435
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:	
Grants receivable	(38,949)
Accounts receivable	(2,265)
Prepaid expenses	(3,013)
Deposits	(1,250)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(11,062)
Deferred revenue	<u>8,435</u>
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>(33,669)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>(2,293)</u>
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	<u>(2,293)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	<u>-</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(35,962)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	<u>114,997</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u><u>\$ 79,035</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2017

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization and nature of activities

Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Inc. DBA Patapsco Heritage Greenway (the Organization) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based organization incorporated in Maryland in 1993. The Organization's mission is to preserve, protect, interpret and restore the environment, history and culture of Maryland's Patapsco River Valley. The Organization's goals are to preserve the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area by enhancing trails, offering tours, educating the public, hosting/supporting events, and various other activities.

Basis of presentation and net assets

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets. Board designated net assets represent amounts established by the Board of Directors which are unrestricted funds set aside for future needs of the Organization.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents

The Organization considers all money market funds and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Accounts and grants receivable, and allowance for uncollectible accounts

Accounts and grants receivable are recorded at net realizable value if expected to be collected within one year, and at net present value if expected to be collected in future years. An allowance for uncollectible accounts is estimated based on historical collection trends, type of grant, the age of the outstanding receivables and existing economic conditions. If events or changes in circumstances indicate that specific receivable balances may be impaired, further consideration is given to the collectability of those balances and the allowance is adjusted accordingly. As of June 30, 2017, management considered all accounts and grants receivables to be fully collectible within one year.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment consists of office equipment and is recorded at cost if purchased or at fair value if donated. The Organization capitalizes property and equipment acquisitions over \$1,000 with an expected life of more than one year. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful life of the property (5 years). There was no depreciation expense during the year ended June 30, 2017, and no accumulated depreciation at June 30, 2017, as the assets were placed in service at year end.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2017

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Grant revenue

A substantial portion of the Organization's revenue is from grant agreements. As such, revenue is recognized when the Organization incurs expenses in compliance with the specific grant or contract requirements. All monies received in advance are recorded as deferred revenue.

Contribution revenue

All contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless restricted by the donor. Amounts received that are designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support that increases those net asset classes. When a temporary restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restriction. Donor-restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets.

Donated facilities, goods, and services

The Organization may receive facilities, goods, and services without payment or compensation. Significant donated assets are recorded at fair value on the date of donation. When the value of services meets recognition criteria, it is reflected in the accompanying financial statements. The criteria for recognition require that services rendered (a) create or enhance a nonfinancial asset or (b) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. See Note 5 regarding donated facilities, good, and services.

Advertising and marketing

The Organization expenses advertising and marketing costs as incurred.

Income taxes

The Organization is exempt from payment of taxes on income other than net unrelated business income under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No provisions for income taxes are required for the year ended June 30, 2017, as the Organization had no significant unrelated business income.

Functional allocation of expenses

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

NOTE 2 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Organization is substantially funded by various state and local government agencies that accounted for approximately 82% of the Organization's total revenue for the year ended June 30, 2017.

FRIENDS OF THE PATAPSCO VALLEY AND HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2017

NOTE 3 – BOARD DESIGNATED UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Board designated unrestricted net assets consisted of the following at June 30, 2017:

Thomas Viaduct projects & celebrations	\$ 3,908
To support scout projects	<u>6,486</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,394</u>

NOTE 4 – TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

As of June 30, 2017, the Organization had temporarily restricted net assets of \$10,000 restricted for use in the stream watch program during the year ending June 30, 2018.

NOTE 5 – DONATED FACILITIES, GOODS, AND SERVICES

A substantial number of volunteers have donated significant amounts of their time for the Organization's programs. No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for these services since they do not meet the criteria for recognition.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, the Organization received donated storage facilities from Howard County Recreation and Parks to hold environmental tools and supplies. The use of the storage facilities was valued at \$5,000; the related amounts of revenue and expense are reflected in the statement of activities and the statement of functional expenses.

NOTE 6 – OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Organization currently leases office facilities pursuant to a one-year lease agreement commencing February 1, 2017 and ending January 30, 2018. The lease requires monthly rental payments of \$1,250. For the year ending June 30, 2017, rent expense was \$6,250. The future minimum lease commitment under the lease is \$8,750 for the year ending of June 30, 2018.

NOTE 7 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated its June 30, 2017 financial statements for subsequent events through November 15, 2017 the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Management is not aware of any subsequent events which would require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

See independent auditors' report.

Thank You County Council members for your time and consideration. Hello, my name is Meredith Hochman, I am a Howard County resident and the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for FIRN. I have been with FIRN for a little less than 1 year. During that time I have been amazed by the work our staff does everyday to meet the growing needs of Howard County's foreign-born community.

I am often asked what FIRN does for the community. We provide the community, whether foreign-born or not a sense of well-being. We make sure that no child or family in our community are too scared or unsure to access the services they need. We make sure your neighbor who just arrived in the U.S. understands how to register their kids for school, what documents they need to get food assistance and how they can apply for a job. We help them become self-sufficient and begin to see themselves as a vital part of Howard County. I think we can all agree that no one benefits when there are people in our community who feel left out or unwanted, when we have families who are hungry or who cant effectively advocate for their kids at school or at the doctor because they don't speak English. FIRN works to meet those needs, which helps strengthen our community.

I would be leaving out a large part of what we do at FIRN if I didn't talk a little bit about our immigration services. As many of you know of the approximately 1200 non-profits FIRN is the only non-profit in Howard County who provides immigration services. For many of the close to 60,000 foreign-born Howard County residents our staff of 4 immigration counselors and attorneys are the only place they can turn to get help during some of the most challenging times of their life. Describing what this service means to the community isn't easy, so I am going to tell you Maria's story in her own words. Maria's story is a reminder that we never know exactly what our community members are struggling to get through and why they need and deserve the support of agencies such as FIRN.

Maria's sister is described in a news article as follows, "a hardworking immigrant who dreamed of building a prosperous life," "cheerful, fun loving wife and doting mother of a 7 year old son, she belonged to several church groups." Tragically, on an ordinary day in October of 2002 Maria's sister was shot in the head and killed by the DC sniper while waiting for a bus to get to work.

Maria was forced to cope with her sister's death and simultaneously took on the responsibility of raising her 7 year old nephew alongside her own family. She has been an unsung hero for years and words could never suffice to describe what she and her family has been through.

Now, over 15 years after her sister's tragic death, Maria's immigration status and her ability to remain in the US is in jeopardy. The decision to eliminate Temporary Protected Status, made earlier this year, has direct implications for Maria. Yet again, life has taken a traumatic turn. Maria came to FIRN seeking help and FIRN is committed to working tirelessly to secure her an opportunity to remain in the US.

Maria, and many others, need experienced legal counsel to navigate the confusing, complicated waters of immigration. When a private immigration attorney is not within an individual's means, it is organizations like FIRN that step in to make sure they are not alone. We ask that you help us continue to make sure that legal help is available to everyone.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE HOWARD COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2019
EXECUTIVE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

May 1, 2018

County Council Chair Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening Chair Sigaty, Vice Chair Ball, and County Councilmembers:

My name is Stephanie Guzmán and I am the Director of Client Services at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS). I am here tonight to thank you for your commitment of \$15,000 in Community Service Partnership (CSP) funding to LARS in the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 County Operating Budget. Your support over the last several years plays a critical role in supporting the programs and services we provide to Laurel residents of Howard County who are facing a crisis.

Currently, almost one in ten Laurel residents live below the poverty line¹, and many who live above it are barely breaking even. Families live paycheck-to-paycheck and are often one unexpected expense or emergency away from eviction or homelessness. This experience is mirrored among the families we serve. 60% of the families LARS assists earn less than \$2,000 a month in gross income. Over half rent their homes and one-fifth are currently experiencing homelessness². When you consider that the average monthly amount our clients pay for rent is \$1,200³, or 60% of their income, it is no surprise³ that residents struggle to attain and maintain housing after an unexpected expense or emergency.

For households facing unexpected challenges, LARS provides a critical safety net through an array of emergency assistance services including food, financial assistance, case management, resource referral, as well as permanent housing and self-sufficiency programs. Chief among our

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

² Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc., Client Demographics Report, January 2018-April 2018.

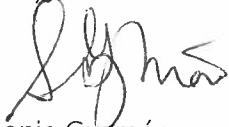
³ Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc., Client Financial Assistance Report, January 2018-April 2018.

emergency assistance services is LARS's financial assistance program which provides residents with short-term rental assistance to help them stay in or move into their homes.

Unexpected emergencies do not consider jurisdictional boundaries. Although our office is physically located in Prince George's County, LARS assists a number of Howard County Laurel residents and people experiencing homelessness. CSP funding has played a vital role in LARS' ability to assist these individuals and families. In Fiscal Year 2017⁴, LARS processed over 200 requests for assistance from Howard County-connected households. In total, CSP funds enabled LARS to assist 142 families with food assistance and 128 households with referrals to community support services. Nine households were financially assisted with securing permanent housing, avoiding an eviction, or maintaining or restoring power to their homes. An additional five households were financially assisted using other LARS funding sources.

We appreciate the County's support of \$15,000 as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2019 County Operating Budget. We respectfully request that the County Council continue supporting LARS at this level so that we can continue assisting our neighbors with building a more stable life for themselves and their loved ones.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Guzmán

Director of Client Services

sguzman@laureladvocacy.org

⁴ Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc., Fiscal Year 2017 CSP Financial Assistance Report, 2017.

Bruce A. Eberle
6586 Guilford Road
Clarksville, MD 21029
631-807-2350
bruce_eberle@msn.com

I am a member of Trout Unlimited, a nationwide coldwater conservation organization. Maryland's native fresh water fish is the Trout. The Trout needs cold, clean and clear water to survive. Recently I and six other residents assisted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to stock trout in the Patuxent River. Both the Lower and Middle branches of the Patuxent River in Howard County provided recreational fishing opportunities for kids and county residents who have a fishing license. I was elected to serve on Trout Unlimited's nationwide committee named Embrace a Stream. The duty of the EAS Committee is to review grant applications from over 250 Chapters from 35 states and provided funds and technical assistance for stream rehabilitation or restoration depending on stream condition. I have been involved in the work of rehabilitating habitat and have collected and studied the "bugs" in our streams to help determine what makes a healthy stream. After more than twenty years working to understand and improve sections of streams and habitat for fish and bugs it finally dawned on me that working at the watershed level to improve the health of our streams and water quality would have a more lasting effect.

I applied for admittance into the second class of the Howard County Watershed Academy. The Academy gave me a glimpse of issues at the watershed level. The scope to the issues facing us and the next generation are significant. The Howard County Watershed Academy gave me the skills, resources, contacts, support, targets and encouragement to work with county residents and employees to deal with those issues.

Academy graduates are trained and encouraged to take positive steps and to encourage others to do likewise. I have a number of rain barrels of different colors and shapes at my home as example for neighbors. I have assisted county residents in obtaining and setting up rain barrels on their property. My next door neighbor followed my example and created a rain garden in his front yard. Stenciling a message "Drains to the Patuxent River" on community storm drain caused a number of residents to realize that the nearby waterway actually had a name, and resulted in some repair of damaged drains. School children have been so concerned about spilled paint that might go down the drain that I often assign another student to hold a rag to augment the drop cloth under the drain being painted.

The Watershed Academy in Anne Arundel County is administered by five full time staff funded by the County. The H2O program in Montgomery County is also funded by the County.

I believe Howard County should step up and take a responsible position to fund the Watershed Academy staff to allow the Academy's continued operation. I request that the Howard County Watershed Academy be included in this budget and in future Howard County budgets.

Howard County Budget Testimony 3/8/2018 in support of Fiscal Year 2019

Title of Testimony: Support of budget for the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (part of University of Maryland Extension request to include this program)

My name is Alan Pflugrad.

I live at 7454 First League Columbia Maryland 21046.

As a volunteer Howard County Master Watershed Steward since 2013, I have supported the outreach, education and implementation of practices that improve our watersheds.

For example, in partnership with the Maryland DNR and the Columbia Association, my volunteer colleagues and I have conducted stream surveys throughout Howard County and briefed the results to the neighborhoods adjacent to those streams.

Do you know the quality of our county's streams?

Well I have that data on many streams collected over a five year period, and for those in urban areas, the quality is "very poor". The data also indicates that the commensurate implementation of best practices may be improving the quality of some of the streams (from "very poor" to "poor").

Watershed steward volunteers would not be able to perform tasks like these without some professional staff for training and coordination.

Thus for just a little bit of money (i. e. a relatively small ~~grant~~ increase to the University of Maryland Extension Office), the county gets over a thousand hours of effective volunteer time that are making a difference in our watershed quality.

I close with a couple rhetorical questions?

- Should you wade in our streams after a thunderstorm?
- Can our public county offices resolve our watershed problems by themselves?
- Is the federal funding and support for clean water under assault?

Please enable our local volunteers to be trained and deployed effectively.

Thank you.

Hayley Hamilton, Master Watershed Steward, Howard County
9477 Cameldriver Court
Columbia, MD 21045
(209) 642-2806
hayley.m.swearingen@gmail.com

08 March 2018

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive, Howard County
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Mr. Kittleman and administration members,

I am a California native brought to Maryland by the U.S. Navy in 2015. I learned about the HoCo Watershed Stewards Academy while researching the harmful effects of eutrophication in Centennial Lake and the Chesapeake Bay for a college paper I was writing. I have a degree in Cybersecurity and have no formal education in the environmental sciences field, but I have a deep love for the environment and so I joined Class Five of the WSA in September 2016. For the next six months, my classmates and I were taught how we could educate our community and make a difference in the local environment and since then, I have personally performed several HSAs, implemented two BMPs in the Lakeside/Dockside community at Lake Elkhorn, and educated my Girl Scout troop of Daisies and Brownies (grades 2 & 3) on how they can help protect the streams and lakes in Howard County. In November 2017, I purchased a home in the Oakland Mills Village and will be installing BMPs on my property in the Spring, which I can use to reach out to my neighbors and spread the word in the village. These activities are only a fraction of the storm water management education and implementation initiatives performed by Master Watershed Stewards.

In my last year and half with the WSA, I have personally witnessed the dedication that the Program Coordinator, Terry Matthews, has to this organization, the success of its graduates, and the positive change affected in the community. I understand that the council must determine the criticality of the positions funded by the FY 2019 budget, but I am here to voice my opinion that the WSA would not be the organization that it is today without the direction and leadership provided by the Program Coordinator position held by Terry. From advertising the Academy, recruiting members, coordinating each educational opportunity, facilitating community relationships, mentoring the stewards with an abundance of knowledge, and participating in every single WSA community event, the reach of his service to Howard County, the WSA, and the local environment is unmatched. I hope that you consider the critical nature of this position and the effect that it has had in the last several years and its impact on the continued environmental advocacy in Howard County.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hayley Hamilton, Master Watershed Steward

COUNTY COUNCIL: Budget Public Hearing, May 1, 2018

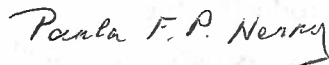
My name is Paula Henry and I live in Ellicott City. I work as a wildlife biologist for the Department of the Interior, but tonight I am here, not as a federal researcher, but as a citizen of Howard County, to add my support for funding the Watershed Steward Academy (WSA).

I had not heard of the WSA until last fall when I saw an announcement for the class at the Miller Library. I signed up because I know first-hand how unique and productive the Chesapeake Bay is from 6 years of research conducted on the eastern and western shores and the islands in between. Tonight, I present 3 reasons for why I believe it is critical to fund the WSA, and ultimately why the WSA saves money for the County in the long run.

1. The 12 week course is well worth the time and support. Lectures are presented by experts in the field of stormwater management and they cover local, state, and federal regulations, the science behind wastewater, and strategies for getting the Community involved. The WSA's focus is on how to ensure that water is filtered of excess nutrients and contaminants before it reaches the Bay. Ultimately, the message is how we can all contribute to the health of our watershed.
2. Everyone knows that if you want to get something done quickly and effectively, bring community groups together, explain how the issues can affect them and impact their kids in the future. There is no more powerful force than volunteers engaged on a mission. In this regard, the WSA is pretty clever: teach and train a few of us each year, and make it our mandate to show our neighbors by example and to spread the word at community events, schools, even at the County landfill. We talk about how rain gardens and conservation landscaping can help minimize flooding after a storm, and how these practices can be financially rewarding both short term through tax benefits, and long term by increasing property values. When WSA teaches kids how to sketch storm drains, they and their families learn to appreciate where the drains lead to, and how much water lost.
3. Finally, our efforts are working. In 1998, after 15 years of different strategies put forth by Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC and Pennsylvania to clean up the Chesapeake, the first State of the Bay report assessed its health a failing grade, 27/100. Granted it has taken over 35 years, but this past March, the National Academy of Sciences published a report presenting how nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are finally low enough to see a resurgent of the Bay's aquatic grasses. These are so critical to bringing back our native fishes, oysters, blue crabs, as well as a wealth of wildlife in terms of waterfowl and seabirds, and of course our State reptile, the Diamondback terrapin.

Although there are many other reasons for supporting the Watershed Steward Academy, my belief is that it is money well spent because of the caliber of the organization and the courses offered, the opportunity to recruit knowledgeable and free volunteers to help the County meet its goals, and finally because managing the watershed for nutrients, works. The Bay is getting cleaner - now is not the time to sit back and rest on our laurels.

Thank you for your attention.



Paula F. P. Henry, Ph.D.
2835 Rogers Avenue
Ellicott City, Maryland

Jonathan S. Lefcheck, Robert J. Orth, William C. Dennison, David J. Wilcox, Rebecca R. Murphy, Jennifer Keisman, Cassie Gurbisz, Michael Hannam, J. Brooke Landry, Kenneth A. Moore, Christopher J. Patrick, Jeremy Testa, Donald E. Weller, Richard A. Batiuk
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Mar 2018, 201715798; DOI:10.1073/pnas.1715798115

Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC)

Speaker: Phillip C. Cho, Chairman of the BOD, KCSC

Good Afternoon, Chairman Sigaty and Council members. I am Phillip Cho, Chairman of Korean Community Service Center's Board of Directors and a proud Marylander for the last 40 years. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and friends of KCSC, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for Howard County's support for Korean community.

KCSC has been serving the communities around Washington Metropolitan Area for last 45 years. KCSC's mission is to assist and empower Asian Americans and new immigrants to become well-adjusted and fully contributing members of the United States through social services, education, advocacy, and development of resources. KCSC's primary goal is to serve as a bridge between Asian community residents and mainstream society in order to build communication and mutual understanding. During the last fiscal year, KCSC served nearly 16,000 cases including residents from Howard County. Our professional bilingual staff work very hard to provide clients with high quality and culturally competent services. At the same time, their goal is to help clients understand US society and culture so they can quickly and smoothly adapt to life in the United States.

According to a recent report from Pew Research Center, Asians are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States. Howard County is home to 57,393 Asian residents. In particular, the number of Korean immigrants living in Howard County has more than doubled over the last 15 years, with the most recent data showing a population of 13,626 Koreansⁱ, a 110% increase over the Census 2000 population of 6,487. Because a growing number of KCSC's clients have moved to Howard County, we made the decision to open a new office in Ellicott City this past year. In fact, Koreans make up just over 7% of Ellicott City residents, one of the most densely Korean-populated towns in the entire stateⁱⁱ.

KCSC strives to be a "one-stop" shopping for all community members. We have a wide range of services including: social services, immigration legal services, and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and financial exploitation. KCSC also offers many classes and workshops, teaching everything from English, computer skills, and citizenship classes, job interview preparation classes to workshops on healthy marriages and relationships or parenting. We even have line dancing for seniors! Our health promotion program includes two annual Health Fairs, a weekly community health clinic, and psychiatric services. KCSC also helps clients to access health care by enrolling those who are eligible in Medicaid and Medicare, Medicare Part D and other Affordable Care Act health insurance providers. In addition to serving the Korean community, KCSC has expanded many of our services to Chinese and Vietnamese residents and other underserved ethnic and mainstream populations.

Howard County's Community Service Partnership Operating Funds will allow KCSC to provide comprehensive social services to low-to-moderate income, limited English proficient individuals and families, promoting self-sufficiency and helping them become contributing community members. In order for the clients to access appropriate services, 28 full-time bi-lingual staff

members assist them every step of the process from gathering required information, to filing applications, referring them to additional resources, and resolving any outstanding matters. Of course our clients come to KCSC to access services that help to improve their day-to-day lives but, more importantly, they crave emotional support and cultural and linguistic understanding. When they know that they are not alone and that we are here to provide adequate support in a culturally acceptable way, clients open up and make a change for a better future.

One of KCSC's most impactful programs is our Safety Net program. I'd like to share a story of one of our recent Safety Net clients:

Last year, Mr. M's business started to fail. After struggling financially for many months, he found he could no longer afford to pay the rent. The family started to receive eviction notices and Mr. M was terrified that his family would have to move out of their home. Just as he was starting to lose hope, he learned of KCSC's Safety Net Project and he came to our office to apply for emergency relief. Luckily, we were able to provide him with financial support, funded entirely through individual donors and congregations. He received three months' of rental assistance, grocery coupons, and transportation support so he could get to job interviews. The social service staff comforted them in their time of need and provided them guidance, encouragement, and practical support. They continued to work closely with him and his wife to help them get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Mr. M. told us how much he and his family appreciated KCSC's support. Mr. M. was also very grateful to the local donors and funders who made the Safety Net project possible.

We are proud of the positive impact we have on every client we serve. Working toward a better and healthier community is an on-going process. And we surely could not be successful without the support of Howard County's councilmembers. Again, thank you so much for your commitment and support to KCSC and the Korean community.

ⁱ 2015 American Community Survey.

ⁱⁱ CNN Money, Nov. 12, 2015

Date: 1 May 2018

Subject: County Council Approval of County Hospital Funding

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. I reside at 8709 Yellow Bird Court Laurel, MD. 20723.

The Health of our County is in your hands and we ask you to simply assist by providing your constituents a potential healthier environment for the betterment of all. Please see this request is your top priority. It would go a long ways to ensure our quality of life is the prime concern of the County and the necessary action will be taken. We simply need to be fully prepared for our future and this future is now!

We the HCCA, appreciate that County Executive, Kittleman had the hospitality to provide our only hospital with some appropriate funding. As you know, HCCA for many years has been a major advocate regarding Quality of Life issues. When the President of the Hospital, Steve Snelgrove states. "The hospital is not the right size for the community we serve. And despite operating at capacity, we are planning to care for a senior population that will double in a decade, while also keeping pace with the county's population growth. It should be abundantly clear by now that Howard County's health care environment needs have outpaced the hospital's resources and without action now, our quality of life will be eroded. Many residents ask whether Howard County General Hospital has the capacity to accommodate expected growth and an aging population. The frank answer is we do not." The combination of this quote with the daunting 2016 statistics found on their website is enough to not hesitate to approve the County Executive's recommendation. Just to highlight these statistics the Hospital provided services to approximately 220,000 people or 69% of the County Population and Evaluated and treated 78,072 patients in the Emergency Rooms or 25% of the County Population. We simply cannot afford to continue to develop without any real strategic planning. Certainly the Health and Safety of your constituents need to come first.

In conclusion, we request all Council Members perform the necessary surgery to prevent the patient, us, from bleeding to death. With your scalpels, in this case, your pen it would undoubtedly be the right thing to do for the future. This funding as read from the report will support the Hospital's capital project by agreeing to provide \$5 million over the next five years, starting with \$500,000 this year. The money will be used to build a two-story addition that will add 30 inpatient beds, an inpatient psychiatry unit and a short-stay observation unit. For the third year, the county will provide \$312,500 for emergency room improvements, which will total \$1.25 million after next year's fourth and final installment.

You have heard this before from us. The Hospital should be part of APFO as we have been stating for years as it is part of our infrastructure as are Roads and Schools. However, for now the most important item is for you to pass this major funding request. It would do a world of good for us all with the goal to reach a healthier environment.

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Testimony to the Howard County Council –May 1, 2018

Given by: Ayesha B. Holmes, Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

Before I begin my remarks about Grassroots, I want to express my thanks to the County Council for your unwavering support of human services organizations and the people we strive to serve.

Working with Howard County's most vulnerable individuals and families can be daunting, but every day something happens that reminds us why we do what we do. We work through the struggles and celebrate successes when people regain their independence and focus. You make it possible for us to provide support during difficult times. Thank you for that.

A recent success story involves a multi-generational family that had been disrupted and separated from each other through homelessness for a full decade, some living in cars, others couch surfing, moving from shelter to shelter. Some members came to Grassroots, then others were brought to the shelter, where they all lived while the working adults saved money. With the help of counselors and hard work on their part, the reunited family is now together in their own apartment for the first time in 10 years.

Over its 49-year history, Grassroots has evolved from a volunteer-run hotline tasked to help students with drug problems to a 24-7 crisis intervention center serving individuals and families experiencing a personal, situational, mental health or housing crisis.

We are the single point of entry for the Coordinated System of Homeless Services. In a given month, Grassroots crisis staff completes **over 100 homeless assessments**.

The **Emergency Shelter served 280 people last year, including 86 children**. Few of our residents are employed when they enter the shelter, many have a mental health problems, serious medical condition or an addiction problem. Their stay is centered on addressing these issues, and 65% have a positive resolution upon discharge, including finding housing.

During the brutal winter this year, the **Cold Weather Shelter** partnership between Grassroots and the faith community provided safe and warm quarters in churches and synagogues for up to 25 individuals and families each night. On the very worst nights, we sheltered up to 25 additional people at the Freetown Road location, turning our counseling rooms and hallways into bedrooms on Code Blue nights.

The Day Resource Center, at the new Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center, is serving an average of 90 people per day. We expect to serve well over **1,000 NEW** individuals by June 30, when our fiscal year ends.

Through a partnership with Howard County Community College, we are able to offer Pre-GED classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Office of Workforce Development meets with individuals to get them job ready. These exciting partnerships are just the beginning of what we hope to do in the future.

In addition to the services for the homeless community, Grassroots' call center handled **37,591 crisis calls**, an increase of **43%** over a three-year period. These calls came from all age and income groups and range from referrals to suicide prevention counseling.

There were **2,486 face-to-face contacts**.

The Mobile Crisis Team, which responds to emergency requests from the community, made **943 responses last year, 165 to Howard County Public Schools**, a 26% increase over the previous year.

The most significant challenge facing Grassroots is keeping up with the demand for services, which increases daily. Most recently we entered into a partnership with the Howard County Health Department to help address opiate epidemic. Grassroots offers on site screenings for individuals ready for treatment. We also keep in touch with people until a bed is available and help them get to and return from treatment. The cycle of addiction is a challenging one, we hope that by providing a caring place to start, the process of detox and eventually long term sobriety, we can help people achieve their personal goals.

Grassroots has a history of responding to need in the county by partnering with county government and other local agencies when asked to do so. This is only possible if funding matches the expansion in services that are requested.

For FY19 we seek funding to be able to add staff at the Day Resource Center in response to increased need there, and to add a second finance person to assist with accounting as recommended by auditors.

Once again, I thank the Council for the opportunity to present and for your support of Grassroots and the people we serve.



Testimony to Howard County Counsel May 1, 2018
By: Ann Heavner
Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Howard County

On behalf of the board of directors, advisory board, low income homeowner clients and thousand volunteers of Rebuilding Together Howard County, I am testifying in support of the county executives' inclusion of a \$60,000 Community Service Partnership grant for Rebuilding Together and a One Time Grant of \$2,000.

Organization's History:

Rebuilding Together Howard County is celebrating its 26th year of providing low income homeowners with free home repairs. Since the organization's inception in 1992, our local affiliate has provided assistance to families with small children, the elderly, disabled individuals, and veterans in need. During the last 26 years, the organization has repaired over 950 homes of low income homeowners with approximately 1,000 volunteers each year. Our repairs allow seniors to age in place.

Mission and Goals:

Rebuilding Together Howard County's mission statement is: Repairing homes. Revitalizing Communities. Rebuilding Lives.

Organizational Strengths:

Rebuilding Together is growing. We now offer four types of services. The first type of service is **Year Round Home Repairs**. This past Saturday, April 28th, hundreds of Rebuilding Together volunteers repaired 29 houses including 1 non-profit facility. New roofs, windows, bathrooms, plumbing, floors and other repairs were installed free of charge for low income homeowners. The average income of the families we help is \$30,000 a year. One home was repaired via a Sears Heroes At Home Grant for a Navy veteran and his family. This home had multiple holes in the floor, a leaking roof, and a collapsing ceiling. Rebuilding Together installed a new roof, built a new floor and fixed the ceiling. The family was very grateful.

The second type of service offered is **Urgent Repairs**. Within the last year, the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services decided to no longer provide urgent repairs to low income homeowners. Instead, those clients in need are now referred to Rebuilding Together. Recently, we provided plumbing repairs to an elderly couple without water, a new roof to a homeowner who had a tree fall on their house, 6 Heating and Air Conditioning systems, a new hot water heater to replace a

Rebuilding Together® Howard County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, EIN 52-1748888

The nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities



malfunctioning one, repaired two different sets of frozen pipes during the winter and corrected a sewer backup problem to name a few.

The third type of service provided is **Community Revitalization**. This is where we focus our repairs in one community and this past year that community was Ellicott City. The terrible flood left several low income homeowners with homes that were not safe, warm or dry. Rebuilding Together joined the One Ellicott City Recovery Project board and went to work. We repaired 9 flood victim homes (3 this past Saturday). Attached are before and after photos of a kitchen we repaired as well as a home that was in need of new siding, windows and roof.

The fourth type of service is **Handyman Services**. Sometimes homeowners need a small repair that does not warrant sending a team of volunteers to fix. So, Rebuilding Together has a group of 15 volunteers who address these issues. For example, a roof vent fell off an elderly woman's house and she was worried squirrels would get into her attic, so we sent a volunteer over to reinstall the roof vent. Another example is the installation of a new garbage disposal to replace one that would not work. While our volunteers are in the home, they sometimes see other repairs that are needed and add them to the list.

New in 2018

In order to quantify and track the impact of our services, Rebuilding Together began a Safe and Healthy Housing Program. We evaluate each house we repair based on 25 different characteristics to include the roof, hot water heater, grab bars, smoke alarms, etc... This process is similar to a home inspection when you buy a house. The plan is to evaluate the home before and after repairs are made, in order to track the impact of the repairs provided, with the goal to transition the structure to a safe and healthy house.

In closing, Rebuilding Together Howard County greatly appreciates the help and financial support provided by this Community Service Partnership Grant.

Rebuilding Together Howard County
8775 Centre Park Drive #519
Columbia, Md. 21045
410-381-3338

Rebuilding Together® Howard County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Corporation, EIN 52-1748888

The nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities

Exterior flood victim home after new siding, roof and windows.



Before



Kitchen of house EC-15 Before and After





Public Hearing – Operating Budget FY 19
Testimony from HopeWorks of Howard County

May 1, 2017

Dear County Council Members,

As you know HopeWorks of Howard County is our county's primary human service organization tasked with addressing sexual and intimate partner violence in our community. We work to make Howard County residents safer through our customized and comprehensive client services as well as our public education, wellness programming and prevention work. We have been providing services for those affected by intimate partner violence since 1978 and sexual violence since 2010. This past fiscal year we served 3,897 people in our county who requested our direct services and we reached an additional 3,409 through our community engagement programs.

We are very proud of our accomplishments in this past year. During FY18, we have:

- Improved our response to those who have been victims of human trafficking;
- Opened our third transitional housing site; and
- Conducted extensive staff training centered on organizational equity and inclusion.

We still have some exciting projects planned before the fiscal year is over and would like to invite you attend our Telling this Truth Theatrical Event on June 21st. This is our latest collaboration with the Howard County Arts Council to utilize the arts as a path to justice and healing.

After three years of level funding requests, we did ask the County for increased support and are very pleased with what is proposed in the operating budget. We plan to use this increase to:

- Continue our anti-trafficking coordinator position that was originally funded with one-time startup funds that will expired in FY19;
- Support the increased costs of maintaining a third transitional housing site; and
- Provide some salary adjustments and cost of living increases to our staff who work tremendously hard for pay that is well below market value.

We are very proud of what we offer to the community and we cannot provided these services without the continued partnership and the financial support of the County. Thank you to the Council for being part of this collaboration and your ongoing affirmation of the importance of our work.

We ask that you approve the Community Services Partnership grants program budget including the fund levels allocated to HopeWorks. Thank you so much for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Pollitt Hill, MSW
Executive Director

Telling ^{THIS} Truth

Theatrical Event
Thursday, June 21, 2018
7:00 p.m.

beautifully divergent in voice and experience

Slayton House Theatre

10400 Cross Fox Lane
Columbia, MD 21044



To Reserve Tickets: wearehopeworks.org/events

a free event but donations are kindly accepted

Call 410.997.0304 for information



Vanita Leatherwood creator/producer

Judy Templeton director

the soulful journeys of our lives...linked in triumph

a HopeWorks production, made possible by the Howard County Arts Council through a grant from Howard County Government

wearehopeworks.org



Howard County Council's Budget Hearing
April 25, 2018

Testimony in support of Howard County Library System

Louise Riemer

Chair, Howard County Library System Board of Trustees

Good evening. I am Louise Riemer, Chair of the Howard County Library System Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCLS.

As a strong advocate, you know the ways education promotes economic development, and contributes to our County's reputation for excellence. The Board is proud that Howard County Library System has become synonymous with high-quality public education for all. Our achievements are due in large part to you, as public funding makes us possible.

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend the recent grand openings of the East Columbia and Elkridge Branches. At East Columbia, the new teen center has attracted twice as many students as before, filling the space with elementary and middle school students working on homework projects every day and participating in HiTech classes. The size of the crowd for the Elkridge grand opening was on par with crowds for Black Friday doorbuster sales – it took more than 15 minutes for customers to enter the building following the ribbon cutting. They were thrilled with the new branch and eager to see the new DIY Education Center, borrow tools, books, movies, and music, attend classes, use the computers, and simply enjoy the wonderful new space. Thank you for your steadfast support of these two projects.

We now turn our attention to minor updates needed at our Glenwood Branch, which is nearing 20 years of age. Specifically, we need to add study rooms and classrooms, as well as update some of the very well-worn floors and surfaces throughout the building. One customer, an eighth grade student at Glenwood Middle School, commented, *"Having a study/project room would be useful because of lot of kids meet up and walk after school and have to discuss projects."*

Thank you for investing in our branches and for the many ways you demonstrate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Riemer



Howard County Council Budget Hearing

April 25, 2018

Testimony in support of Howard County Library System

Tonya Kennon

President & CEO, Howard County Library System

Good evening. I am Tonya Kennon, President & CEO at Howard County Library System. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Howard County's more than 300,000 residents. They, like you, place a high priority on education—at all stages of life. I will speak to HCLS' operating budget request, while our Board Chair will address the capital budget.

Our proposed FY 19 budget places a high priority on a first-rate team of educators and support staff. We also look to sustain HCLS' popular instructional opportunities available through the many facets of our curriculum.

Howard Countians visited our six branches nearly 2 million times last year to borrow 8 million items—the highest borrowing per capita in the state and among the highest in the country. They also received expert research assistance 1.5 million times, and attended our classes and events 340,000 times – a 10 percent increase over last year. Classes such as Spring Science for preschoolers; Crazy 8s Math Club for elementary school students; HiTech and Homework Clubs for teens; and DIY classes at our new Elkridge Branch & DIY Education Center for adults, to name but a few.

We thank the school system for collaborating with us to present academic competitions such as the HCLS Spelling Bee and its BumbleBee companion. We eagerly await Saketh Sundar's third consecutive appearance representing Howard County in the National Spelling Bee next month. Nearly 250 fourth and fifth graders have enrolled in the Rube Goldberg Challenge to complete an assignment requiring them to fill and close a container. And, as a number of you recently experienced, Battle of the Books included more than 300 enthusiastic teams (one-third of Howard County fifth graders!) competing not only for best score, but also awards for team spirit, name, and costume. This scholarly challenge has become a rite of passage for middle schoolers that improves reading comprehension, builds vocabulary, and teaches teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Lastly, as dissonance and partisanship continue to mark our national conversations, Choose Civility remains a vital platform for advocating for respect, collaboration, and unity, throughout Howard and the State. We invite you to the second annual Longest Table on June 16. Come share a meal, exchange stories, and build community with 500 people from across the county.

These are just a few examples of the hundreds of classes and events our community expects from its top-rated library system. Our budget represents less than two percent of the County's overall budget—a small contribution for a great return.

We appreciate that the County Executive's proposed FY 19 Operating Budget includes a 3.1 percent increase in County funding. This enables us to place a high priority on our first-rate team of educators and support staff. Our commitment to you—and to this community—is to deliver the best curriculum possible for as many as possible with the funding we receive.

We are proud to contribute in a major way to Howard County's reputation of providing excellence in education. A strong investment in public education for all is a strong investment in the economic success of Howard County,



today and in the future. Thank you for your continued confidence in Howard County Library System, and through that support, your commitment to our community's students of all ages.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Kennon



10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044-3197
443-518-1000
MD Relay 711
www.howardcc.edu

Testimony from Mamie Perkins

Chair, Howard Community College Board of Trustees

Howard County Council Budget Hearing

April 25, 2018

Good evening, Chair Sigaty and members of the Council. I am Mamie Perkins, a Marriottsville resident and chair of Howard Community College's board of trustees. I appreciate this opportunity to speak tonight on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the college.

Serving 30,000 credit and noncredit students each year takes a toll on HCC's infrastructure, which is why the board asks for your support of the following capital budget recommendations made by the County Executive:

- **\$9.2 million to complete the renovation of the N and ST buildings.**

The academic programs previously housed in these buildings now reside in the new Science, Engineering, and Technology Building, which provided a unique opportunity to renovate these older facilities to serve current student needs. The renovation includes instructional

and support space for social sciences and teacher education, expanded teaching culinary and hospitality labs, and collaborative learning spaces.

- **\$2 million for much-needed systemic renovations** that will upgrade vital systems on campus, enhance facilities, and improve campus signage.

Investing in HCC's operations and facilities pays dividends for the county government, taxpayers, and most importantly, students.

- For every \$1 allocated to HCC, the county government will see a 4.6 percent return on investment.
- Students earning a degree at HCC will increase their annual earnings by more than \$425,000 over the course of their working life.

These significant increases lead to a vibrant workforce and a stronger Howard County economy.

Thank you for the support you have shown over the years, and I look forward to your continued support for fiscal year 2019. Together, we will ensure HCC remains the best and most affordable higher education option for Howard County residents and their families.



10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044-3197
443-518-1000
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www.howardcc.edu

Testimony from Dr. Kathleen Hetherington

President, Howard Community College
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 25, 2018

Good evening, Chair Sigaty and County Councilmembers, I am Dr. Kate Hetherington, president of Howard Community College, and a resident of Columbia.

I am pleased to speak to you this evening on behalf of the faculty, staff, and 30,000 students at Howard Community College. Before I begin, I ask those who have joined me to please stand to be recognized.

Thank you.

Earlier this spring, I sat here before County Executive Kittleman to request an 8.55 percent increase in the college's operating budget, which reflected the realities of what it takes to educate students and support the outstanding faculty and staff who are so critical to student success. Tonight, I have returned

to request your approval of what the County Executive has proposed - a three percent increase over last year.

To accommodate this change, the college had to make difficult decisions, resulting in reallocations and major reductions. The college worked hard to maintain its top priorities: supporting and retaining our employees, while continuing to provide the best possible education for students.

The college cannot slow its efforts to help students, whether it is the student who strives to pull his family out of poverty, the honors student who needs an affordable education, or the adult learner who wants to get ahead in his career. Howard Community College's mission of providing pathways to success is working. Last May, more than 1,300 students received an associate degree or certificate - our highest graduation number ever! And looking across a seven-year period, the college's graduation rate increased a record 92 percent - the highest percentage increase among all of Maryland's 16 community colleges.

Students achieve these record numbers because of the commitment of faculty and staff inside and outside the classroom. Over the past nine years, Howard Community College has won the Great College to Work For - the only community college in the state of Maryland to receive such recognition! It is essential

that the college retain budgeted employees through regular merit increases. For next fiscal year, the college is proposing a 2.5 percent merit increase for budgeted employees. HCC does not give step increases or cost of living adjustments.

HCC's budget also calls for an increase in pay of \$25 per credit hour for adjunct faculty. This would mark the sixth adjunct faculty salary increase in a row, raising the rate for a Level 1 instructor to \$795 per credit hour, still below the rate of Prince George's Community College.

Looking at salary increases across the past three years, HCC is falling behind its peers. As our result, salary increases remain below our partner community college at the Laurel College Center - Prince George's Community College.

To support high enrollment for in-demand programs, the college would hire one new faculty member. Adding full-time faculty helps the college maintain excellence in the classroom, plus improve the college's full-time/part-time faculty ratio, which remains below the state recommended ratio of 50/50.

The college's revised budget includes funding to hire two new staff mid-year to help with the anticipated influx of hundreds more high school students through JumpStart, a partnership between HCC and the public schools.

The college is always mindful of the cost of college for students, but must also consider the funding necessary to meet the instructional and service needs of students. HCC is proposing a tuition increase of \$2 per credit hour for in-county students.

On behalf of our students and all those in Howard County who depend on HCC to provide a quality education, please support the County Executive's budget recommendation for a 3 percent increase in operating funding. An investment in Howard Community College is an investment in the current and future workforce of Howard County.

Thank you for your time tonight and for your past support, and I look forward to continued support in fiscal year 2019.



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www.howardcc.edu

Testimony from Anya Welsh

Student, Howard Community College
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 25, 2018

My name is Anya Welsh, and I am a resident of Columbia and a student at Howard Community College.

Fourteen years ago, when I was 20 years old, I gave up my life in the Ukraine and left my job as a pharmacist to move to the United States.

Things became more complicated after I became a single mother and had to find multiple jobs just to make ends meet. Struggling day in and day out inspired me to start over and pursue an education at Howard Community College. I wanted to change my daughter's life and mine for the better.

From the beginning, HCC has fit my lifestyle. While taking classes in my third language has been challenging, HCC provided me with all of the necessary resources and support that I needed to succeed. I have met wonderful professors, tutors, and support staff who have helped every step along the way. HCC has helped me to discover my inner self: my leadership skills, my self-esteem, my confidence and even my independence.

I also received tremendous support through Career Links, a program that helps single parents and low-income families, just like mine. Now, I serve as a peer mentor in the program, which lets me give back to HCC.

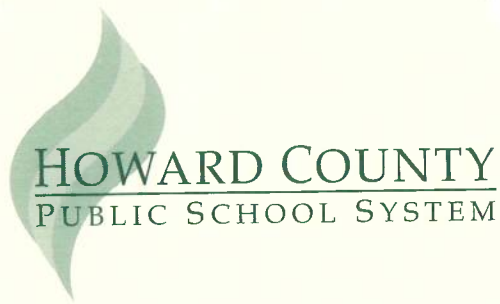
After much hard work, I am proud to be completing my studies in diagnostic medical sonography, which is one of the college's competitive clinical allied health

programs. I have succeeded in becoming a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and I will graduate this May with my associate degree.

As I look ahead, I hope to one day return to HCC to share my skills and inspire students to dream.

Thank you all for your continuous support of HCC. Not only are you investing in the future of students like me, but you are also investing in the future of our children.

Thank you.



**Board of Education Testimony
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
Wednesday, April 25, 2018**



**Board of Education
of Howard County**

Cynthia L. Vaillancourt
Chairman

Mavis Ellis
Vice Chairman

Bess Altwerger, Ed.D.

Kirsten A. Coombs

Christina Delmont-Small

Sandra H. French

Ananta Hejeebu

Anna Selbrede
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Interim Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

Good evening, Chairperson Sigaty and members of the Council. As Chairman of the Board of Education, I appreciate this opportunity to represent the Board and the school system, and to advocate for the county's 56,000 public school students.

An excellent school system is at the heart of a strong community, and is the engine that drives economic growth in our county. The Board appreciates the support that our schools have long enjoyed from our community and county government leaders. That support is the bedrock of our system, and is the reason why so many businesses and residents choose Howard County for the quality of our schools.

Providing maximum support for students and schools, while addressing the growing Employee Health Fund deficit, were the Board's primary priorities when preparing the school system budget request. We must act now to eliminate the structural imbalance in the Health Fund that, unaddressed, would continue to grow and is already on track to exceed \$50 million by next year. At the same time, we must provide for the resources and services that are essential to student achievement and well-being, but are out of reach for many students and families. These include nutritious food offerings and enhanced student supports and mental health services.

We must also continue to provide new, innovative learning opportunities for all students; move forward in giving all students equitable access to educational opportunity and resources; and invest in well-maintained facilities and infrastructure.

The Board of Education understands the fiscal pressures facing our local government. Preparing our budget request required many tough decisions to balance student and staff requirements with the urgent need to restore solvency to the Health Fund. Limiting student-teacher ratios is an important factor to student achievement, but we have made the difficult decision to increase class sizes for all grades. Other necessary compromises included eliminating the elementary world language program, postponing needed technology and infrastructure improvements, and reducing the numbers of new teachers and paraeducators in special education and other programs. We've pared expenses by restructuring and eliminated positions in the central office, and reducing funding for supplies and utilities.

The Board's FY 2019 Capital budget request provides for an accelerated opening for new High School #13 and completion of new Hanover Hills Elementary School, as well as a replacement for Talbott Springs Elementary School and necessary renovations and additions at Waverly Elementary and Hammond High School. These upgrades will relieve school overcapacity issues and provide for learning facilities well suited to current teaching and learning practices.

We are grateful to the County Council for your ongoing support. We look forward to working with you over the next several weeks to ensure our schools have the funding necessary to maintain the quality education that our students need and deserve, and that our community expects.



Cynthia L. Vaillancourt

Chairman, Howard County Board of Education

Superintendent's Testimony
Howard County Council Budget Hearing – Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Good evening, Chairperson Sigaty and members of the Council. The Howard County Public School System greatly appreciates the strong support we have historically received from our county government leaders. We appreciate your collaboration toward building an inclusive, nurturing environment and close opportunity gaps. This work, guided by our Strategic Call to Action, reflects the fundamental goals shared by our entire community: to educate, nurture and provide the best start in life for the 56,000 students in our system, and to sustain the staff members who are entrusted with our students' care.

We understand the pressures faced by county leaders in balancing the needs and priorities of all county agencies. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." A large and growing percentage of our community and students struggle with poverty, homelessness, disabilities, and language barriers. These students' best chance at a bright future, and the outlook for our entire county, depend upon our success in preparing all children with the skills and opportunities to build a prosperous life.

Our reach in expanding educational programs and services is constrained by the fiscal reality of a structural Health Fund imbalance that is the outcome of unsustainable budget decisions made over several years. As a result, the need to fully fund employee health care costs for the first time in 10 years required us to make very difficult decisions. Ideally, I would choose to devote the entire funding increase toward addressing the Health Fund shortage. In reality, while we work toward re-establishing our system on a firm financial footing, we must continue to provide for the overall well-being of our students, and address growing shortages of school nurses, social workers, and other student supports.

Our investments in services such as daily access to nutritious food, health care and high quality preschool are fundamental to achievement. Investments in school security are essential to the safety and well-being of students and staff. Investments in innovative new learning options, such as the JumpStart dual enrollment initiative and new career academies, widen doors to opportunity for all students. Investments in staff ensure full access to the high quality education, services and skilled care that every child needs to thrive. Investments in facilities support high quality instruction and ensure the equitable allocation of resources throughout our schools and county.

We recognize that many of our challenges cannot be addressed overnight, and we must take the long view in introducing new initiatives and resolving structural budget issues. We have taken a hard look at our organization and processes, and streamlined our operations to align our work more closely with schools and instruction. We have put forward a multi-year, fiscally manageable and sustainable plan to resolve the fund imbalance, reverse student services staffing shortages, and provide essential services for our students.

For our capital budget, we've taken an innovative approach that relieves classroom overcrowding while expanding educational opportunities for all students and providing learning facilities designed to support 21st century education. We value the input and support of our county leaders in crafting solutions to budgetary challenges that meet the needs and priorities of all stakeholders.

Our school system is uniquely fortunate in having strong community engagement, highly skilled educators, well-maintained facilities, and a county government deeply committed to education. I am grateful for the consistent support you have shown for our schools, and value your continued collaboration in building an even brighter future for our students.

Michael J. Martirano
Interim Superintendent

Good Evening. Thank you Council Members for giving me this opportunity to speak.

We are all here tonight to ask you for funding consideration of many worthwhile projects, I am no different. There is current and projected tremendous growth for HCPSS and there is incredible pressure to find space and provide services so that each and every student can benefit from the outstanding quality education received through the HCPSS. But as a county, we can-not forget that our school system is also aging at the same time it is growing. We shouldn't and can't ignore that we need to renovate and keep current schools up to education standards.

In particular I ask that you be mindful of one school that should have had their planned renovations near completion at this time, as they were originally budgeted for completion in 2018. I know that you have heard prior testimony outlining all the reasons Hammond High School is in need of renovations and without even touching on the projected growth in the eastern section of the county , so tonight I will just highlight a few of those reasons:

The Gilbert Study done in 2008, found that Hammond High School did not meet minimum education standards. In fact when you compare the deficiency rating for all the schools in the county, Hammond ranked 3rd worst. Both schools that ranked lower, have been renovated. In fact the schools that ranked 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th have all already been renovated...

The primary Hammond High deficiencies identified in the 2008 Gilbert study include:

The special education program area is undersized by 63%, the GT program area is undersized by 58%, the student support center is undersized by 42%, the health suite is undersized by 17.3%, there is no space or office for students to receive speech, occupational or other therapy services, there is no auxiliary gym and the current gym's floor cannot be resurfaced again, the report goes on... it is a true testimony to the Hammond staff and community that they are able to make the current building work as seamlessly as they do. There is a reason Hammond has received the Board of Education's teamwork award as many times as they have. It takes unbelievable teamwork to make it all work and yet still be nationally recognized as the amazing school that it is, as a school of opportunity that promotes the best in every student that attends.

We are incredibly thankful to the HCPSS staff and Board of Education for their correction of the oversight of Hammond's renovation, by including and passing an amended FY 2019 Capital Budget and FY 2020-2024 Capital Improvement plan and to Executive Kittleman for including money for planning for a renovation and addition to Hammond High in this budget. I ask that you do the same and fully fund the Hammond High School project.

Thank you,

Jennifer Lastova



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



April 25, 2018

Testimony on FY 19 HCPSS Capital and Operating Budgets

Good evening. My name is Jonathan Edelson. I am the Chairperson of the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors and I am representing the Association and its Education Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the HCPSS Capital and Operating Budgets.

As you know, we are very disappointed that the state is so far not providing the matching funds to replace Talbott Springs Elementary, and that the County Executive's capital budget proposal omits replacement language and instead calls for renovation. As you know, the Board of Education, the school staff, the Oakland Mills community, the Talbott Springs PTA, and the PTA Council of Howard County support full replacement of this aged facility that presents significant functional and even health challenges. We thank Ms. Terrasa and Dr. Ball for their advocacy and assistance in this matter. While we know you cannot change the form of the budget, we ask that you continue working with the County Executive and the state until all avenues of appeal are exhausted.

We also ask that you, as stewards of the county's finances, seek a satisfactory explanation for how this situation played out along with a plan from HCPSS to ensure this is handled more transparently and timely in the future. I have an MPIO request outstanding for all correspondence on the Talbott Springs CIP, but what we do know to date is that the IAC sent its rejection letter to the Director of School Construction on December 8, 2017. The school system sent a reply on February 8, 2018. The school system held a public meeting on February 20 where the only plan presented was a rebuild. Time and money were still being spent on the rebuild with no disclosure to the residents in attendance that it was in jeopardy. School staff and the community did not learn of the problem until March 29, as the Easter and Passover holiday weekend was getting underway and few were available to gather facts and start advocating for reconsideration.

Our community watched while situations like redistricting and high school 13 were given many hours of public debate, meetings, town halls, and media attention. Yet we were in the dark for nearly 4 months thinking that a school with 2 grades outside, failing HVAC, and repeated mold issues would be replaced. This is unacceptable, and we hope you will seek answers before granting more capital funds to projects that could go awry without transparency and timely communication.

p. 2, Oakland Mills Testimony, April 25, 2018

On the operating budget, we urge you to fund academic programs and staff salaries to the maximum you can. Especially important to Oakland Mills is retention of all day pre-K, which has measurable benefit to less advantaged children like the half who attend Talbott Springs or the two-thirds who attend Stevens Forest. We remain disappointed that other components of the Elementary School Model will be cut, and we hope that you can work with school leadership in the future to ensure equity in schools with challenged populations. Lately, there has been emphasis on school security including a controversial plan to increase police presence in schools. Such a plan also takes money, and we are investing less in programs designed to build a better future for our children while pursuing more programs that could further increase the racial and ethnic imbalance in disciplinary actions if we are not very, very careful. Howard County is known as a progressive county with a top notch education system. Budget cuts should not be regressive with greater impact on those who do not have the means to close the achievement gap through other channels.

Good evening. My name is Becky McKirahan. Our family lives off Mission road and our daughter is a current 9th grader at Hammond High School. I am here tonight to speak as a representative of Why Not Jessup in support of the 2019 Capital Budget for High school #13 and Hammond High School Renovations. The budget significantly accelerates the new 13th high school and the start of Hammond High School Renovation/Addition.

This past fall I started to see a lot of controversy surrounding the new high school. After Rockburn Park was rejected, the argument focused on Jessup with the prisons, mental hospitals, junkyards, sex trafficking and quarry.

On January 5th when Mission Road was taken off the table, we were shocked, as we looked at 77 acres of cleared land. I spent that first Monday calling as many people that I could. I learned the quarry still owned the land. It is zoned mixed use, and anything could go there. Several people told me that they 'didn't think Jessup cared, as no one had spoken up before.' As a family, we decided to speak up and be the change we wanted to see.

We were delighted to have neighbors, friends and community join our effort. Our Facebook group "Why Not Jessup" now has 350 members from all over the county. We read the environmental and air ambient studies. We toured the quarry and spoke to representatives at MDE Mining Program. We have walked Troy Park and met the White Family. We attended meetings, written countless emails, placed over 150 signs in the ground, shared dates and information with our local PTAs and handed out window clings. Our petition had over 595 signatures.

We respectfully acknowledge that Elkridge has a high volume of students and overcrowding at Howard. We are sorry that this same piece of property does not exist in their area. We are advocating for the 77 acres of land that had the MOU signed back in 2016 and was cleared, ready to proceed. We did not want to see anything else go on that land.

We were relieved when the Board of Education voted to approve Mission Road for High School #13. Mission Road will be a fantastic campus for two schools, park/recreation facilities and a water tower. It has passed all the testing and does not require the cost of grading of land.

As a community, we also support the start of the overdue Hammond High School Renovation/Addition to bring it up the standards of other high schools in Howard County. This Renovation is about more than 200 extra seats.

Deficiencies at Hammond High School:

- Special Education program undersized by 63.4%
- Student organization rooms are deficient by 64.2%
- GT undersized by 58.2%
- Staff lounge is undersized by 45.1%
- Student support center is undersized by 42.5%
- Guidance is undersized by 34.2% and is missing two offices.
- Music education program is undersized by 23.2%
- physical education program is undersized by 17.9% and no 2nd gym
- Nurse/health suite is undersized by 17.3%
- Art suite is undersized by 14.6%
- English language arts program is undersized by 10.4%
- We have no security vestibule

I had no idea when 2018 started what we were going to get involved in. We now understand the importance of staying involved in our community and what is happening around us, in all facets of our government. Thank you for allowing us to testify tonight.

We respect the County Council has a challenging task balance the needs of all of Howard County. We appreciate your continued support of education and to approve High School #13 and Hammond High School Renovations in the 2019 Capital Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky McKirahan

Jessup, MD

Thank you all for letting us testify here tonight. I appreciate the opportunity.

My name is Krista Threefoot and I am testifying on behalf of the Stevens Forest Elementary PTA. We'd like to ask that you support Mr. Kittleman's budget allocation to fully fund the Howard County Board of Education's request for the 2018-2019 school year.

But we would also like to express in a public forum our concerns that the budget request put forth by the Board of Education demonstrates a lack of support for equity in our schools.

Howard County Schools have a serious equity problem.

According to a university of Maryland study released last October, among ALL Maryland schools, the correlation between the percentage of students receiving FARMs assistance and low PARCC scores is the STRONGEST in Howard County, where a 10% increase in the number of students receiving assistance is associated with a 7% decrease in test scores.

The same is true for Howard County schools with high numbers of minority students: every 10 percentage point increase in the population of African American students in a school correlates with an 8 percentage point DECREASE in that school's PARCC scores.

In the second wealthiest county in the country, with one of the best school systems in the world, we are failing our most vulnerable students.

In the last few years, some efforts have been made to create programs that address the opportunity gap that exists in Howard County schools.

The Elementary School Model, particularly the world languages program, was implemented, with the idea that instruction in a second language would provide enrichment for kids whose families don't have the means to invest in extracurricular educational programs.

After a trial and error period that coincided with county-wide changes to curriculum and testing, world languages has become a valuable program. It provides an opportunity that our kids wouldn't otherwise have and enables schools like Stevens Forest to bridge the gap between our English- and Spanish-speaking communities, providing resources for our most marginalized students.

And now this budget is eliminating the program, on the basis that there was no evidence it was working – without providing any statistically valid reason to support that conclusion. The BOE has taken a program designed to close the opportunity gap and replaced it with *nothing*.

Other cuts the BOE has made in this budget also disproportionately affect Title 1 elementary schools. They added one student to class size limits, voting against a motion to exempt high-poverty schools from this requirement.

They voted to eliminate positions from the diversity and inclusion office.

And they seriously considered eliminating full-day PreK programs in certain Title 1 schools – even though full-day PreK is *proven* to promote equity in education.

Studies show that we have a problem with providing equal opportunities to disadvantaged students, and so does my personal experience.

Three years ago, my daughter's best friend moved from Stevens Forest to one of the wealthiest elementary schools in the county. When I last saw her mom, she told me stories about her daughter's friends and their Kumon classes and private tutors and elite gymnastics and track teams.

And then I told her about the awesome program we got last summer, where kids who otherwise wouldn't eat could come to Stevens Forest for a free lunch and weekend food boxes.

This is the disparity that exists in our county's schools.

As a PTA, it's our job to advocate for our students. I'd be failing my school if I didn't take this chance to put it on the record that we are disappointed with the budget our Board of Education has presented this year and frustrated with what we perceive as a lack of concern for our unique problems.

We appreciate the County Executive's decision to fully fund the request, and we hope the council follows suit, but we will not stop advocating for greater equity for our children and the children in schools like ours.



**Howard County Council Public Hearing
FY 2019 Capital Budget
April 25, 2018**

Testimony

Good evening Council Chair Sigaty and Council members. As chair of the Association of Community Services Public Policy Committee it is my privilege to offer support for several HCPSS projects that are included in the Executive Proposed FY 2019 Capital Budget.

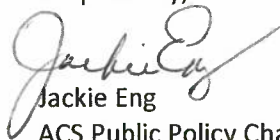
With our community's heightened awareness of the intrinsic link between quality schools and the availability of a full range of housing options, ACS is pleased with the extensive number of School System FY 2019 projects proposed in the Capital budget. The renovation, repair and replacement projects are critical to maintaining a strong system infrastructure.

In light of the legislated restrictions on housing development in the recently enacted Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, you will not be surprised that ACS is particularly supportive of **Projects E1045 and C0352**. The former will enable the System to manage the disbursement of "Relocatable Classrooms" to help ensure elementary, middle and high schools are within capacity to the degree possible. The latter project will enable purchase of property so the System can move forward with planning and design for the much needed high school that will serve our county's southeast population. Similarly, **Project C0359** will enable the County to acquire in FY 2019 the land necessary for construction of a new elementary school in the Turf Valley neighborhood of Ellicott City. Each of these projects, as they progress, will help the system manage school capacity thereby enabling Council consideration of housing, including affordable housing, development in these selected areas.

Admittedly not having the details of the rationale, we would like to express a concern about zeroing out FY 2019 funding for **Project E0989—Barrier-Free Projects**. There has been an investment (\$5.6 million) since 1989; and the investment picks up again in FY 2020 at \$200,000 per year through 2024. We have two questions. First, is there perhaps leftover funding to enable some projects in 2019? Second, will a long-term investment (FY2020-2024) of \$200,000 be sufficient to assure, as the project states, "school buildings and school sites accessible to the public, students, teachers and staff"?

It has been my privilege to offer this testimony on behalf of our 145 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates who help provide the safety net for thousands of vulnerable residents in our community. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Jackie Eng

ACS Public Policy Chairperson

China Williams
3425 Huntsmans Run, Ellicott City

I am here today to say as loudly and as clearly as possible that our public schools need to be fully funded. That means reducing class sizes, paying down deficits, building more capacity, and offering programs that help every child to succeed.

The current proposed budget from the County Executive is a 3.8% increase from last year. This is about \$50 million less than what the Superintendent requested and is the amount that is needed to pay down the balance of the health-fund debt by 2018.

The county council does not have the authority to increase spending but my ask for the record is for a one-time allocation of \$50 million to address the deficit. By eliminating this obligation, the school system would be fully funded. It is a big ask, but our students and teachers are worth it.

The Superintendent has proposed increasing class sizes by one, which will provide a savings of \$5.4 million. At my children's school, increased class sizes means that kindergarten will swell from 25 to 26 children. That is a lot of little people to teach to read, write and do math, as well as break up arguments, zip up coats, and give them love and attention so that they grow and learn. The teacher, no matter how skilled, is not able to deliver high-quality instruction and preparation. Crowd control replaces teaching. This is not just anecdote; data supports this perspective.

Additionally, our school will not be able to hire a much-needed third night-time custodian due to staff reductions. Our two night-time janitors would be unable to complete all of their regular duties in addition to clean-up after special events. This means that the extra steps taken to ensure hygiene and cleanliness in the school is reduced. When the janitors can't wipe down all the surfaces, the health of our children and staff suffers.

In the wake of the Parkland shooting, the Superintendent held a town hall meeting in which he outlined steps to ensure the safety of the children. He identified important emergency preparedness and crowd management issues but he did not mention our most important tool: teachers. Small class sizes allow for teachers to engage with ALL students, including those who are isolated, ostracized, and potentially violent. If the county is committed to school safety, then small class sizes should be a budget priority every year.

2019 HCPSS Budget

	Superintendent Request	\$ Increase	% Increase	\$ Amount toward debt
Operating	\$644.97 million	\$72.1 million	12.60%	\$50.5 million
Capital	\$79.73 million			

	County Executive's Budget	\$ Increase	% Increase	\$ Amount toward debt
Operating	\$594.5 million	\$21.6 million	3.80%	\$11 million
Capital	\$63.7 million			

	Difference
Operating	\$50.47 million
Capital	\$16.03 million

County Council Capital Budget 4/10/18

Fran LoPresti

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fflopresti@gmail.com

CO335 - New 50+ Center East Columbia

- The current Center, attached to the East Columbia Library, has 1 exercise room used for dance classes, strength training, tai chi, yoga and social gatherings. It is used for art classes with no access to water. Instead the bathroom is used for paintbrush cleaning. There are also 2 dinky little rooms for all other activities including tax services, lawyer services, all table games, art projects and meetings. There are often tables in the hallway to accommodate activities. It is and always has been totally inadequate for the ever-growing senior population in East Columbia. There are 30,000 Seniors age 50 and above living in Columbia. The county projects e more than 120,000 people will be over 50 by 2020; by 2030 that number is projected to be 133,000.– East Columbia has the largest concentration of Seniors in Howard County.
- On my cul de sac of 20 houses where I have lived for 37 years, 8 of those homes are owned by retirees.
- I have 7 copies of a petition with 166 signatures in support of a new Senior Center and Exercise Facility signed in 1 week. I am also submitting senior population growth charts and a support letter from the Owen Brown Village Board.
- We also have an advocacy group of over 50 seniors who are following this project. Two other group members will be testifying this evening. I have some other supporters of CO335 here that I would like to acknowledge.
- Grateful to see planning money for a new East Columbia 50+ Center with fitness facilities. in the capital budget. However, we urge you to accelerate this project given the cramped conditions of the current center and the ever-growing population. An Opening date at the end of FY22 is just too long. Remember we do not have all that much time left.
- FY20 is listed as the year for land acquisition. However, all of the sites being considered are already owned by the county. Thus, we ask that you

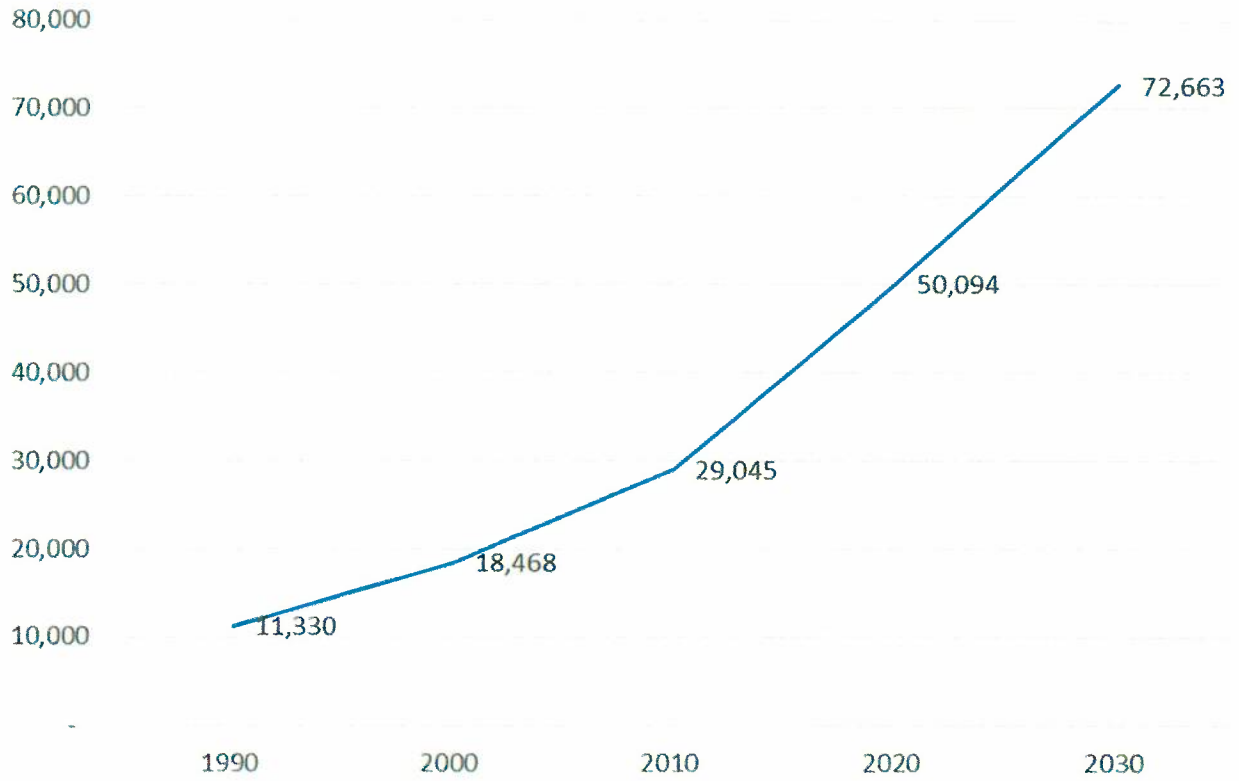
move \$1.5 million of the \$2.5 million of FY20 land acquisition funds into FY19 so that construction can begin in FY19 with a projected opening no later than FY21.

- Seniors vote, pay taxes, and use less resources in the county than other groups. The longer we delay the center, the more expensive it will be in the end. No cutting corners. Let's build a flagship center that is designed for future population growth.
- We endorse the construction in East Columbia. Please consider its proximity to the soon to be relocated Community Resources and Services Dept on Broken Land Parkway. Please also consider proximity to the East Columbia library as Seniors use library services.
- If the library site is chosen, we would also like to request that we do not lose services during construction. The classes with instructors must continue as well as the services offered by the current 50+ center.
- I thank you for the opportunity to express the needs and timeline for the new Senior Center in East Columbia

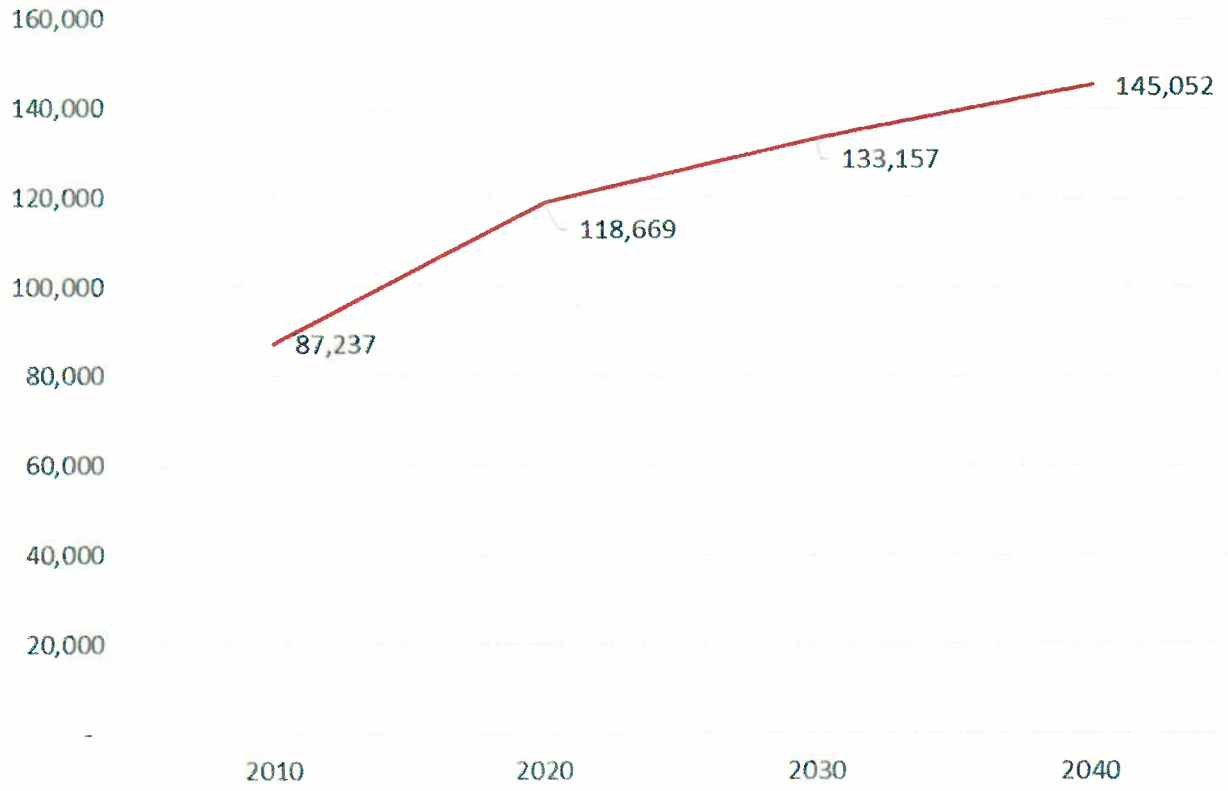
Ernest Hilsenrath, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart

HOWARD COUNTY AGING DATA

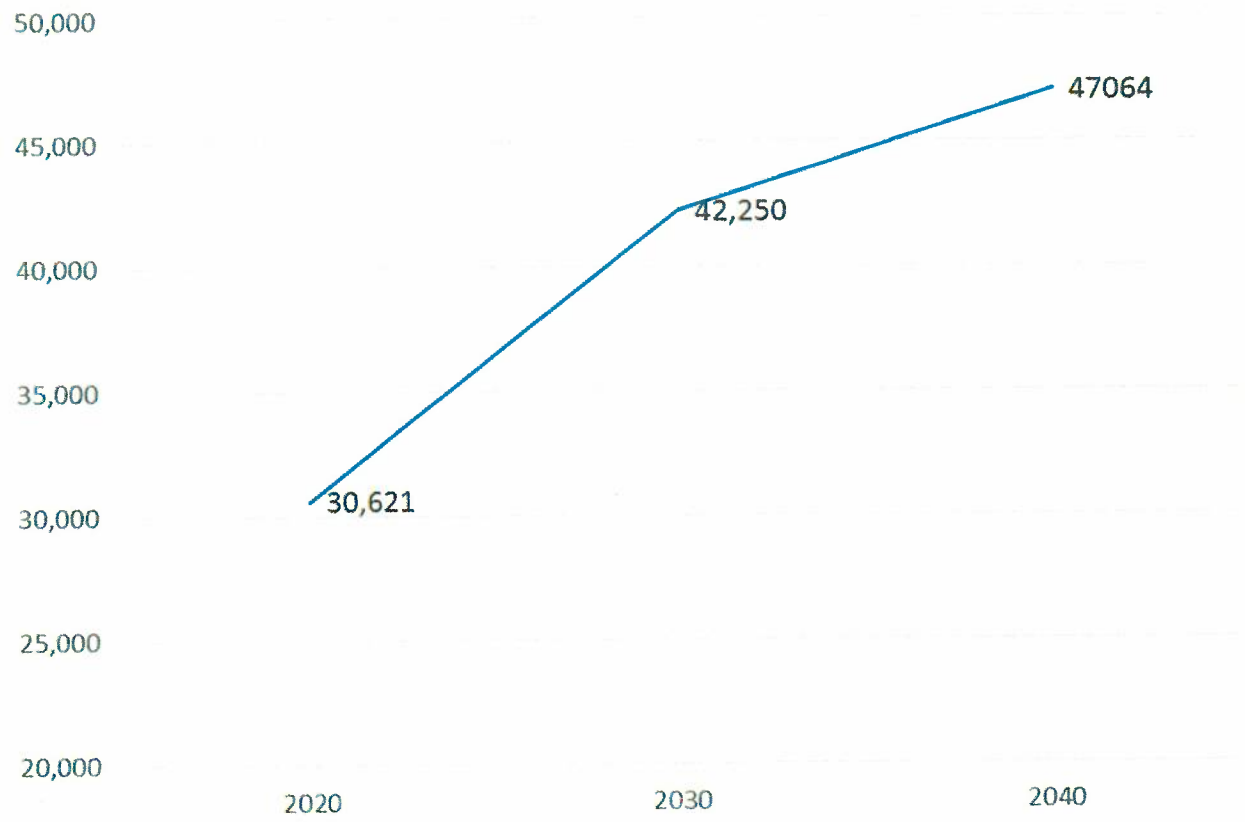
Howard County Population, Age 65+, DPZ Projections

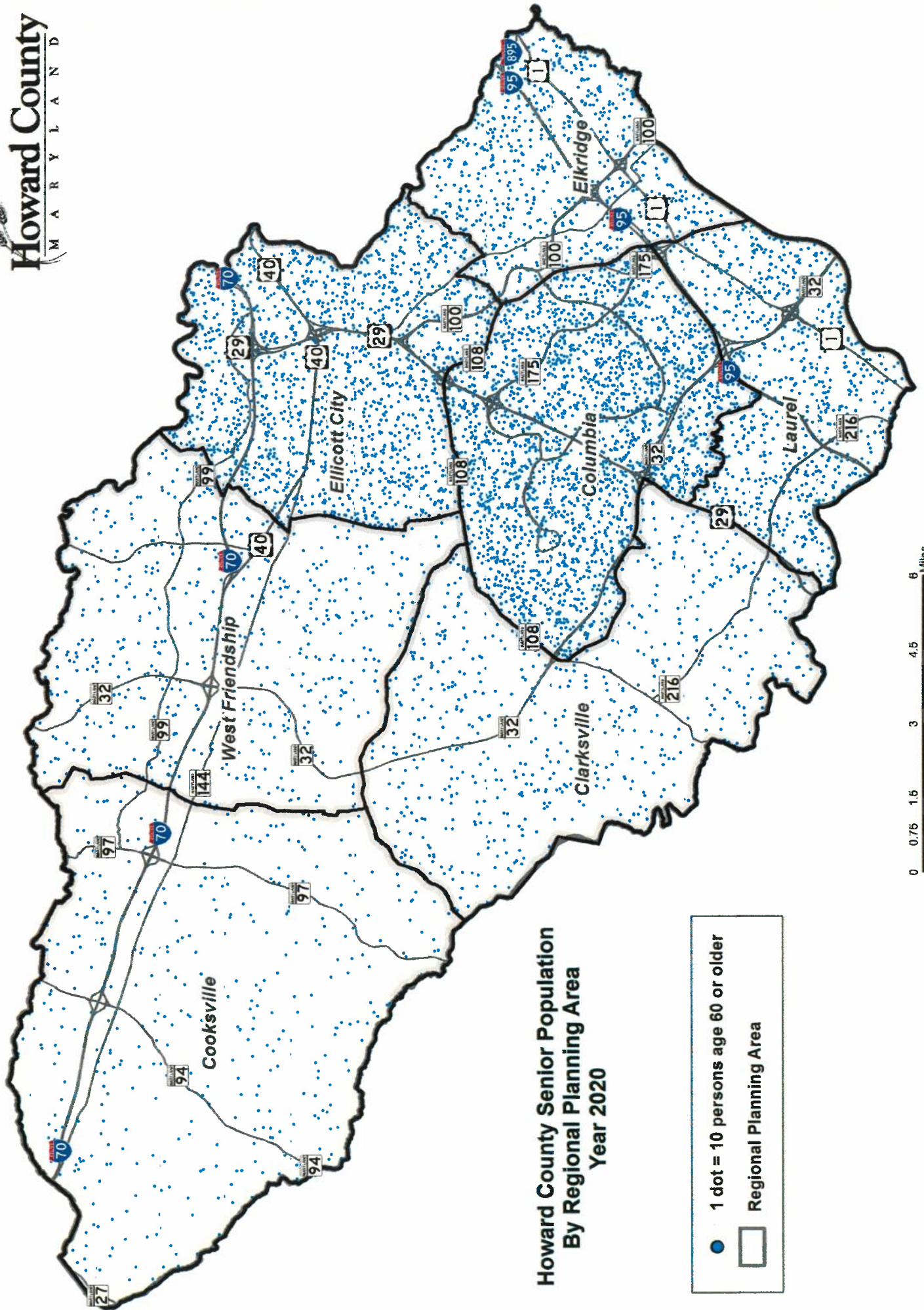


Howard County Population, Age 50+, DPZ Projections



Howard County Population, Age 50+ in Columbia





**Howard County Senior Population
By Regional Planning Area
Year 2020**

- 1 dot = 10 persons age 60 or older
- Regional Planning Area



Date: April 2016
Scale: 1 in = 2.5 mi



OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Maryland 21045-4809
Phone 410-381-0202 Fax 410-381-0235
WEB Page: www.owenbrownvillage.org

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Allan Kittleman
County Executive
Howard County Maryland
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Subject: **Howard County FY18 Budget**

Dear Executive Kittleman:

The Owen Brown Village Board would like to testify on behalf of the East Columbia Senior Center. The Center is one of the oldest in Howard County and is no longer adequate in size to meet the growing needs of our senior population. Due to the limitations with the Center's present location, it is believed that the best solution is to move the Center to a new, larger location.

We realize that this request is coming late in the budget cycle, so we are hoping that at the very least some planning funds could be included in the proposed FY18 Budget for relocating the East Columbia Senior Center to a larger facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Owen Brown Village Board

cc: Councilwoman Jennifer Terrasa, County Council Member, District 3, Howard County, MD

PETITION

We, the senior citizens of East Columbia, request that the Master Plan of 2015 be fully funded in the FY2019 capital budget to provide for a **new freestanding East Columbia 50+ Center** (Project #CO335 FY2014 Community Resources and Services Facility/Program Enhancements). The current center that is inside the East Columbia library is woefully inadequate for the needs of seniors in one of the most heavily populated parts of Howard County. The Center is fully booked most of the time it is open and cannot offer the full range of services and activities that other Howard County seniors enjoy. We ask that we be given a facility equal to the other 50+ Centers in our County. Thank you.

NAME	ADDRESS
<u>Linda Hanewinkel</u>	<u>Columbia MD 21041</u> <u>6579 Decote Dr.</u>
<u>Annette Williams</u>	<u>9251 Curtis Dr</u> <u>Columbia MD 21045</u>
<u>ANNETTE McCAINEY</u>	<u>6300 RAKITANCA</u> <u>COLUMBIA MD 21045</u>
<u>BERTINA Lewis</u>	<u>9509 Deerfoot way</u> <u>Columbia MD 21046</u>
<u>CHISHAW GRAYSON</u>	<u>7224 SECOND TIME LN</u> <u>COLUMBIA MD 21046</u>
<u>Ruth SANford</u>	<u>6412 Loring Dr</u> <u>Columbia, MD 21045</u>
<u>Pat. McPherson</u>	<u>11090 SWANHOLE RD. Col. 21044</u>
<u>Nimala Mallya</u>	<u>8834 Warm Granite Dr.</u> <u>Columbia, Md. 21045</u>
<u>Bridgid Seering</u>	<u>8418 Jopenda Dr</u> <u>E.C. MD 21043</u>
<u>Kim Hughes</u>	<u>6308 Bright Plume</u> <u>Columbia MD 21044</u>
<u>Mayya Shlodexets</u>	

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PETITION

We, the senior citizens of East Columbia, request that the Master Plan of 2015 be fully funded in the FY2019 capital budget to provide for a **new freestanding East Columbia 50+ Center** (Project #CO335 FY2014 Community Resources and Services Facility/Program Enhancements). The current center that is inside the East Columbia library is woefully inadequate for the needs of seniors in one of the most heavily populated parts of Howard County. The Center is fully booked most of the time it is open and cannot offer the full range of services and activities that other Howard County seniors enjoy. We ask that we be given a facility equal to the other 50+ Centers in our County. Thank you.

NAME	ADDRESS
Staron Becker	5743 Twelvemonth Ct. Columbia, MD, 21045
Susan Hylsel	9569 Red Apple Lane Columbia 21046
N. Jill Scott	njscott31@verizon.net 9517 Pumpkiona Rd Columbia 21045
Luann Erickson	
Jean Kranfeld	9354 Overtime Lane, Col. 21045
Susanne Stodoff	6332 Guilford Rd 21029 clarksville
Ellen S. McNulty	8865 Blade Green Lane Columbia MD 21045
Laurene Petrovic	6437 Oaken Door Col MD 21045
Nancy Newhouse	8360 Montgomery Run Rd Ellicott City, MD 21043
Cynthia Cherot	6128 L Bonfau Dr Columbia MD 21044 10230 Westleigh Dr.
Linda Rowan	Columbia, MD. 21046

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NAME

ADDRESS

- Tom Lis 6387 OPEN FLOWER, COLUMBIA, MD 21045
- Allison Korn 6550 Carlinda Ave Col 21046
- Clarie Fennan 3405 Font Hill Drive EC 21042
- Daniel Bagwell 3156 Cranfield Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Nick Brienza 9342 Big River Run, Columbia, MD 21045
- Wanda Daise 5705 Little Belts Row, Clarksville MD 21029
- Joan Burch 9895 Palacethall Dr #413 Laurel MD 20723
- Karen Barber 7070 Cradlerock Way, #426, Columbia 21045
- Amy Heban 10101 Gowenfield Pkwy UNIT 406
- Jane H Cooksey 6324 Sandchain 21045
- Deneé Barr 6168 Waring Spring, Columbia MD

↙
Maretha Springs 5505 Waterloo Rd #413
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Jan Lane 9017 Durant Ave
Laurel, Md 20723
Susan Scott 2346 Adam David Way Marriottsville 21107

Nolores Rooyles 6927 CATWING CT, COLUMBIA

Betsy Lew 3031 John Bernard Drive Ellicott City MD

Pam Segare 6396 Windherp Way Columbia MD 21045

Yvette Young 5303 Butler Ct Columbia, MD 21044

Newbern Bridgeman 130 Forest Edge Pl LAUREL MD

Harold Payne 6140 GATESILL 21045 20729

Paul Atkinson-Steward 7190 Lantry Light Way 21045

Henrietta Mulward 10570 Two Rivers Rd C2 Columbia MD 21044

Wanda R. Daye 5705 Little Belts Row Clarksville MD 21029

Joan Branch 9895 Palace Hall Dr #413 Laurel MD 20723

Kevin Daye 5705 Little Belts Row Clarksville MD 21029

Robert Branch 9895 Palace Hall Dr #413 Laurel MD 20723

Nannie Foster 9509 Twilight Ct. Columbia, Md 21046

Donna Wells 5460 Harris Farm Lane Clarksville, MD 21029

Deborah Flowers 8778 Sage Bentsway Columbia, MD 21045

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NAME	ADDRESS
Betty H Myers	5238 Raccoon Ct, Columbia, MD 21045
John SCHAFFER	4993 Dalton Drive, Columbia MD 21045
Donna Koelle	6145 Forty Winters Way Columbia MD 21045
Carolyn Anna	5033 Broken Oak Lane Columbia MD 21044
Anita Ayotte	5488 Cedar Lane B3 Columbia MD 21044
Susan Kachala	4655 Ilchester Rd. Ellicott City 21043
Louise Zontek	6424 Fairmead Lane, Columbia 21045
Cyndy Patterson	9246 Silver Sod, Columbia 21045
Shelley VonHagen-Jamar	9213 Osprey Ct. Columbia 21045
Carol Zjka	2550 Kensington Gdns #406, Ellicott City 21043
Ron Farris	9892 Fox Hill CT, ELlicOTT CITY, MD 21042
Vivian Rozane	11696 Cedarline CT, Ellicott City MD 21042

Louise M^cLaughlin 9457 Farwell Rd, Columbia 21045
Aileen Broider 10548 HUNTERS WAY LAUREL, MD 20723
Belen [Signature] 14826 Michale Dr Glenelg MD 21737
Jean Sweeney 11445 Rowley Rd Clarksville 21029
Janet Esch 7466 Weather Worn Way Columbia 21046
Linda Pearce 10721 Autumn Splendor Dr. 21044
Arlene, Mindes 8961 Skyscok, Ct., Columbia 21046
Cynthia, Penlow 5613 Columbia Rd., #302 Columbia Md 21044
Jill Barto 7916 Bell Jacket Way, Jessup MD 20794
John Whitaker 7382 Broken Staff, Columbia MD 21045
Bruce Whitaker 7382 Broken Staff, Columbia MD 21045
Phil Morgan 9342 Ourtime Ln Columbia MD 21045
CHEN-PING ELLEN SHIH 10322 Cromwell Court, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Hsiao wei Shih 5213 Harvey Ln. Ellicott City MD 21043
Gina Seyfried 6676 Star Path, Annapolis MD 21048
Glenn Rogers 8260B Stone Crop Dr EC Md 21043
Usha ARDESHNA 8738 Warm Waves Way Columbia Md 21045
Marca Butler 6500 Overheart Lane 21045

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NAME	ADDRESS
Loree Solvo	5417 Fallriver Row Ct 21044
Dolores Bramer	9611 Rocksparkle Row 21045
Sue Wisniewski	8582 Horseshoe Rd 21043
Mary Cuffe	10048 Whitworth Way ^{EE} 21042
Anne Watson	5581 Eagleback Row Columbia 21045
Dorothy Friedman	7183 Peace Chimes Ct. Columbia 21045
Pentina Deez	
Marjie Reyes	8814 Sandiopa Ct. Columbia 21046
Betty Hrnycus	5288 Raccoon Ct Columbia 21045
Louise Basnight	6236 Blue Dove Place Columbia, md 21045
Donna and Owen	6384 BARBET FOOT BOY COLUMBIA, MD 21045
EMILY HARRISON	6533 OVERTHEART LANE COLUMBIA, MD 21045

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NAME	ADDRESS
ARLENE TRAPP	6321 LORING DR COLUMBIA, MD 21045
Blaine Porter	7186 Sutterly Light Way Cal. MD 21048
J. Tucker	COLUMBIA MD 21045
John W. Kelly	10801 Bird Song Pass Columbia md 21044
Lula M. Kelly	10801 Bird Song Pass Columbia md 21044
Stan Humm	10,01 Governor Weafeld Pkwy Columbia md 21044
M.R. JAMES	10075 Windstream Dr. Columbia Md 21044
POW ALLSOPP	6972 Suddler Row Columbia Md 21045
RITA MOY	11914 Yellow Rush Pass Columbia MD 21044
C.M. Woodruff	5071 Columbia Rd. Columbia MD 21044
Christine Woodruff	4315 Ericson Rd. #406 Ellicott City, MD 21043
Lula M. Benjamin	

104 Phil Morgan jay.phil.morgan@comcast.net

Charles Lee WORLDTRAVEL20@yahoo.com

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Mildred Manuel mammanuel593@gmail.com

Phil Coym 87205 Maple Crest
Etkrings, MD - phicoym@gmail.com
elheefn@hotmail.com

Eileen Heffner (8918 Rosewood Way, Jessup) (301) 498-2927

Clara Aitch 6825
ALL VIEW DRIVE

MARILYN NICEL 8503 Haywood Lane, Col 21045

Roslyn Rubin 8700 Ridge Rd.

Pam Russell 8585
Blade Green Lane Columbia

Kathleen M. Wodley ECO Library.

~~Judy Street~~

Wendy Sun 6233 Sebring Dr. Columbia, MD 21044

Nirmala Malhya 8834 Warm Granite Dr Columbia Md.

Jane Jaffe 5320 Dorsey Hall Dr apt 122 21045

Martha Poch 9416 Bullring Lane Columbia, Md 21045

Russell Ben " "

Florence Warren 9526 Zephyr Way 41046

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We, the senior citizens of East Columbia, request that the Master Plan of 2015 be fully funded in the FY2019 capital budget to provide for a **new freestanding East Columbia 50+ Center** (Project #CO335 FY2014 Community Resources and Services Facility/Program Enhancements). The current center that is inside the East Columbia library is woefully inadequate for the needs of seniors in one of the most heavily populated parts of Howard County. The Center is fully booked most of the time it is open and cannot offer the full range of services and activities that other Howard County seniors enjoy. We ask that we be given a facility equal to the other 50+ Centers in our County. Thank you.

NAME

ADDRESS

Mary Garratt +

13445 Forsythe Rd. PO Box 119
Sykesville, MD 21784

Lionel S. Mahoney

9457 Wandering Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Ed Warner

7161 Hay Springs, Columbia 21094

Dolores Reeves

9482 Vollmerhausen Dr.

Deborah Crabtree

7225 Kinder Rd Col. MD 21045

Elizabeth A. Felson

9774 Polished Stone Columbia MD 21046

John Stupp

6332 Gumbel Churchville 21029

Carol Graves

6470 Sewells Ord. Drive, Columbia 21045

Dat Rose UE

5436 Tilted Stone 21045

Karen Feagin

5935 Abrianna Way Unit 2 - Elbridge - 21075

Ira Binham

10182 Goodin Cir. Columbia Md 21046

PETITION

We, the senior citizens of East Columbia, request that the Master Plan of 2015 be fully funded in the FY2019 capital budget to provide for a **new freestanding East Columbia 50+ Center** (Project #CO335 FY2014 Community Resources and Services Facility/Program Enhancements). The current center that is inside the East Columbia library is woefully inadequate for the needs of seniors in one of the most heavily populated parts of Howard County. The Center is fully booked most of the time it is open and cannot offer the full range of services and activities that other Howard County seniors enjoy. We ask that we be given a facility equal to the other 50+ Centers in our County. Thank you.

NAME

ADDRESS

<u>Carmen Ortiz</u>	<u>6602 Windsor Ct. Columbia MD 21044</u>
<u>Dorothy Y. Beard</u>	<u>8800 Bosley Rd. #301 Ellicott City, Md. 21043</u>
<u>Celest Wangack</u>	<u>954 Carriage House Lane Columbia, 21045</u>
<u>Nell Boynton</u>	<u>8900 Brauer Rd. #403 Ellicott City 21043</u>
<u>Barbara Harris</u>	<u>11163 Woodlark Way Columbia MD 21044</u>
<u>Alie Coyle</u>	<u>6153 W. 706 SP Columbia 21045</u>
<u>Yvonne West</u>	<u>10814 Green Mountain Circle Columbia 21044</u>
<u>Nancy Strubel</u>	<u>9409 Hickory Lane, Columbia 21045</u>
<u>Anna Stroh</u>	<u>3128 St. Charles Pl. EC 21042</u>
<u>Marta S.</u>	<u>2305 Wagon Cir #103 21044</u>
<u>Alison Ebert</u>	<u>4045 Firefly Way EC 21042</u>

DONNA RACIOPPA 6734 Pyramid Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Cindy Risser 6638 Corina Ct,
Columbia MD 21044

Jane Goffe 5300 Dorsey Hall Dr. apt 122
Kathleen Vick 10705 Bridgeway Ter Columbia.

Erma Ashley 2214 Parkview Ct Elkridge

Carol Powell 6118 Trotter Ridge Ct, Columbia 21044

Leanna Allen 10001 Windstream Dr. Col. 21044

Jui-Han Fan 4632 DAPPLE CT MD 21043 ELICOTT CITY #904
MUSHTAQUE KHAN 5764 Stevens Forest Road #907
Columbia - 21045

John Gray 6635 Corina Ct Columbia 21044

Robert English 4665 PALOMINO Ct, Ellicott City

James 6507 River Run, Columbia, MD 21043
21046

Sella Wu 2805 Willows Way, Dr. Ellicott City MD 21043

Jan Nash 11205 Farside Rd, Ellicott City 21042

Ernest Hilsenrath – April 10, 2018 testimony on C0335, Capital Budget

Thank you, I appreciate this opportunity to testify at this Capital Budget hearing to advocate for a new East Columbia 50+ Center.

My name is Ernest Hilsenrath. I live at 11248 Chase Street in Fulton (County District 4) and lived in Howard County for 29 years. I believe the services available to Howard County citizens are the finest and offers many opportunities for senior citizens, particularly for those who want to remain active.

I retired from the federal government about 10 years ago. One of my retirement goals is to stay in shape physically and mentally. I found that Tai Chi fits that goal perfectly. I have been learning and practicing Tai Chi at the EC 50+, three times per week for about 10 years. When I started, there was just one class and now there are five. Some of us advanced enough to participate in a tai chi tournament in China last fall. ---- Our county made a name for its self in Hangzhao, CH winning several medals.

The point of my testimony is to emphasize that EC Center is operating over capacity. As we know, a new Center is in the county's capital budget, but there is need for urgency. New people, anxious to take advantage of the Tai Chi's health benefits, are being turned away, since there is no time or space for new classes. But to just highlight the situation, I usually arrive for my class a few minutes early with my classmates and stand in a narrow hall until the previous class is over. The halls become very crowded as the classes turn over. Even worse now, there is no more room in the halls, since people are playing bridge at tables that have overflowed from the crowd bridge room.

The County is making a terrific effort to accommodate its seniors, there are new or refurbished centers throughout the County, Ellicott City, Elkridge, and North Laurel, some of which even have dedicated fitness facilities for seniors. The Bain Center will soon be under renovation.

The East Columbia 50+ Center is the smallest and maybe oldest and serves one of the county's denser neighborhoods. The Center shares the building with the newly renovated EC Library which is drawing lots of energetic school kids, as well as adults. I am not exaggerating when I say that they often overwhelm the 50+ entrance. I invite you to visit our center one day after school lets out and observe the chaos in the entranceway. Our seniors are more than worthy of a new and safe facility. Waiting until early in the next decade is not soon enough to serve this group of citizens.

Thank you and hope you will agree that ^{a new} ~~the~~ East Columbia 50+ needs to be moved up on the county's funding priorities.

**TESTIMONY ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECT 0335 – COMMUNITY RESOURCE & SERVICES
FACILITY/PROGRAM**

Presented by Pearl Atkinson Stewart

April 10, 2018

Good Evening,

I am Pearl Atkinson Stewart, 7190 Lasting Light Way, Columbia Md 21045.

I agree with everything the previous speakers have said and I hope you will listen and act as they have requested. I am here tonight to support the East Columbia Senior Center by telling you my personal observance of the crowded conditions that now exists. With the continuing growth of seniors retiring in East Columbia and the desire for healthy living, we need to address the deficiencies sooner than 2022.

I visit this center 3 – 4 times a week, for exercise, social games and many other activities. We lack exercise equipment, and I believe this is the only senior center that do not offer exercise equipment.

Therefore, our Seniors are deprived of this type exercising that is highly recommended by medical professionals for many age-related health problems. Many participants walk from their homes and it is very convenient to get to. Howard County Seniors deserve access a place to come and receive benefits to enhance their healthy bodies and minds.

To name a few activities that I have personal knowledge of is the size of rooms are so small that even for my Bid Whist games we find that there is not enough room for all who want to play. My exercise room is filled to the brim and there is no room large enough to accommodate special occasions such as the annual Chinese New Year Celebration.

I join the many who signed petitions to respectfully request that the Capital Budget be modified to include sufficient funding to locate and plan for a new Senior Center location. I also ask that the timeline for

completion of this project to be moved up to 2019 because we are really in a critical stage today and tomorrow will be catastrophic we don't act.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Stacie Hunt

Jeanne A. Kennedy

Tracy Miller

Yvette Oquendo

Jeffrey Rivest

Ned Tillman

Dou Alvin Zhang

FY 2019 Budget - Funding for Bicycle Infrastructure Projects
Position: Support

My name is Paul Gleichauf and I am testifying on behalf of the 20 community leaders who make up the Board of Trustees of the Horizon Foundation.

When County Executive Kittleman announced he would put \$8 million toward building bicycle routes over the next three years, we were encouraged by his public commitment to make Howard County a more bikeable community benefiting schoolchildren, older adults, local workers and others. More than 40 businesses and community institutions – including the Horizon Foundation – and more than 1,500 individuals have advocated for significantly increased funding to bring this vision to life. At the County Executive’s last budget hearing, nearly 100 people also attended to show their support.

As Howard County’s community health foundation and the largest independent health philanthropy in the state, the Horizon Foundation fully supports efforts to make healthy choices easier for local residents. We believe that a more bikeable and walkable Howard County will be a healthier Howard County, where biking or walking is just as easy as driving a car to places like school, work or places of worship.

Our partners in this effort represent a diverse range of interests including major business leaders such as Howard Bank, W. R. Grace and COPT, environmental organizations, like the Sierra Club and the Earth Forum, and critical health organizations like the American Heart Association and the Chesapeake Regional Health Information System for our Patients.

These groups know “increasing the bike-friendliness of Howard County is good for business and good for the community,” as Howard Bank CEO Mary Ann Scully wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*. Investing in connected bicycle routes will help Howard County better compete with neighboring counties for millennial workers, enhance quality of life for older residents who wish to age in place and provide an affordable, reliable transportation option for lower-income residents.

The FY 2019 budget includes \$1.25 million for bicycle infrastructure, primarily through projects in the Bicycle Master Plan which the County Council unanimously passed in 2016. While this amount falls short of the funding levels in neighboring counties like Montgomery and Anne Arundel, it represents a small step forward. We ask the County Council to approve the bike funding in this budget and importantly, not cut any funding from the Bike Master Plan implementation.

We also urge continued support for future increases in bicycle infrastructure funding and future improvements in biking and walking through the new Pedestrian Master Plan, complete streets policy and complete streets design manual. While we are making progress in the county, we must continue to prioritize funding and building connected bicycle and pedestrian routes to truly reap the benefits. Without adequate funds, our bicycle and pedestrian plans will take decades longer to come to fruition and we will continue to lag behind our neighboring counties.

Thank you for your consideration and for your past and future support of making Howard County more bikeable and walkable. Investing in these changes will make a significant difference in our community's health, the environment, the economy and transportation equity.

Bikeway Supporters

More than 1,500 people and 40 businesses and organizations support the Bikeway.

Advocacy for the Bikeway is led by Bicycling Advocates of Howard County and the Horizon Foundation.

Other institutions supporting the Bikeway include:

Business Associations

- Howard County Association of Realtors
- Howard County Chamber of Commerce

Employers

- Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP)
- Columbia Association
- Howard Bank
- Howard County General Hospital
- Mobern Lighting
- Pearson's Online and Blended Learning Group
- W R Grace

Real Estate and Development Firms

- Clarksville Commons
- COPT
- Enterprise
- Howard Hughes Corporation
- Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate Services
- Kimco Realty
- MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate
- Orchard Development Corporation
- Williamsburg Homes
- Walter E. Lynch, AIA, PLLC
- Wood Partners

Civic, Health & Faith Organizations

- American Heart Association Mid-Atlantic Affiliate
- The Association of Community Services
- The Bicycling Advocates of Howard County
- Columbia Jewish Congregation

- Dorsey Search Village Board
- Earth Forum of Howard County
- FIRN
- Harper's Choice Community Association
- Horizon Foundation
- Howard County Branch of the NAACP
- Howard County Group of the Maryland Sierra Club
- Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
- Howard County Public Transportation Board
- People Acting Together in Howard (PATH)
- The Y in Central Maryland
- Transition Howard County
- We Promote Health
- Wilde Lake Village Board

Small Businesses

-
- Ascent Bicycle Studio
 - Countryside Veterinary Clinic
 - The Cycle Mill
 - Princeton Sports
 - Race Pace Bicycles



Wherever you are in your journey, you are welcome here.

January 4, 2018

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

We write to express Columbia Jewish Congregation's support of the proposal for the county to fund and build the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project. CJC is a 250 family congregation which began in Columbia in 1970. Many of our members are cyclists. In fact, our cantor commutes by bicycle and we have a regular ride each Sunday starting from our Sunday school. Building a network of bicycle and pedestrian routes will benefit all our residents by reducing congestion and improving health, safety and well-being.

We are concerned that neighboring communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel, significantly outspend Howard County on bike infrastructure. They budgeted over \$23 million and over \$6 million respectively last year.

We hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling in the past, will designate the \$3 million needed to start to build the Bikeway. We strongly believe that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community-wide benefits in the future, ensuring that Howard County remains friendly and attractive for all residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steven Kramer

Steven Kramer
Co-President

Fred Thomsen

Fred Thomsen
Co-President





**CORPORATE OFFICE
PROPERTIES TRUST**

Catherine M. Ward
Sr. Vice President
Asset Management/Leasing
6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300
Columbia, Maryland 21046
Telephone 443-285-5702
Facsimile 443-285-7650

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
The George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD – 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

Corporate Office Properties Trust (NYSE: OFC) is fully supportive of the opportunity to build a Bikeway in Howard County and urges you to include \$3 million in the FY19 budget for this project which should have a significant impact on Columbia Gateway as the new Innovation district.

COPT is a publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trust that is headquartered in Columbia, MD. Our national portfolio consists of 16.7 million square of office space of which 2.8 million square feet is located in Howard County and we employ over 125 people.

As one of the largest private real estate developers in the County, it is our opinion that the Bikeway is necessary to help attract and retain top tier talent. We often hear from potential clients and their CEO's that Howard County does not have the multi-modal transportation infrastructure that is required by today's work force. We are eager for rapid and extensive investment in cycling facilities to begin the process of overcoming this stigma. Our current and future tenants are looking for locations that will appeal to employees and clients, and research indicates bikeability is a key amenity both millennials and boomers desire.

Columbia Gateway Business Park would connect to the surrounding communities via the Bikeway's routes and provide a Bikeshare program. Cycling is currently associated with an appealing urban, innovative culture that will better allow our businesses and business districts to remain competitive. Making Gateway more visibly and extensively bike-friendly will greatly assist the redevelopment and rebranding of the park. Additionally, by connecting to the Bikeway, Gateway will be accessible by bike for 60% of county residents and for commuters from three MARC stations.

We strongly urge you to fund the construction of the Bikeway, and to fund and expedite projects along Oakland Mills Road and Robert Fulton Drive to connect Columbia Gateway to the network.

COPT is concerned that Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and various northern Virginia counties with which Howard competes for residents and businesses so significantly outspend Howard County on this issue.



**CORPORATE OFFICE
PROPERTIES TRUST**

Catherine M. Ward
Sr. Vice President
Asset Management/Leasing
6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300
Columbia, Maryland 21046
Telephone 443-285-5702
Facsimile 443-285-7650

We hope your administration will designate at least \$3 million for significant investment in local bicycling facilities with a focus on Gateway as a hub to begin the process. This will start to build on the Gateway brand as the new Innovation District. To proceed with redevelopment plans without such action would be a tremendous missed opportunity that could harm our future success.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine M. Ward".

Catherine M. Ward
Senior Vice President,
Asset Management and Leasing
Corporate Office Properties Trust



March 1, 2018

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

We are writing to express the support of our family and our business, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, for the Bikeway. We are excited that you recently announced that you will build much of the Bikeway with \$8 million in funding over the next 3 years. We urge you to budget \$3 million in your next budget to jump start this project and to continue to signal your commitment to a bikeable and walkable Howard County.

My wife and I founded our veterinary clinic in 1988 in Ellicott City where our 25-person staff serves 4,800 animals per year. We are proponents of both animal and human health. We, along with our adult children, who are also veterinarians, live in the area, and are also avid mountain bikers and occasional road cyclists.

The Bikeway would provide county residents with safe, easy, designated and connected routes to ride. This has clear health and safety benefits for our family and for the county as a whole. We appreciate other benefits of investing in bicycling infrastructure such as its environmental benefits and increased quality of life.

As small business owners, we know it can be difficult to find funds for long term priorities that are not urgent at the moment. However, we also know how dangerous it can be to fail to invest in long-term strength and customer appeal.

We are concerned that neighboring Montgomery and Anne Arundel County communities budgeted \$26 million and \$7.5 million for bike facilities last year while Howard County budgeted \$600,000.

We hope that your administration, which has expressed support for cycling, will designate \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities. We strongly believe that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community-wide benefits in the future, ensuring that Howard County remains competitive for businesses like ours and residents like us.

Sincerely,
Carroll Thumel, DVM
Mary Beth Soverns, DVM
Countryside Veterinary Clinic
4866 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
410 461-2400
cthumel@aol.com



CRISP

Connecting Providers with Technology to Improve Patient Care

February 28, 2018

The Honorable Allan Kittleman
Office of County Executive
3430 Court House Drive,
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

Please accept this letter of support of the Bikeway from Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP). We are excited about the recent announcement that you will build much of the Bikeway with \$8 million in funding over the next 3 years as part of your Bike Howard Express initiative. CRISP is particularly pleased to see that your network would include a direct link to Columbia Gateway, where we are located. We urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget to start this worthy project strongly, as it will promote health and improve Howard County as an ideal location for employers.

As you know, CRISP is a growing business based in the Gateway Corporate Center that currently employs 100 staff members. We work to advance health and wellness by deploying health information technology solutions adopted through cooperation and collaboration.

We support investing in bike infrastructure for two reasons. First, a bike network would make it easier for more Howard County residents to incorporate exercise into their daily life, effectively supporting CRISP's mission of improving health and wellness. Second, the network would improve the experience of working at CRISP and make the county more appealing to the high-skills, energetic workforce we seek to attract. We compete for talent regionally and are concerned that neighboring communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel significantly outspend Howard County on biking facilities, budgeting over \$23 million and over \$6 million respectively last year.

We hope your administration will budget the \$3 million for the Bike Howard Express and advance Howard County's future as a healthy, competitive county.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Horrocks
President, CRISP

Dorsey's Search Community Association, Inc.
4765 Dorsey Hall Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Tele: 410-730-4005 fax: 410-730-4008

December 18, 2017

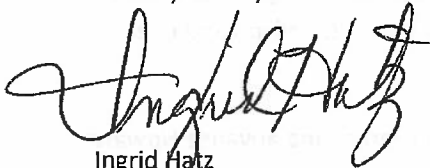
Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I write to express the Dorsey's Search Village Board's support of the proposal for the county to fund and build the Bikeway, and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project.

Our village was able to see the benefits of the Bikeway firsthand at the Open Streets event on October 1st; thank you, by the way for attending that event. Bikeway bike lanes on Columbia Road would connect our village center, pool, and neighborhood trail systems. They would help more people consider biking and walking, and help draw more customers to the village center. Lastly, bike facilities would increase our community's attractiveness to potential residents, and enhance our strong reputation for offering a high quality of life.

We hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling by many means, will designate the \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities and will start to build the Bikeway. We strongly believe that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community wide benefits in the future, ensuring that Howard County remains competitive for business and residents.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ingrid Hatz
Dorsey's Search Village Manager



December 5, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive
Office of County Executive
George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

As you know, the Enterprise family of organizations (Enterprise Community Partners, Enterprise Community Investment, Enterprise Community Loan Fund and Enterprise Homes) is dedicated to helping low-income families thrive in affordable housing in communities of their choice, like Howard County. Enterprise also invests throughout the nation in socially-beneficial development projects. We have seen that building a bicycling infrastructure benefits low-income families and helps development projects succeed. Because of this, Enterprise supports the proposed Bikeway and encourages you to budget \$3 million for this project for the next fiscal year.

Many families Enterprise supports, both nationally and locally, cannot afford a car and struggle for reliable, convenient transportation. Safe streets for bicycle transportation create opportunity for people and help them get to work and school. As we all have seen, too often people ride out of necessity in unsafe conditions. Our community, including our most vulnerable families, need safe spaces to ride.

Enterprise is excited that some of the local affordable housing properties we have developed are near the proposed Bikeway. If fully built, the Bikeway would enable these residents to safely bicycle to jobs, services, transit, and over half of the county's parks and schools. The Bikeway would improve quality of life, economic prospects, and health.

The Bikeway is also a smart investment in maintaining competitive housing and employment markets. Research indicates that millennials are seeking a more multi-use environment and less car dependency. The Bikeway would help local redevelopment efforts be more successful.

Our headquarters sits on the Downtown Columbia Pathway portion of the Bikeway. Because the completed Bikeway would be within a mile of 60% of county residents, completing the Bikeway would enable more current Enterprise employees to bike to work, and would help us attract top talent.

Because of these many benefits, Enterprise hopes your administration, which has shown support for cycling by many means, will designate the \$3 million needed to make significant progress on the Bikeway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Werhane
President and CEO, Enterprise Community Investment



RESOURCES FOR THE FOREIGN BORN

5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite E-200 Columbia, MD 21044 410-992-1923

Bridging Cultures. Building Community.

December 8, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I write to express FIRN's support of the proposal for the county to fund and build the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project.

As you know, FIRN empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities. We serve 20,000 individuals a year.

What you might not know is that lower-income and younger workers are more likely to walk and bicycle to work than their older, higher-income counterparts, according to a 2014 Census report. Hispanic and multiracial Americans also have the highest rates of bicycle commuting in the country.

FIRN supports the Bikeway for two reasons. First, we want newly arrived local families who are working hard and building wealth to safely bike or walk to work, school, and retail locations. Secondly, FIRN helps many local foreign-born individuals with transportation constraints find work. Clients often ask us to find work within a mile of their home since they do not own a car and need to walk. They often do not want to use our transit system because of wait time and reliability concerns. If it were easier and more appealing to bicycle in the county, these same clients could consider work within a 4 to 6 mile radius of their home, greatly increasing their economic opportunities.

We hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling by many means, will designate the \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities and will start to build the Bikeway. It is good for local families, local business, and local immigrants. Everyone deserves a safe way to get around their community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hector Garcia

CEO and Executive Director

FIRN Inc.



Harper's Choice Community Association

February 21, 2018

The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

I write to express the Harper's Choice Community Association's (HCCA) support of the Bikeway. We are excited that you recently announced you will build much of the Bikeway with \$8 million in funding over the next 3 years. HCCA urges you to include \$3 million in your next budget to jump start progress and continue to signal your commitment to a bikeable and walkable Howard County.

The Bikeway routes run directly to our village center. Because 60 percent of county residents live within a mile of the Bikeway network, the Bikeway would help our village center be accessible to more people. We think designated, safe spaces to bike and walk will help entice more people to bike or walk to local shopping and increase the customer base for village center businesses.

While the county has many important funding needs, we also know that so much of our strong reputation rests on providing residents with a high quality of life. Bicycling lanes and paths are an increasingly important sign of quality of life to many. We are concerned that other counties are investing far more than Howard County in these amenities; last year Montgomery County budgeted \$26 million of county funds in bicycling projects, while Anne Arundel budgeted \$7.5 million and Howard County budgeted \$600,000.

We very much hope your administration will help our community remain a leader in regional quality of life, and will help our village centers stay strong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Ingley
Village Manager
Harper's Choice Community Association

Cc: HCCA Board of Directors

Kahler Hall
5440 Old Tucker Row • Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-0770 • fax 410-730-8046
www.harperschoice.org



Main 410-715-1437
Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

September 6, 2017

The Honorable Alan Kittleman
Office of the County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

On behalf of the Howard County Association of REALTORS® (HCAR), an organization representing over 1900 real estate professionals and affiliates in the County, we are writing to express our support for the implementation of the BikeHoward Plan, including the construction of the Bikeway trails.

Multi-modal transportation options are an increasingly important factor in the homebuying process. According to a 2015 report by the Urban Land Institute (ULI), half of U.S. residents and nearly two-thirds of Millennials want to live in areas where they do not have to rely solely on auto transportation. In addition, a joint NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and National Association of Home Builders study found that a path for biking, walking or jogging was 'the second most important neighborhood amenity' in a home search. The buyers of today and tomorrow seek a total lifestyle, rather than merely a dwelling, and projects like the Bikeway are an important component of that lifestyle.

Howard's residents also stand to benefit financially from BikeHoward facilities. In a number of markets, both urban and suburban, studies have found that direct access to trails, bike-sharing systems, and bike lanes can have a positive impact on property values. The same ULI report notes that homes near such facilities are valued as much as \$34,000 more than surrounding properties. These economic impacts spill over into commercial property values and increased retail sales as well, providing the County with a more well-rounded tax base to support other community needs.

HCAR commends the County's commitment to implementing the BikeHoward Plan in the years to come. We ask that you fulfill this commitment in the most cost-effective manner possible by fully leveraging alternative funding sources, including grants and public-private partnerships, to make projects like the Bikeway a reality. We look forward to working with you on this and other projects which make Howard County a vibrant community in which to live.

Sincerely,

Judith Gordon
President
Howard County Association of REALTORS®



6011 University Blvd., Suite 370
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
P 410.750.0020 F 410.750.8588
www.howardbank.com

Mary Ann Scully
Chief Executive Officer
mascully@howardbank.com

December 13, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

As a longtime resident of Howard County and a leader privileged to serve the residents and businesses of this community, I attempt to focus as much as possible on those initiatives that help to ensure the long term health, vibrancy and sustainability of our county. In those capacities and with that focus in mind, I write to express my support of the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project. I tender this support fully mindful of your own personal commitment to the same goals as conditioned by your philosophy of small government and fiscal responsibility, I believe that this funding is very consistent with that approach especially given the infrastructure "accessible to all" nature of the project- an arena that we all agree must be funded by the government not private legal entities. .

The Bikeway presents an important and timely opportunity to advance our local economy in a number of ways. . Bicycle facilities have been shown to increase both retail sales and long term property value; thus benefiting our Howard County small business clients, local homeowners and other landholders. Bike facilities also appeal to the young, educated workforce that Howard Bank and other local businesses are trying to recruit and must recruit if we are going to successfully compete for the multi-generational talent that should be attracted to, retained in and developed through the auspices of our fellow local businesses. The need to acknowledge the different preferences and choices of the millennial generation for more urban environments enhanced by natural amenities is real and demanding.

Candidly, I worry how our neighboring suburban communities, including Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, so significantly outspend Howard County on this type of public amenity .I hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling as well as pedestrians, will designate the \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities and will start to build the Bikeway. Making biking accessible for more residents and businesses is good for the economy and good for the community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mary Ann Scully'.



January 19, 2018

County Executive Allan Kittleman
Office of County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I am writing to advocate that you support and fund the Bikeway plan. Kimco is one of the country's largest publicly traded owners and operators of open-air shopping centers and has significant real estate holdings in Howard County. We support the proposed Bikeway plan which includes routes directly to four of the Columbia Village Centers that we own including Dorsey's Search, Harper's Choice, River Hill, and Wilde Lake. These village centers rely on local residents and benefit tremendously from multiple means of transportation. We are pleased to see that these Bikeway improvements and shared-use paths will enhance accessibility for residents to have easy and attractive ways to bike and walk to local shopping. In fact, in our recently redeveloped Wilde Lake Village Center we have bike storage and we are also working to help bring bike sharing to the Village Center. We hope that you will agree and support the Bikeway initiative.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caren Garfield".

Caren Garfield
Director of Development, Mid-Atlantic Region

November 27, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman
Office of County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City MD 21043

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

Lee and Associates supports the proposed Bikeway. We write to urge you to include \$3 million in your FY19 budget for this project.


As you may know, Lee & Associates offices offer a broad array of real estate services including commercial real estate brokerage, property management, valuation, asset management and finance. We are the largest firm of this kind in North America, and our Maryland office was established in 2013 and is based in downtown Columbia. In Howard county, particularly, we have strong ties with various owners and buyers and have long-term relationships within the business community.

Lee and Associates fully realize the importance of the Bikeway for the community and the economy of Howard County. The Bikeway will not only contribute to a clean and healthy environment by reducing the traffic and parking costs, but also will bring up the property value and the retail vitality. The county needs this Bikeway to be attractive, contemporary and connected. Our current and future tenants are looking for locations that will appeal to employees and clients, and research indicates bikeability is important to both younger workers and aging adults.

Lee and Associates are concerned that neighboring communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel, with which Howard competes for residents and businesses, so significantly outspend Howard County on this issue. They budgeted over \$23 million and over \$6 million respectively on bike infrastructure last year.

Our company strongly believes that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community-wide benefits in the future, ensuring that Howard County remains competitive for businesses and residents. Lee and Associates hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling by many means, will designate the \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities and will start to build the Bikeway.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kate E. Jordan

Lee & Associates
Principal
Kjordan@lee-associates.com



J. Allan Riorda

Lee & Associates
Principal
ariorda@lee-associates.com



MACKENZIE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES, LLC

Lutherville Office
2328 West Joppa Road, Suite 200
Lutherville, Maryland 21093
410-821-8585 Fax: 410-296-7506
www.mackenziecommercial.com

November 21, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

Mackenzie supports the proposal to build the Bikeway and urges you to include \$3 million in the FY19 budget for this project.

Mackenzie is one of the largest, non-affiliated full-service commercial real estate firms in the Mid-Atlantic. Our seven firms provide clients a competitive, full-service platform of offerings in leasing, sales, investment sales, tenant and landlord advisory services, corporate and business consulting, commercial and residential development, general construction, property and asset management, debt and equity capital placement, and market research.

Mackenzie supports the Bikeway because it will undoubtedly add a significant value to the county's appeal and competitiveness. The people and businesses we serve are looking for locations that will appeal to residents, employees and clients.

Other communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties, with which we compete for residents and businesses, are significantly outspending Howard County on biking. They budgeted over \$23 million and over \$6 million respectively. Howard County must step up its commitment.

We hope your administration, which has shown support for cycling by many means, will designate the \$3 million needed for a more significant investment in local bicycling facilities and will start to build the Bikeway. Mackenzie strongly believe that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community-wide benefits in the future, ensuring that Howard County remains competitive for businesses and residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

J. Scott Wimbrow
President

A Mackenzie Company

Commercial Brokerage | Property Management | Debt & Equity Capital | Commercial Construction | Development

MOBERN

L I G H T I N G

*8200 Stayton Drive, Suite 500, Jessup, Maryland 20794
Tel: (301) 953-2960/Fax: (301) 953-9310*

March 7, 2018

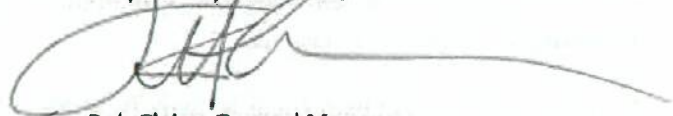
Dear County Executive Kittleman,

I write to express Mobern's support of the Bikeway as a much-needed transportation alternative for our local workforce.

As you know, we are a company of 120 employees located in Jessup, manufacturing high quality, energy efficient lighting fixtures. We are a "second chance employer" working with a number of local nonprofits to meet our labor needs and we help those who may be having difficulties entering the workforce. Many face challenges finding transportation to and from work. The extended Bikeway and the Bike Howard Express would pass within a short distance of our facility. Therefore, Mobern supports whatever the County can do within its budget to improve the bike routes.

All of us at Mobern thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Claire', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Claire, General Manager



Howard County Branch #7020

NAACP

P. O. Box 622 Columbia, Maryland 21045 (410) 730-5440

March 3, 2018

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

As you know, since taking office I have tried to guide the Howard County Branch NAACP by making the organization relevant to the times we are currently experiencing today. Due to that we are supporting an economic development project that is important to Howard County.

In Howard County, transportation poses a huge challenge for people's economic and social equality. Our county was designed for drivers, and those without access to cars face severe challenges accessing employment and other opportunities through our bus system. It is often unsafe and difficult for people to walk or bike where they need to go, as illustrated by the recent tragic death of a pedestrian on Dobbin Road.

For this reason, the Howard County Branch of the NAACP supports the Bikeway and \$3 million in county funds in the next budget to make it a reality.

We are excited that you recently announced you will build much of the Bikeway by building an \$8 million network over the next three years, which will also benefit walkers through 10 miles of shared use paths. The NAACP encourages you to increase county funding to \$3 million in your next budget to jump start progress on the project and make it a reality.

We are concerned that your plan to build this network depends on \$4.7 million in state grants over the next three years when we received just \$240,000 in grants for fiscal year 2019. To build this plan in a timely way, we believe Howard County must increase its county funding (just \$600,000 last year). We can and must do better, especially in comparison to neighboring communities Montgomery and Anne Arundel, which budgeted \$26 million and \$7.5 million in county funds for bicycle infrastructure respectively last year.

A strong investment in biking and walking facilities will be a significant step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,

Willie Flowers

President

The Howard County Maryland Branch NAACP:

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.



Orchard Development Corporation

November 15, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

Orchard Development wishes to express its support for the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project. The central reason Orchard supports the Bikeway is because the project that would benefit the community broadly, and is a worthy cause for public funds. We also know that the project would help the county with two important efforts in which we are taking part: adding density and vibrancy to downtown and revitalizing older village centers.

Because 60% of residents live within a mile of the proposed Bikeway, the Bikeway would make it easier for the majority of county residents to exercise and enjoy a fun recreational activity, while also providing safer travel for those lower income residents who bike out of necessity. Orchard staff includes avid cyclists; we know what a joy bicycling can be, and how much it adds to quality of life.

Additionally, the proposed Bikeway would assist in the continued development and revitalization of downtown. Orchard Development is eager to see the proposed Downtown Cultural Center advance as a project. Orchard is excited that our plans include a shared use path along South Entrance Rd and this path would connect to the Bikeway and, once the Bikeway is fully built, make the Cultural Center accessible to many more residents by bicycle. Increased bike accessibility would add to the Center's appeal, ease demand for parking for visitors arriving by car and mitigate traffic increases.

Our older village centers need revitalization and we are proud to be working with the county on redeveloping Long Reach. The Bikeway runs directly to eight of the Columbia village centers, including Long Reach. With the Bikeway built, residents in new apartments in the village center could bike to the Dorsey MARC station, 5.5 miles away, or 3 miles to the mall. We know residents want this lifestyle, and have planned bike storage and paths within the development. If potential residents see designated, safe spaces to bike on Tamar Drive it will increase the appeal of the area and help it rebound.

Orchard Development hopes that your administration will allocate funding for the Bikeway in the next budget – so the Bikeway is built soon, for the whole community's benefit. We look forward to being a part of a community solution and welcome conversation about how our company and developments can support this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION


L. Scott Armiger, President



Pearson

Online & Blended Learning

10960 Grantchester Way

Columbia, MD 21044

+1 800 382 6010

pearson.com

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I write to share that Pearson's Online & Blended Learning group (formerly Connections Education) supports the proposed Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in the FY19 budget for this project.

Our business provides education services to online public schools (Connections Academies) in 33 states. We have recently consolidated offices around the state and moved our headquarters from downtown Baltimore to Two Merriweather, or 10960 Grantchester Way. Nearly eight-hundred employees currently work flexibly in our headquarters with 184 residing in Howard County.

We compete for knowledgeable employees, and want our headquarters to be as attractive as possible to candidates for employment. Current sidewalks and destinations within walking distance are part of what drew us to the Two Merriweather location – increasing the ease of biking and walking in this area will benefit our current staff and make the location more appealing to today's best job candidates.

Pearson also supports the Bikeway because it complements our efforts to promote employee wellness and reduce healthcare spending. The more the county's built environment can support health, the more businesses like ours benefit.

We are concerned that neighboring communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel so significantly outspend Howard County on this type of public amenity. They budgeted over \$25 million and over \$11 million respectively last year.

Pearson appreciates your administration's support of the Bikeshare program which serves our area. We hope your administration will continue to support cycling and walking by designating the \$3 million needed for significant progress on the Bikeway. We strongly believe that such an investment will yield economic, health and social benefits in the future, helping Howard County and its local businesses continue to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steven M. Guttentag
Managing Director Pearson Online & Blended Learning
Co-Founder, Connections Academy
steven.guttentag@pearson.com



Keith N. Cole
Vice President, Government Relations
and Environment, Health, and Safety

T +1 410.531.4709
keith.cole@grace.com

W. R. Grace & Co-Conn.
7500 Grace Drive
Columbia, MD 21044 USA

November 30, 2017

The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

I write to express W. R. Grace & Co.'s support for the county to fund and build the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project.

At our Columbia global headquarters, Grace employs more than 500 people, many of whom pay local taxes and live nearby our campus on Grace Drive. We compete for top talent to lead our organization, and we believe the Bikeway will help make our workplace and the larger community more attractive and competitive. With increasing numbers of employees preferring alternatives to automotive transit, the Bikeway moves all of us in the right direction toward making this possible. The Bikeway would integrate the excellent bike lanes created on Grace Drive last year into a larger transportation system and provide greater access and commuting options for our employees. Additionally, it would be an appealing amenity for all people who live and work in the county or are considering doing so.

Your administration has demonstrated past support for cycling. Supporting the Bikeway is an opportunity to lead Howard County to join other jurisdictions in making a significant investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure and our overall quality of life.

We encourage you to designate the funds necessary to build the Bikeway and make biking safer and more accessible for residents and employees—including ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith N. Cole
Vice President, Government Relations
and Environment, Health, and Safety



WALTER E. LYNCH AIA, PLLC
ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS

December 8, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman.

Walter Lynch AIA, PLLC wishes to express its support for the Bikeway and to urge you to include \$3 million in your next budget for this project.

Walter E. Lynch AIA, PLLC is a Washington, DC based Architectural Planning and Development Company actively involved with master planning and development for national corporations, individual owners, cities, counties and the National Park Service. The firm has successfully developed and managed high profile commercial, mixed-use, and transportation oriented projects nationally, but with its main focus on the Washington, DC and Baltimore region. The firm is experienced with private/public development partnerships and has actively included significant small and minority business participation.

As you know, Walter Lynch is in the process of developing Laurel Park Station. This transit-oriented development seeks to successfully incorporate mixed-use buildings and to promote multi-modal transit. Walter Lynch has planned, and in some cases begun constructing, multiple ways to make the development as appealing to bike and walk as possible. Plans include: a path system throughout the property, connecting to an existing path system we built along the Patuxent River and around the racetrack; on-road bike facilities; and bike storage and racks. These community-enhancing features will appeal to future residents, retail tenants, shoppers, and commuters who want to bike to the MARC.

We believe that the long term vision for the Howard County and the Baltimore/Washington corridor should continue to emphasize an interconnected multi-module system of trails and pathways.

Southern Howard County is perceived as lacking many of the amenities found in other parts of the county. Walter Lynch firmly believes that the Bikeway will help this part of the county be viewed more positively and better compete for residents and businesses.

Additionally, Laurel Park Station can draw on a larger customer and commuter base if there are easy connections to local neighborhoods. The Bikeway would connect directly with the development via Washington Blvd South and North Laurel Road. Since the Bikeway would run through the most densely populated portions of the county, this would open the possibility of many commuters and shoppers accessing Laurel Park Station via bicycle.

Other counties in the region are spending millions on biking infrastructure because of their business value. Walter Lynch very much hopes your administration will do the same and budget \$3 million to start completing the Bikeway. This investment would help current residents of North Laurel, efforts to attract new residents and businesses like Laurel Park Station, and the county as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration,

Walter E Lynch –Principal

1058 Thomas Jefferson Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
Telephone 202-965-2424
Fax 202-965-5544

I support \$3 million in funding for the Bikeway in the next budget (FY '19).

While I certainly realize that you have a lot of very important and critical projects that require funding, increases in the budget for the Bikeway is certainly very important to Howard Countians. Howard County with its hundreds of miles of bike paths and connecting them with a well thought out Bikeway System will be beneficial in so many ways...health, transportation, tourism, community-building, safety, the environment and attracting businesses to locate here.

On behalf of We Promote Health, Inc., An organization focused on promoting wellness in Howard County, we add our support in asking for greater support for the proposed Bikeway. We firmly believe it will positively impact our community's health, economic vibrancy and environment.

Brian Jolles, President
We Promote Health
5052 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite 203
Ellicott City, MD 21042



BRUCE A. HARVEY
President

March 7, 2018

County Executive Allan Kittleman
Howard County, Maryland
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Allan,

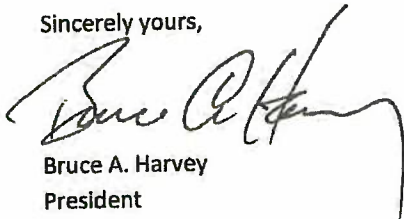
I'm writing to express both my personal support and my Company's support for the Bikeway. I am excited that you recently announced you will build much of the Bikeway with \$8 million in funding over the next 3 years. I urge you to budget \$3 million in your next budget to jump start progress and continue to signal your commitment to a bikeable and walkable Howard County.

As a homebuilder, especially here in Howard County, we have seen increased demand among our buyers for biking, running and walking amenities. We find that places like Maple Lawn where people can "live, work and play" - and do so without getting into their car - are extremely popular. The old style suburban cul-de-sac homes, while not dead, are certainly much less desirable unless they come with these biking, running and walking amenities close by.

I know from serving on the Spending Affordability Committee the difficulty that the county faces between numerous priorities and limited funds. However, I also know that the strategy of investing in long term quality of life projects has helped the county succeed in the past. I believe this is one of those projects that will pay off very well for generations to come. I'm a little concerned that Montgomery, Anne Arundel and other counties are so outspending us in this area. Especially in the south of the county, where Williamsburg currently concentrates our Howard County building, we can see a real need for trails, bike lanes and sidewalks where currently few exist. With the Bikeway started, a basic bike network could be extended to Maple Lawn, Fulton, and Laurel.

I am very pleased that you share this vision. I encourage you to increase county funding to make it a reality, and fund bicycle infrastructure at a \$3 million level this year. I firmly believe the Bikeway will strengthen property values, help businesses like ours succeed, and provide good value to the county for generations.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce A. Harvey
President

Maryland's Award-Winning Homebuilder.

5485 HARPERS FARM ROAD SUITE 200 COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044
410-997-8800 FAX 410-997-4358 • WWW.WILLIAMSBURG.LLC.COM • MHRB# 155





WILDE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SLAYTON HOUSE
10400 Cross Fox Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044-2398
410-730-3987
Fax 410-730-6695

December 7, 2017

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the FY2019 county budget cycle. I am writing on behalf of the Wilde Lake Village Board to ask for your support on issues of interest in our community.

Howard EcoWorks

The Wilde Lake Village Board has been working with Lori Lilly, Executive Director of Howard EcoWorks and the READY Program, to obtain a grant to assist Wilde Lake townhouse and condominium Home Owners Associations with installing rain gardens in their neighborhoods. We just received notice that the community engagement and restoration grant has been awarded and next steps are being implemented. The Wilde Lake Village Board supports the Howard Ecoworks' mission, the important work they do to support environmental initiatives in the County, and urge you to continue funding the organization.

Traffic Calming on Green Mountain Circle

It has recently come to the Wilde Lake Village Board's attention that residents are concerned with speeding traffic on Green Mountain Circle in Bryant Woods. The Village Board will work with residents and the Department of Public Works on the county traffic calming process. The Wilde Lake Village Board wants to ensure that there is adequate funding to implement a traffic calming project if the street meets the criteria for speed hump installation.

Connectivity from Little Patuxent Parkway to Wilde Lake Village Center

We look forward to working with the County to complete the final connection of the new pathway along the east side of the new LEED certified, net-zero energy solar powered geothermal heated Wilde Lake Middle School dissecting the Wilde Lake High School and middle school properties. As you know, the new pathway abruptly ends behind the county-owned former Columbia Flier Building at its rear parking lot. The Wilde Lake Village Board requests funding for an official and long-term connection between the new middle school pathway and Little Patuxent Parkway. This will enhance accessibility for Columbia students to the school, provide connectivity for our

residents to the new Howard Community College entrance and the new Downtown Multi-use Pathway. Lastly, it will promote receptivity and vibrancy at the Wilde Lake Village Center.

Howard County Bikeway

We appreciate your support for the county Bicycle Master Plan. The Wilde Lake Village Board supports the Bicycle Master Plan and requests significant funding for The Bikeway so that it can be implemented in the near future. Creating a core network by connecting numerous bike and pedestrian paths will provide safe and direct routes for our residents to work and play destinations throughout Columbia and to the north, south, east and west sides of the County.

Your consideration of these requests is most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kevin McAliley
Chair, Wilde Lake Village Board



December 11, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive, Howard County
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

As you know, Wood Partners has recently developed and opened Alta Wilde Lake, a beautiful luxury apartment complex in the Wilde Lake Village Center. We enjoyed hosting you at our ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this year.

We write to respectfully express our support for your administration to support bicycling facilities connected to the Wilde Lake Village Center by including \$3 million of funding for the Bikeway in the next County budget, to assist in connecting the pathway that runs from the Village Center to the Columbia Flyer Building to the sidewalks along Little Patuxent Parkway. We also encourage you to consider fiscal support from the County for a Howard County Bikeshare station in the Village Center.

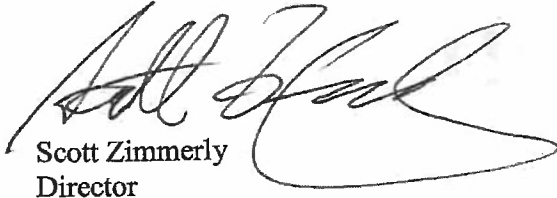
As you likely saw upon your visit, Alta Wilde Lake contains a large bike storage and maintenance facility which includes two bike repair stations, complete with tools and a large mural showing nearby trails and routes. This is a very popular amenity with our residents. Research indicates that millennials and boomers alike are seeking environments in which they do not have to be car dependent.

We support the Bikeway because it would benefit Alta Wilde Lake significantly by improving connectivity to the greater pathway system around Columbia, therefore helping attract and retain current and future residents. We are pleased to see that the Bikeway calls for new facilities along Twin Rivers Road, Harper's Farm Road and Governor Warfield Road, as well as for the connection from the Columbia Flyer Building to Little Patuxent Parkway. All of these projects serve to further connect the Wilde Lake Village Center with downtown and other destinations, thus increasing retail traffic in the Village Center and increasing Alta Wilde Lake's visibility.

A Bike Share station would provide a similar benefit, improving connections between the Wilde Lake Village Center and other popular destinations in the County.

Wood Partners invests in bicycling amenities within our developments across the country because they promote healthy living and appeal to residents of all ages. We believe more cycling facilities would provide similar, cost-effective benefits to Howard County, and as such we strongly encourage the County to invest.

Thank you for your consideration,



Scott Zimmerly
Director

Wood Partners is a Group of Limited Liability Companies

11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 320 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
PHONE 301.795.9281 FAX 301.795.9282



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY • BALTIMORE CITY • BALTIMORE COUNTY • CARROLL COUNTY • HARFORD COUNTY • HOWARD COUNTY

THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 14, 2018

Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I was excited to read about your commitment to build the BikeHoward Express over the next three years. On behalf of The Y in Central Maryland and the over 15,000 people we serve in Howard County, I am urging you to include \$3 million of funding in the county's capital budget as a down-payment towards construction and as a signal of your commitment to a bikeable and walkable Howard County.

As you know, the Dancel Y in Ellicott City serves thousands of families who are striving to live a healthy lifestyle, including those who engage in our youth and family programming, like summer camp, and those looking for ways to serve their community. As a charitable, cause-driven organization, our focus is to serve all, ensuring that income isn't a barrier to our programs and service. As such, we provide scholarships to those living on incomes of up to three times the federal poverty level to provide critical access to those most in need of the Y. For many people, difficulty finding transportation to our Y or to work or school presents a tremendous obstacle to a fair and equitable community.

At the Y, we envision a day when it is easy to bike and walk to our center, and when these routes are accessible for a majority of county residents because they are connected to sidewalks, bike lanes, trails and transit. I am pleased that our location will be on your planned Bike Howard Express route.

I would encourage you to increase county funding to make it and other bike routes a reality. I am concerned that your plan to build this network depends on \$4.7 million in state grants over the next three years. As I understand it, the county received just \$240,000 in bike infrastructure grants for fiscal year 2019 and historically has not received grants in the amounts envisioned in your BikeHoward Express plan. To make the BikeHoward Express and the BikeHoward plan possible, Howard County must increase its county funding to be closer to neighboring communities like Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties, which budgeted \$26 million and \$7.5 million respectively in county funds for bicycle infrastructure respectively last year.

I understand that there are many competing priorities for limited funds across the county. We deal with the same issue at the Y in Central Maryland every day. That being said, I believe that increasing funding for biking now will result in significant community-wide benefits. This investment is good for the environment, health, community-building and transportation equity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John K. Hoey

President and CEO

A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.
The Y.™ For a better us.

YMCA of Central Maryland

March 7, 2017

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043



Dear County Executive Kittleman,

As investors and co-founders of Ascent Bicycle Studio in Ellicott City, we believe passionately in the benefits of bicycling and strive to share that passion through free community workshops on bicycle maintenance, athlete performance tips, race nutrition, triathlon tips and bicycle safety and skills clinics from local professionals. We are writing to urge you to support the Bikeway and fully fund it with \$3 million this year and the following two years.

Supporting the Bikeway is good for health, good for the environment and good for the economy. While cycling continues to become increasingly popular, we recognize that many area residents still do not have safe and convenient access to bicycle routes. Investing in the Bikeway will give county residents more places to bicycle safely and lead to increased levels of cycling, improved health and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Bikeway would also benefit our business and the local economy more generally. Howard County has a thriving local cycling scene. Additionally, Patapsco State Park, neighboring trailways, and scenic roads make it an appealing cycling destination. Local and visiting riders support numerous cycling related businesses but also local restaurants, coffee shops and other retail establishments. As a local bike shop owners we are seeing a steadily growing number of new cyclists in the area and overwhelmingly their number one priority is bike safety and access to safe places to ride, including bikeways and bike lanes.

Bicycling has been an integral part of the history of Howard County for over 50 years. We appreciate your ongoing work to promote biking in this community and hope that you will you make a decision to fund the Bikeway for the next three years. We believe the investment will not only benefit our customers but also greatly benefit community members for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kris Mac
Matthew Cooper
Robert Birch

Three handwritten signatures are written over the printed names of the co-founders. The first signature is for Kris Mac, the second for Matthew Cooper, and the third for Robert Birch.

Co-Founders, Ascent Bicycle Studio



Bicycling Advocates of Howard County Inc

5950 Symphony Woods Rd, Suite 215
Columbia, MD 21044
www.bikehoco.org



December 14, 2016

The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: Capital & Operating Budgets 2018

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

Last year at this time Bicycling Advocates of Howard County (BAHC) urged you to include funding to support and promote active transportation in your 2017 capital and operating budgets. You responded not only with funding but also with a far reaching policy initiative: Complete Streets. We return this year to urge you to begin implementing the Bicycle Master Plan by funding The Bikeway.

Howard County has the opportunity to put your consistent support for active transportation into action on the ground. As a candidate you said, "We must take action to encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation." As County Executive you oversaw the adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan and, more important, you directed Howard County to adopt and implement a complete streets policy. That policy will have a long term positive impact on how we in Howard County experience and use our transportation networks.

The Horizon Foundation did more than embrace the complete streets vision. It undertook the work necessary to develop The Bikeway, a well-conceived and detailed plan to take those first steps toward make active transportation in Howard County a reality. We must all thank the Horizon Foundation for taking that initiative and absorbing the costs, especially at a time when the County faced the enormous challenge of a flooded Ellicott City. The Bikeway is an opportunity, a gift, that Howard County must itself now embrace and implement.

The benefits of building The Bikeway are numerous but we will address only three:

- Economic Development -- People take advantage of opportunities to walk and bike to entertainment, shopping, and other businesses, but The Bikeway goes beyond that. The Bikeway is a way that we can begin to connect transit hubs and make it easier for people to get to work in Howard County. The Bikeway is a way that we can help promote lower development costs by affording LEED qualification points.
- Public Safety -- A common refrain is "I would bike (or walk) more if it were safer (or easier)." The Bikeway puts a safe, easy to use network within a mile of more than half of Howard Countians. Let us make it safer and easier for people to get out and about. More eyes means better safety for all.

The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman
Page 2
December 14, 2016

- Community Building -- Bicyclists, runners, and walkers not only see more, they *observe* more and they interact more with their fellows, their surroundings, and their communities than people hiding behind a windshield. BAHC hopes that we in Howard County see the incalculable value of a society where get out to see each other, where we get out to speak with each other, and where we do not hide in isolated political and social silos.

The Bikeway knits many pieces of the Bicycle Master Plan into a coherent active network that will reach more than half of the County's residents, schools, and parks. The Bikeway BAHC asks you to go beyond planning to real nitty-gritty engineering and building. BAHC asks you to fully fund The Bikeway.

Very truly yours,

Jack Guarneri, President



December 9, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

As one of the nation's most well-known planned communities, Columbia has proudly earned a reputation for being a great place to live, work, and play. This was affirmed when Money Magazine in September named Columbia the *No. 1 Small City to Live In*.

At the core of Columbia's success is the forward-thinking investment in enhancing the community's quality of life. One example is that for almost 50 years, Columbia Association (CA) has invested in an extensive pathway system. Recently, we began work with Howard County to link CA's pathway system to new community pathways built by others, as well as to on-street county bicycle facilities with the goal of creating a modern and robust bicycle network to serve our community's needs in the 21st Century.

I am writing to you on behalf of CA to ask for your support of The Bikeway and the request for construction funding in your proposed capital budget, starting with Fiscal Year 2018. As an avid supporter of BikeHoward, the county-wide bicycle master plan approved earlier this year, CA believes that construction of The Bikeway is an important next step to ensure that residents have better, accessible and safer biking routes, which will strengthen our sense of community and promote health.


We believe The Bikeway benefits the Columbia community in two important ways:

- **More Connected and Healthy:** Many people today want to walk and bike as options for doing their daily business and are asking for safer and more direct routes. Increasingly, people want more than recreational trails through the woods. They desire direct routes to everyday destinations, including events and attractions throughout the community. The Bikeway offers this, and serves as a smart investment to jump-start the implementation of the county-wide bicycle master plan. The Bikeway will make Columbia more connected and healthier, and these benefits will be enjoyed sooner versus a more piece-meal approach spread-out over decades.
- **Enhanced Economic Competitiveness:** Building additional facilities and a connected network for those who bicycle and want to bicycle safely will increase the attractiveness, appeal and economic competitiveness of Columbia. This is good for the county's tax base and for local businesses and services providers, including Columbia Association.

We urge you to budget the \$9 million over the county's next three fiscal years to fully fund The Bikeway. We strongly believe The Bikeway will benefit Columbia residents, businesses and other community stakeholders, and beyond Columbia, all of Howard County for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Milton W. Matthews
President/CEO

c: Columbia Association Board of Directors



Leonardo McClarty
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

December 12, 2016

Mr. Allan Kittleman
Howard County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

As the pre-eminent voice for businesses in Howard County, the Chamber of Commerce strongly supports policies and measures that promote economic growth and development. In keeping with these goals and provided funding is available, we urge the county to support the Bikeway – a 50-mile network of bike routes that is good for the community and good for business.

Greater investment in the county's bicycling infrastructure should enhance the quality of life and competitiveness of our community in the region for residents and employers. We appreciate your leadership and support in introducing the county's first Bicycle Master Plan and launching a pilot bike share program. We are eager to see the Bicycle Master Plan's implementation and believe the Bikeway presents a strategic first step.

The Bikeway adds tremendous value by promoting greater foot and bicycle traffic from across the county into our increasingly dense and dynamic Downtown Columbia area. From observing other communities, bike facilities contribute to a vibrant street scape and can increase retail sales. We thereby eagerly await the results of future development that might occur because of the Bikeway.

We also see the Bikeway as a conduit to employee attraction and retention. A 2014 national poll by the American Planning Association reported more than 43 percent of millennials, now the largest generation, said that having alternatives to vehicle transit is very or extremely important. Additionally, the poll found that a majority of millennials and baby boomers alike believe there are not enough transportation alternatives where they live. Part of Downtown Columbia's future is predicated on having an active millennial base.

The bike share program should also increase the visibility of biking as part of Howard County life, and we believe the 50 miles of the Bikeway also will signal to residents that the county offers the quality of life they seek. With this step, Howard County would join a growing vanguard of suburban communities developing extensive, dynamic bike systems and enjoying their benefits.

Howard County Chamber of Commerce
5560 Sterrett Place, Suite 105* Columbia, MD 21044
T: 410-730-4111 * E: lmclarty@howardchamber.com
www.howardchamber.com

Bikeway
December 12, 2016
P 2

We appreciate your ongoing work to promote bike-friendliness in Howard County and very much hope you will fund the Bikeway if priorities allow.

Thank you for your consideration,



Leonardo McClarty
President and CEO
Howard County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Howard County Chamber Board of Directors
Howard County Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee



**Earth Forum
of Howard County**

December 14, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

The Earth Forum of Howard County brings together local citizens, environmental groups, faith communities, and government agencies to promote sustainable living and encourage steps that ensure equitable use of natural resources. We are writing to express our support for the Bikeway.

The Bikeway has the potential to make a great impact on alleviating environmental harm caused by cars and greenhouse gas emissions. If more people chose biking over driving, we would have a more sustainable future. A Rails to Trails Conservancy analysis found that increasing the share of all trips in the U.S. made by biking and walking by just 3 percent would yield fuel savings of 3.8 billion gallons a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 million tons per year.

We believe that in Howard County, we can do our part to promote biking as a healthy and environmentally-friendly form of transportation. Creating a connected system that is accessible, safe and convenient will allow us to use our bikes more often and reduce our dependence on automobiles.

This is why the Earth Forum supports the Bikeway, and we ask the county to fund \$3 million for the next three years to make it possible. This will greatly improve our ability to protect our environment for future generations.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fayer, Coordinator,
Earth Forum of Howard County

GreenStone Ventures II, LLC

March 7, 2017

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman;

I am writing on behalf of my wife, Holly, and myself to express our support of the Clarksville Pike Streetscape plan and Howard County Bikeway and to call on you to fund it with \$3M this year. We support these initiatives because they benefit our community, our business, and the environment.

Holly and I have been residents and business owners residing in Clarksville for now in excess of 26 years. Approximately 9 years ago, we submitted a proposal as part of an RFP initiated by Howard County for the redevelopment of the old Gateway School site on Route 108 in Clarksville. Having been selected from among 9 offerers we have since been working to realize a vision we have to make the site a sustainable mixed-use commercial center, with not only emphasis on sustainability, but importantly, with a commitment to making what we are calling Clarksville Commons a community gathering place.

The design and operation of the center will include active ongoing year-round indoor and outdoor programs. Given the fact that the Commons is located directly across Rt. 108 from the Village of River Hill, and within less than a mile of 3 schools, we have been actively involved in encouraging the County to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to our community-oriented center. Throughout our development process we have worked closely with the Route 108 Corridor Working Group around design of the streetscape improvements between Guilford and Trotter Roads. In addition, over time we have also been in communication and made recommendations in support of the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan (BikeHoward).

Wonderfully, the final design specifications put forward by the Corridor Working Group and BikeHoward are very consistent with our site layout and streetscape design. One part of this is what must clearly be the grandest sidewalk in all of Clarksville. The 20 foot wide sidewalk, the first of its kind, serves both pedestrians as well as serving as the extension of the bikeway that runs up Great Star Dr. to the intersection with Rt. 108 at the southern corner of our property. It provides both a safe place for pedestrians, and most importantly for bicyclists like myself who would only risk their lives to ride on Rt. 108, it is the beginning of what is designated in the Howard County Master Bicycle Plan as the shared use path that will connect the bicycle network from Great Star Dr. north to Trotter Rd.

We also emphatically support the Streetscape Plan and Bikeway for their environmental benefits. As I mentioned, we are making every effort to make Clarksville Commons as

GreenStone Ventures II, LLC

Letter to County Executive Kittleman

March 7, 2017

Page 2...

sustainable as possible. We have invested in renewable power, storm water recycling, and other measures to reduce runoff. The Bikeway, like our walking and biking path, will help people choose biking over driving, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a more sustainable future.

While our efforts represent a good beginning, until the County is able to support the streetscape and shared sidewalk/bikeway improvements beyond our property lines, the benefits to Clarksville and River Hill and the surrounding community will not be realized. Once the streetscape vision becomes a reality it will guarantee greater safety and access to pedestrians and especially to bicyclists. And on an even larger scale, especially for those using bike transportation, it will connect this section of the bikeway to the rest of the county, thereby enabling many thousands more people to consider biking to Clarksville... and Clarksville Commons.

We are eager not only for the vitality and energy walking and biking adds to gathering places like Clarksville Commons. Research and experience from other communities suggest investment in these improvements provide transportation cost savings and increased property values, while contributing to the success of local businesses.

By providing \$3 million in bond funding for three consecutive years, the county will demonstrate its own commitment to the community-oriented, business-friendly and environmentally sound future of our community.

We appreciate your ongoing work to promote pedestrian and bike-friendliness in this community and very much hope you will consider the funding of the Streetscape and Bikeway among your highest priorities for the next three years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Stone
Principal
GreenStone Ventures II, LLC

Howard County General Hospital
5755 Cedar Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044
410-740-7710
410-740-7240 Fax



December 5, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

Howard County General Hospital is committed to providing high-quality comprehensive health care and promoting health in the community. Research shows that the availability of bicycling and walking facilities significantly increases the level of physical activity among residents. We are proud to join efforts with the administration to encourage bicycling and active transportation. Earlier this year, we testified in support of the bicycle master plan and became a partner in the county's bikeshare program.

Now, we ask the county to support and fund The Bikeway. This network of bike routes builds on existing efforts and includes 10 percent of projects in the bike master plan. These 50 miles of bike routes would benefit more than half of county residents who live within one mile of the network. With The Bikeway, residents will be able to bike more easily to schools, parks, work and the hospital.

Additionally, The Bikeway would increase the impact of our joint investments in the bikeshare program by allowing riders to travel further, and more safely, through the county.

The Bikeway would also provide patients and families without access to cars another viable option for getting to the hospital and other important destinations.

Howard County has a strong reputation for promoting a healthy, high quality of life. Increasingly, communities around the country are investing in bike facilities. Building The Bikeway will present the public with visible, connected routes, and help Howard County reinforce its reputation as a county with many healthy amenities.

We ask you to fund The Bikeway with \$3 million for the next three years. This project promises to instill a legacy of health with far-reaching benefits for all county residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve", written in dark ink.

Steven C. Snelgrove
President



Michaeline R. Fedder, MA
Director of Government Relations
217 East Redwood Street
Suite 1100
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 6, 2017

To: Howard County Council
From: Michaeline R. Fedder
Re: Support for the Howard County Bikeway

On behalf of the American Heart Association I urge you to take any and all steps necessary to encourage County Executive Kittleman to fully fund the Howard County BIKEWAY initiative.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the number one cause of death in Howard County, in the state of Maryland and, indeed in our country. Several risk factors for CVD have been identified, and although some of them cannot be changed, there are many that are within the power of each of us to control: lack of physical activity is one of them. And for individuals to embrace a lifetime of being physically active, they must find activities that they love to do. Bike riding is one that so, so many are drawn to. But conditions in all parts of the county are just not safe for biking.

This however can be remedied.

The Howard County Government now has an opportunity to create a beautifully designed infrastructure that would draw bikers and walkers alike. And in addition to improving the health of these bikers and walkers, it would cut down on the use of automobiles and thus reduce pollution, as well.

The cost to create this "culture of health" is far cheaper than the ultimate cost to the county of managing CVD related morbidity and mortality.

A Government has responsibility for protecting the health and safety of its constituents. Funding this project would be a spectacular way for Mr. Kittleman to show that he really cares.

Thank you,
M

The Howard Hughes Corporation
Columbia Office
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway
Suite 400
Columbia, MD 21044

T 410.964.5445
greg.fitchitt@howardhughes.com

Greg Fitchitt
Vice President,
Development

December 14, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

The Howard Hughes Corporation writes to express its support for County funding of the Bikeway with \$3 million in capital funds for each of the next three fiscal years.

The Bikeway aligns with Howard County's vision for the development of Downtown Columbia as a thriving urban district. This past Spring we joined with the County along with the Columbia Association, Howard Community College, The Mall in Columbia, Horizon Foundation, and Howard County General Hospital to develop an innovative pilot bikeshare program through a public-private partnership. We eagerly look forward to its launch in spring of 2017. The Bikeway will build on this and will help attract residents and businesses looking for a walkable and bikeable city center. Columbia has a well-deserved reputation as a community that embodies the highest quality of life for its residents, and the Bikeway will further support this.

We believe in and are committed to promoting transportation choices for people in and around downtown. We find steadily increasing interest from residents, tenants and the Downtown Columbia workforce in alternative transportation options, including bicycling. We are actively designing to accommodate this, including the multi-use pathways (both those required by the Downtown Columbia Plan and additional ones we are building as amenities including the one throughout the Merriweather District), and facilities within our residential and commercial buildings such as bike storage and shower facilities for employees who choose to ride their bikes to work.

Howard Hughes

The Howard Hughes Corporation
Columbia Office
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway
Suite 400
Columbia, MD 21044

T 410.964.5445
greg.fitchitt@howardhughes.com

Greg Fitchitt
Vice President,
Development

We appreciate all you have done to promote biking in Downtown Columbia, including supporting the Bike Master Plan and establishing the Bikeshare program. We urge you to fund the Bikeway. This is a logical and important next step that merits public support, continuing to make Howard County a more bike-friendly place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,



Greg Fitchitt

cc: Howard County Council

Howard Hughes



8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD 21045
Main: 410-313-6204 | Fax: 410-313-6108
lhic@howardcountymd.gov
www.hclhic.org www.facebook.com/hclhic

Maura J. Rossman, M.D., LHIC Co-Chair
Health Officer, Howard County Health Department

Steven C. Snelgrove, LHIC Co-Chair
President, Johns Hopkins Medicine Howard County General Hospital

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Budget Office
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

December 14, 2016

Dear Executive Kittleman and Members of Finance Committee,

Howard County's Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC) works to achieve health equity in Howard County and to identify and reduce health disparities. Enabling people of all ages to achieve and maintain a healthy weight through healthy eating and physical activity is one of the Coalition's four main priorities. The Horizon Foundation, an active member of the HCLHIC, has been an integral partner in supporting this priority since the Coalition's inception in 2012. We value our relationship and see the Horizon Foundation's Bikeway Proposal as a key step in ensuring that Howard County is a walkable and bikeable community.

The Bikeway will provide a core network of bicycle and pedestrian routes that will help people in Howard County more easily and safely access schools and businesses by walking or biking and will promote increased physical activity among residents. According to the 2016 Howard County Health Assessment Survey, 20% of residents reported no physical activity for exercise during the week prior to the survey. Additionally, based on survey questions about residents' height and weight, 38% of the Howard County population is overweight, and 22% is obese.

More than half of county residences, schools and parks are located within 1 mile of the Bikeway. Only half of U.S. adults meet the recommended guideline for physical activity per week, but research shows that people who live near trails are 50 percent more likely to meet those guidelines and 73 to 80 percent more likely to bicycle. For children, one mile of walking meets two-thirds of the recommended physical activity a day. The Howard County's Local Health Improvement Coalition supports the Bikeway proposal as a measure to make walking and biking more readily accessible to residents of Howard County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and participate in this process.
Respectfully,

Maura J. Rossman, M.D., LHIC Co-Chair
Health Officer
Howard County Health Department



Steven C. Snelgrove, LHIC Co-Chair
President, Johns Hopkins Medicine
Howard County General Hospital

Written testimony from Alan Davis, Princeton Sports

My name is Alan Davis,

2507 Sophia Chase Drive

Marriottsville Md.

I am the President of Princeton Sports on Little Patuxent Parkway. I have been a Columbia resident, homeowner and business owner for over 35 years.

I am here as the owner of a small business that has been in Howard County since 1981

I hope that after this many years, you are familiar with our store and what we sell and do. What you probably don't know is that we currently have over 35 employees and have employed generations through the years.

Bicycling is a large part of our business. My grandparents started selling and renting bicycles in Park Circle in 1936.

We sell all kinds of bicycles -- from balance bikes for little kids just starting to learn, to comfort bikes, to hybrids.

From entry level bikes, to the top of the line performance bikes for both mountain and road, we sell and service them all.

We promote family cycling and most of all, we promote health and fun.

We are deeply involved in Howard County. I am a founding member of the Howard County Police Foundation as well as The Bicycle Advocates of Howard County.

I have served on over a dozen non-profits throughout the years.

As a local business, we are involved in our community. We repair and rehab bikes for the Police to give away. We regularly provide SAG support for bicycling events such as the Columbia Triathlon, Irongirl and the Columbia Bike a bout.

We partner with many schools and community groups to promote bicycle safety and maintenance.

We lead regular Sunday rides that attract, on average, up to 150 riders, many of whom are novices. These rides years ago were on Tuesday nights but we had to change to Sunday mornings because of the aggressive driving in the county

Our business has grown over the past several years as more and more people have discovered the joys of bicycling and generally being active.

We have customers of all ages and physical abilities - from grandchildren to grandparents.

I am here today to comment on the Executives budget and ask that you reconsider the amount for new bike lanes and paths

Our customers tell us that they want better and safer ways to get around by bike for themselves and for their families -- better bike lanes, better trails, and better roads.

It isn't safe to ride on a lot of the roads. There isn't enough room for cyclist and cars. Our customers and friends are scared, they want to ride and want safer friendlier places to ride.

Columbia can do this, we can do this, and there is a plan in place.

They will ride and walk more if we have better on- and off-road facilities, bicycle parking places, and more safety conscious motorists.

I urge you as a resident, a bicycle rider and a small business owner, please shift additional capital funds in the FY 2018 budget to line item K5606 and have the vision to support even greater funding levels in future years to Build the Bikeway in Howard County.



HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2350

Ron Hartman, Chair
Jason Quan, Vice Chair

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3467
TDD 410-313-2323

December 14, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: FY 2018 Budget - Citizens' Budget Hearing

Dear Executive Kittleman,

In our role as advisors to the County Administration on transportation matters, the Public Transportation Board expresses enthusiastic endorsement of the Bikeway, a smart and strategic first step toward fulfilling the vision set in the Bicycle Master Plan "to be a bicycle-friendly County where residents and visitors, school children and seniors, men and women feel comfortable and safe bicycling on our roads and trails as a means of daily transportation and healthy recreation."

The proposed Bikeway includes 10 percent of the routes in the Master Plan, to be funded over three years. This timeframe jumpstarts implementation with a thoughtful approach that will benefit over half of county households located within one mile of the network. It is also strategically designed: it would connect 18.9 miles of bike facilities with 31.6 miles of new routes and form a north/south and east/west axis that will form the core of a more connected countywide bike system.

As you know, the Public Transportation Board considers public transportation options to include motorized public transit, pedestrians and bicycle facilities. As county demographics, driving habits and expectations change among younger and older residents alike, we believe that improving biking opportunities will help ensure Howard County continues to be one of the best places to live. Investing in the Bikeway will greatly enhance the quality of life of county residents and increase the appeal of the community while also increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of biking as a viable transportation option.

Research suggests that building the Bikeway will help more residents who want to bike and walk to do so. According to the UC San Diego Active Living Research center, people who live near trails are 50 percent more likely to meet recommended physical activity levels and 73 to 80 percent more likely to bicycle. We are excited that Bikeway routes would be within one mile of 56 percent of county residents, as well as more than half of the county's parks and schools, and within 2.5 miles of all four MARC stations in the county. This means the Bikeway has great potential to increase the biking and walking of tens of thousands of people. Lastly, while the Bikeway is focused on making it easy, safe and appealing for more county residents to bike, the plan includes a nearly 10-mile off-road, shared-use path that would also benefit pedestrians.

We are proud to have leaders who understand the benefits of improving public transportation and biking, and we applaud the county's adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan. We urge you to fund the Bikeway as estimated by Toole Design Group under contract to The Horizon Foundation: \$3 million per year for FY 2017, 2018 and 2019.

This will continue the progress and ensure that residents can experience tangible, useful improvements now, and not have to wait for the distant future.

Respectfully,



Public Transportation Board

Ron Hartman, Chair

Jason Quan, Vice Chair

Astamay Curtis

Hector Garcia Jr.

Larry Schoen

Alice Giles

December 14, 2016

Dear Howard County Leaders,

Please consider this letter of support for The Bikeway component of the Howard County Bicycle Master Plan. My name is Jon Posner and I have worked for Race Pace Bicycles since 1996. I currently manage the Ellicott City location, and prior to that I spent several years as manager of the Columbia location.

Race Pace Bicycles was started in 1978, and in 1985 we opened our first Howard County location in the Normandy Shopping Center. A second location was added in Howard County in 2005 on Snowden River Parkway.

In August 2014 we moved our original Ellicott City store to a building which we own at Route 40 and Bethany Lane. We invested 2 1/4 million dollars in establishing that location.

There are five stores in our operation, and Race Pace Bicycles is recognized in our industry as one of the top bicycle retailers in the country, and we are one of largest independently operated bicycle businesses.

In a busy month, our Howard County locations payroll exceeds \$100,000.

We always have and continue to support many different community initiatives in the county, and we take pride in our level of commitment to a diverse range of these events and programs. We consider ourselves an integral part of the Howard County community and have been for over 30 years.

The ability to exercise, commute and include the bicycle as part of everyday life is recognized as a key element of decision making when choosing a new place to live. Our owner, Alex, has ridden his bicycle all over the world, from the length of Patagonia in Chile and Argentina through many of the great cities of Europe and across the United States- it is his observation that communities that have chosen to embrace cycling are vibrant and exciting. These communities are so often much more attractive and economically advanced than their neighbors that have yet to recognize cycling as a important part of community life.

The bicycle has been an integral part of the history of Howard County since James Rouse choose to connect the communities in Columbia with cycling/walking paths almost 50 years ago. The implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan will significantly positively affect the health and vibrancy of Howard County, and focusing on the strategic implementation of The Bikeway is a great path to get us there.

Please feel free to contact Alex or me with questions regarding any aspect of our involvement in Bicycling in Howard County.

Thank you!

Jonathan Posner
Race Pace Bicycles - Ellicott City store manager



March 8, 2017

Dear County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I write to express the support of the Howard County Group of the Sierra Club for the full \$3 million funding of the Bikeway this year. The Sierra Club supports educational programs, conservation efforts, environmental candidates and legislation, and outings. The Howard County Group has over 1000 members.

We support the Bikeway for a variety of reasons. Encouraging biking provides personal health benefits from the exercise, improves air quality by reducing car emissions, and helps combat global warming by reducing fossil fuel use. It also reduces congestion on our roads, and thereby reduces pressure for adding capacity to our roads.

As someone who often commutes to work by bicycle, I know from personal experience how important it is to provide a safe and enjoyable alternative, if we want to get people out of their cars and onto their bikes. I have also travelled in the Netherlands, where I have witnessed how commuting by bicycle is extremely popular, due to various bike-friendly accommodations.

The proposal for the Bikeway presents a prime opportunity to bring Howard County closer to a future with cleaner energy. We urge you to budget three million dollars for three years to see this project to completion. The county has made significant strides in promoting biking, and this network of bike routes will help ensure that people can effectively bike as a useful means of transportation.

The Bikeway is strategically designed to facilitate biking as a viable way to get around the community. It will add over 30 miles of bike routes which connect with routes the county has already constructed for a total of 50 continuous miles. Since the Bikeway is within one mile of 56% of county residents and more than 50% of county schools and parks, as well as 2.5 miles from the county's four MARC stations, the Bikeway will enable more people to commute to work, visit parks and bike to schools.

We strongly recommend the county implement the Bikeway and construct new pathways in the most environmentally sound manner, using permeable asphalt and other runoff mitigation techniques, minimizing tree removal, and, to the extent possible, avoiding habitat segmentation.

We are enthusiastic about the Bikeway for its environmental benefits—and for its contributions to our quality of life. As people who appreciate nature and local amenities that enable us to be outside, we are excited about this project's enhancement of Howard County as truly the best place to live.

Sincerely,

Ken Clark
Chair, Sierra Club Howard County Group



December 14, 2016

County Executive Allan Kittleman
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

Transition Howard County is an all-volunteer organization that is focused on creating sustainable and thriving communities in Howard County. Our mission is to raise awareness, advocate, and implement practical solutions that create and strengthen sustainable communities.

Transition Howard County supports measures that help people live sustainably and protect the environment. As such, we are proud to endorse the Bikeway—a project that will help reduce fossil fuel use and provide an accessible transportation option to more county residents.

The Bikeway is a smart investment because it will be well within reach of over half of the homes in the county and connect residents to key locations including MARC stations, parks and schools. Beyond increasing recreational biking opportunities, the Bikeway presents a safer and more useful way for people to travel around the county by bike. As more people choose biking over driving a car, we can make a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Transition Howard County urges the county to fund the Bikeway with \$3 million for the next three years. This will make a tangible positive difference and strengthen Howard County's appeal as a great place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo Duesterhaus".

Margo Duesterhaus, Steering Committee Lead for Transition Howard County

WE WANT THE BIKEWAY

More than 20 businesses and organizations support the Bikeway, a network of routes from the Bicycle Master Plan that would connect more than half of county residences, schools and parks.



Dorsey's Search Village Board



Wilde Lake Village Board

If you support \$3 million in funding for the Bikeway in the county's next budget, take action at

HCBIKEWAY.ORG

#buildthebikeway

**More than 1,500 people
and 30 organizations
believe the County Executive
should fund and build the Bikeway.**

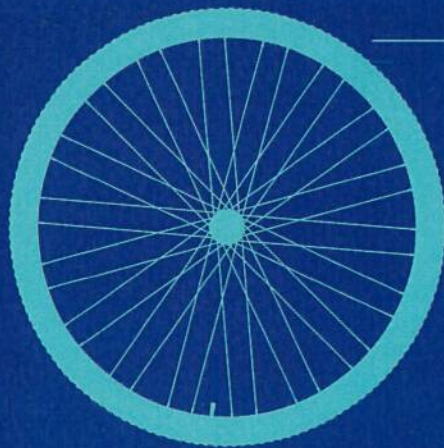
**It's good for business, health and the environment.
Join the movement.**

HCBIKEWAY.ORG
#buildthebikeway



Montgomery County's beating the bike pants off of us.

Look how last year's county bike funding compares...



\$24.97

PER PERSON
Montgomery County



\$13.20

PER PERSON
Anne Arundel County



\$1.89

PER PERSON
Howard County

That's us



THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM



Call the County Executive.

(410) 313-2013

Ask him to fully fund the Bikeway at \$3 million this year.

HCBikeway.org

April 10, 2018

Re: FY19 Capital Budget County Executive Proposed
CO331, CO37, C0357, D1165, D1175 & J4252

Chairperson Sigaty and members of the County Council:

There is no question that there are major important increases in the County Executive's proposed FY19 Capital Budget. I appreciate the fact that the County Executive has provided increased funding for Education both Public schools and the Community College, Recreation and Parks, Human Services, Public Safety and Water Quality and Storm water projects.

My testimony is focused on infrastructure improvements for Ellicott City. Projects that provide for recovery as well as projects that reduce the future impacts of non -tidal flooding.

D1165: Flood mitigation and Storm water improvements. Funds are provided to reduce the flow of water and support water quality. Key projects include the enlargement pipe under Main Street in the West end, major pond projects T1, the Tiber Branch and H 7, the Hudson Branch at Rt.29 and Rt40. The FY 19 budget includes \$4.9 million toward these projects.

D1175: Flood Mitigation for Valley Meade and Chatham. The FY19 request is for \$500,000 to support the work needed on the Longview Stream.

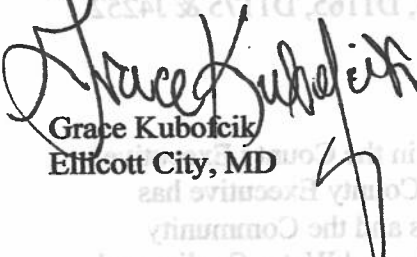
J4252: Systemic Infrastructure improvements to Downtown Ellicott City. The FY 19 budget is for \$1,3 million to complete necessary drainage issues for Emory Street as well as Emory street roadwork.

C0337 Ellicott City Improvements and Enhancements: This is a continuation budget item and is proposed for \$1.4 million.

C0331 and C0357: Ellicott City Parking Lot Enhancements and Ellicott City Parking and Streetscapes. Both of these projects have "0" funding proposed for FY19. The rationale is pending completion of the Ellicott City Master Plan. I respectfully disagree. It is essential we place design and engineering dollars in C0331 for Parking Lot A. This lot is located in Oella, Baltimore County. All, in Howard County, agree that placing a structured parking facility on this site is an excellent idea. It is recommended in the Ellicott City Master Plan. Negotiations with Baltimore County and an agreement need to start this coming fiscal year. Design also should start. If we do not include these dollars we will lose another 18 months on a project that is essential to the continued

revitalization of Ellicott City. Zero funds for CO357 for streetscape and Parking improvements is not appropriate. Funds need to be placed for FY2020 because we need to have rebuilt sidewalks and improvements so we are prepared on January 1, 2022 to celebrate Ellicott City's 250 years of existence.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



Grace Kubofcik
Ellicott City, MD

FONT HILL ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY APRIL 10, 2018 ON EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FY19

Dear Council Members,

Thank you on behalf of the Font Hill Neighborhood Association for this opportunity to support the FY19 Capital Budget Proposal which includes funding appropriations for sidewalks on Frederick Road from Centennial Lane to Gray Rock. With each passing budget year, the traffic pattern and increasing commercial development on Frederick Road east and west of Centennial Lane makes walking along Frederick Road death defying. Videos and photos vividly demonstrating the danger may be found at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ohPnJhNdMumbqlm33>

The video shows the high volume of traffic and dangerous conditions around the bridge and the intersection. The shoulder does not provide stable footing; the traffic is unrelenting; attempting to cross the road to walk on the correct side is challenging even for the fit. The bridge area is almost impassable; you need to sprint to get by safely because you cannot possibly share it with a passing vehicle. The bridge may have been quite walkable when it was built in 1930 with few dwellings in all of Font Hill. That is clearly no longer the case: compare, for example, an aerial map from 1943 to today's development at Howard County GIS: <https://data.howardcountymd.gov/InteractiveMap.html>

After we testified at the County Executive's hearing on the proposed Capital Budget, Mr. Kittleman announced that his budget would include \$650,000 for sidewalks from Gray Rock over the river and a pedestrian bridge. Extension of the sidewalk to Centennial Lane will be "in the future."

See: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1629cbd54d1e0352?projector=1>

We are thrilled by the Executive's responsiveness to our advocacy and appreciate his very public commitment.

We continue to advocate for sidewalks, a bike lane along Frederick Road between Centennial Lane and St. John's Lane, as well as safe pedestrian crosswalks at the intersection of Centennial Lane and Frederick Road. As you know, this project has been part of long-term advocacy by the neighborhood. The sidewalks from St. John's Lane and Centennial were included in County design plans approved in 2010. This project is critical to pedestrian safety and achieving the County's objectives of promoting sensible infill development, aging in place, creating a walkable landscape, and providing equitable access to County services, such as the Miller Library and the 50+ Center.

In prior testimony I noted the dramatic changes to this area in the last two decades. Since that time, we now have a major commercial area (Forest Green) that extends from Frederick Road to Route 40, with cars able to access it from both major arteries. Yet paradoxically, there is absolutely no safe way to access this major commercial area on foot from any of the residential areas adjacent to Frederick Road. Even more puzzling is the recent decision to redesign and improve Centennial Lane without including crosswalks at the intersection of Centennial and Frederick. Our album shows that corner and the lack of pedestrian safety measures on three of the four corners.

A proposed budget is the manifestation of a government's commitment to its articulated policy choices. We are very appreciative of the Executive's decision to fund a substantial portion of this requested project. We seek a commitment for a construction completion date and a firmer plan for the remainder of the sidewalks and, most importantly, the crosswalks at Centennial Lane and Frederick Road.

Margaret Ann Nolan

On behalf of the Font Hill Community Association

Safe Walking=Strong Communities



**Howard County Council Public Hearing
FY 2019 Capital Budget
April 10, 2018**

Testimony

Good evening Council Chair Sigaty and Council members. As Association of Community Services Executive Director it is my privilege to offer the following testimony regarding the funding of several projects included in the Executive Proposed FY 2019 Capital Budget.

Transportation

C0353—FY 2020 Transit Center. ACS is heartened to read that the Office of Transportation will complete a location and site selection study in FY 2018 and in FY 19 analyze that study and select the site for the new Downtown Columbia Transit Center that is to also provide affordable housing. We trust that the selection process will include not only the Howard County Housing Commission, but also the broader stakeholder community interested in access to transportation options and affordable housing.

C0332—Bus Stop Improvements and K5068—ADA Ramps Upgrade Program. ACS supports these two projects as they continue to address the significant number of bus stops that are not now providing for the “safety, comfort and accessibility” of bus passengers (as the stated goal of prior improvement projects) nor ADA requirements.

We are concerned however that the proposed C0332 \$50,000 appropriation will be insufficient to meet the goal of an additional 41 stops, when the prior appropriation of \$1,060,000 upgraded 73 stops (at \$14,500 per stop).

We applaud the K5068 “...plan to provide [ADA compliant] ramps at all road intersection locations where road resurfacing will take place” and the use of other DPW funding for sidewalks to link up with the ramps. We hope that all County projects will use the same planning and financing model of integrating bus stop, crosswalk, medians and other safety and access-related improvements at the planning stage of development and redevelopment initiatives.

K5066—Bicycle Plan Projects. ACS is supportive the County’s use of bonds and grants to reach the proposed \$940,000 in FY 2019 County investment in the Master Bike Plan. We know finding full state or other funding to meet the grant target will be a significant challenge at best. We therefore encourage continued Administration collaboration with biking advocates to identify ways to not only meet this funding target but to get the Master Plan on track to achieve its stated funding and timing targets.

Education

With the community’s heightened awareness of the intrinsic link between quality schools and the availability of a full range of housing options, ACS is pleased to support the extensive number of School System FY 2019 projects as proposed in the Capital budget. The renovation, repair and replacement projects are critical to maintaining a strong system infrastructure.

In light of the legislated restrictions on housing development in the recently enacted Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, I am sure that you will not be surprised that ACS is particularly supportive of **Projects E1045 and C0352.** The former will enable the System to manage the

disbursement of “Relocatable Classrooms” to help ensure elementary, middle and high schools are within capacity to the degree possible. The latter project will enable purchase of property so the System can move forward with planning and design for the much needed high school that will serve our county’s southeast population. Similarly, **Project C0359** will enable the County to acquire in FY 2019 the land necessary for construction of a new elementary school in the Turf Valley neighborhood of Ellicott City. Each of these projects as they progress will help the system manage school capacity thereby enabling Council consideration of housing, including affordable, development in these selected areas.

Admittedly not having the details of the rationale, we would like to express a concern about zeroing out FY 2019 funding for **Project E0989—Barrier-Free Projects**. There has been an investment (\$5.6 million) since 1989; and the investment picks up again in FY 2020 at \$200,000 per year through 2024. We have two questions. First, is there perhaps leftover funding to enable some projects in 2019? Second, will a long-term investment (FY2020-2024) of \$200,000 be sufficient to assure, as the project states, “school buildings and school sites accessible to the public, students, teachers and staff”?

C0335—Community Resources and Services. ACS supports the continued implementation of the 2015 Master Plan with the proposed \$1.4 million in funding to renovate and expand the Florence Bain 50+ Center. We also support the funding commitment to immediately renovate the East Columbia 50+ Center and the longer-term commitment to build a new 50+ Center. In response to the “tremendously increasing demand” for current Centers’ programs, we would urge, however, consideration of bringing a new Center to fruition in less than the proposed four years.

C0356--Rehabilitation Treatment Center. ACS is certainly supportive of a Center within our community that will provide comprehensive care for adults and adolescents who suffer from addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders. We had hoped however that it would not be as long as 2022 before operationalizing such a Center. We all recognize that this is a crisis issue. Police report 2018 opioid-related incidents are keeping pace with 2017 when there were 57 deaths and 171 non-fatal overdoses in Howard County. Are there perhaps facility treatment options and supporting funding that can be put in place while the optimal planned Center is being developed?

T7101-State/County Shared Intersections. This project would fund traffic control modifications at “various intersections of State and/or County roads.” Remark number 4 in the project description states “any evaluation undertaken...shall include the Route 108 corridor between Route 32 and Linden Linthicum Lane.” ACS asks to also include the intersection of Guilford Road and Route 1. This intersection has long been identified as a significant hazard to pedestrians and now specifically presents a risk to individuals who must walk or use the bus to access resources at the newly opened Leola Dorsey Center.

It has been my privilege to offer this testimony on behalf of our 145 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates who help provide the safety net for thousands of vulnerable residents in our community. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Joan R. Driessen
Executive Director



Programs and services throughout the lifespan for children and adults living with autism and related developmental disabilities

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To: The Howard County Council

From: William Moss, Executive Director
Linwood Center, Inc.
3421 Martha Bush Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Date: April 10, 2018

RE: **C0363-FY2019. A project to construct a parking lot adjacent to
Linwood School site located on Martha Bush Drive in Ellicott City**

Good evening. My name is William Moss. I reside at 13475 Brighton Dam Road, Clarksville Maryland, 21029. I am the Executive Director of Linwood Center, Inc., located at 3421 Martha Bush Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043. I am testifying in favor of CO363-FY2019, a project to construct a parking lot across the street from the Linwood School site located on Martha Bush Drive in Ellicott City.

As you know, Linwood operates a special education school for students with autism. Through our partnership with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), approximately half of our students are placed at Linwood by HCPSS.

All children in the United States are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Public education is comprised of a continuum of services and Linwood is on that continuum. We receive public funds to provide these services. The fact that Linwood is situated in Howard County has a significant positive impact on the County budget as transporting these students by bus to nonpublic schools in other counties is quite costly.

COMAR 13A.09.10.03 and Education Article §8-406, define Linwood's obligation to the State of Maryland with regard to providing special education and related services to students with disabilities. The COMAR regulation requires that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provide oversight, supervision, and direction to the local school systems (including HCPSS) and to the nonpublic schools (including Linwood).

Education Article §8-406 provides that nonpublic schools be accountable to the local school systems through a comprehensive system of coordinated services. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), any student who receives special education services must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a legal document that spells out the student's

learning needs and the services the school will provide. Over the past few years, practically all of our students are prescribed services such Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, intensive behavioral supports, and one-to-one classroom assistance, all of which require additional staffing. Our students' increased needs and the extent of the services they require were not the case with our students back in 2013. Our student population changed rapidly and unexpectedly over the last few years and, by virtue of Linwood's compliance with state and federal regulations, we are required to have additional staff, causing unexpected and additional parking requirements.

Linwood met with the Governor's Run Homeowners Association and discussed the parking lot project with them. Additionally, Linwood is proposing to help fund the project. I am happy to make myself available to the Council during your work sessions to answer any questions you may have moving forward.

On behalf of Linwood Center, I would like to thank the Council for considering this project and for your continued support.

Project T7107

Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail Extension

Ted Markle

6281 Amherst Ave.

Columbia, Md 21046

My testimony concerns Phase 1 of T7107 Project; the Downtown Columbia Patuxent Branch Trail.

In 2014, the Columbia Association (CA) paid for a study to be done on the feasibility of the path from Downtown Columbia through Allview Estates. This study was not independent because Columbia Association, who owns most of the land for this path, wants Howard County to pay for building a path on CA land. Howard County is currently using this CA consultant's report as a basis for the T7107 project. Therefore, Howard County has not initiated an independent study of the proposed path.

Because of the extreme flash flooding it is very unsafe to built a path in this area. The water level in the river under the Route 29 bridge is only a few feet below the bank. This area is in the very lowest part of the flood zone which can flood with as little as 1/2" of rain.

It floods in a matter of minutes because of the huge runoff from the mall and downtown Columbia. During heavy rains the water running under the Route 29 bridge is funneled into a small opening creating a very dangerous situation. Below is a picture of a flood where the path would be built.



April 30, 2014 Route 29 & Little Patuxent River- Mid-Storm

Several years ago 2 kids climbed a tree to escape flood waters and had to be rescued by the fire department because of a flash flood in Allview Estates. In May, 2014 a police officer in Savage saved a girl from the swift current of the Little Patuxent River. Also, Allview residents have seen deer drown in the flood waters.

The path will need to be narrow under the Route 29 bridge as there is not enough room for a full 10 foot wide path because of the sewer manhole. The path will also have a much lower vertical clearance resulting in bikers having to watch their heads as they cross under the bridge. During storms large 1,000 pound rocks have washed away under the bridge. If large rocks wash out during storms blacktop will constantly wash out and have to be replaced. The maintenance cost of the path will be very high. The picture below is taken after the July, 2016 storm that washed out the area around a sewer manhole close to where the path would be built.



Sewer manhole near proposed path August 2016

Therefore, there will need to be 3 warnings as you enter the Route 29 underpass
1. Warning - narrow path 2. Warning - watch your head. 3. Warning - Danger
Flood area. A few years ago I met with the previous (retired) Chief of the
Division of Transportation Planning who stated that he was not in favor of putting
the path under the Route 29 bridge.



Sewer Manhole under Route 29 bridge February 2017

The proposed path crosses the Little Patuxent River via a foot bridge near the Stevens Forrest Road Bridge. The river is not very wide at this point and large boulders rise above the water level. Because of these conditions it is difficult for trees to pass through. Trees get jammed in the river and debris gathers behind them causing a dam in the river resulting in excessive flooding in Allview Estates. If the proposed foot path bridge were constructed near the Steven Forrest Road Bridge this would exacerbate the problem causing additional flooding in Allview. Below is a picture of a tree that got jammed in the river where the bridge path would go. The county removed that tree in 2017.



Tree blocking river at Stevens Forrest Road Bridge in 2017

As of February, 2018 there is another large tree blocking the river (see picture below).



Tree blocking river at Stevens Forrest Road Bridge Feb. 2018

In 2008 a Deed of Easement was negotiated between myself and Howard County. As part of this agreement I granted Howard County an easement to use my land for a sewer easement and I requested that Howard County install a gate adjacent to Stevens Forrest Road at the Little Patuxent River.

The Deed of Easement reads as follows:

"The Grantee hereby agrees to install a permanent gate, posts and lock at the entrance to the access road adjacent to Stevens Forrest Road by May 1, 2009. The permanent gate will also be maintained by the grantee".

Howard County building a bike path near the bridge and having the path go to Stevens Forrest Road is a violation of the Deed of Easement.

I suggest that this project be removed from the budget. The final price tag of over \$3 Million for a path less than one mile is a waste of money. Money for bike paths should be spend on bike paths that are safe, easy to build and not have

expensive maintenance costs such as river tree removal and path rebuilding from washed out paths.

There is currently a path very close to the proposed path that runs from Downtown Columbia to Lake Elkhorn via the Route 29 bridge path and onto Savage. I have ridden this path many times. The proposed path is unnecessary and duplicative.

P.S.

If the path were built from Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forrest Road that would make 5 places to cross Route 29 within a 1 1/2 mile area. These include 2 bike and pedestrian paths (the other path is the Route 29 bike path bridge) and 2 roads (Broken Land Pkwy and Route 175) crossing Route 29 within a one 1/2 mile area. Bridge Columbia would be less likely to receive approval.