

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCAS CSP Funding in Proposed FY20 Budget
Attachments: 20190430 - HCAS Thank you County Budget Funding final.pdf

From: Roger Thibaudeau <Roger.Thibaudeau@howard-autism.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:55 PM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Melissa Rosenberg <melissa.rosenberg@howard-autism.org>; Patrick Boxall <ptjboxall@gmail.com>; Roger E. Thibaudeau <roger.thibaudeau@jhuapl.edu>
Subject: HCAS CSP Funding in Proposed FY20 Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball and Members of the County Council,

Attached please find testimony from the Howard County Autism Society concerning proposed FY20 funding of the HCAS Community Service Partnership Grant request.

Thank you for your time, and for your continued service to Howard County.

Yours Sincerely,
Roger Thibaudeau
Chair, Education Advocacy Committee
Howard County Autism Society



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

April 30, 2019

To: Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Chairperson Christiana Mercer Rigby
Howard County Council Vice Chairperson Opel Jones
Howard County Council Member Liz Walsh
Howard County Council Member Deb Jung
Howard County Council Member David Yungmann

From: Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Community Service Partnership (CSP) Funds in the FY20 County Budget

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball and Members of the Howard County Council,

On behalf of HCAS, I am writing to you today to express our sincere appreciation for the CSP Funds designated to us in the FY20 Howard County budget proposal submitted by Dr. Ball on April 21st. These funds, which we classify as our Family Advocacy and Parent Education (FAPE) program, are instrumental in allowing us to provide critical services and supports to the community.

Our plan for FY20 builds on the community-based services we have been able to deliver with the CSP grant funds we have been fortunate to receive in past years. Some examples of the recent work done with these grant funds include:

- The creation and maintenance of our Special Education News Center, a dedicated on-line location which houses a wealth of information, both local and national, to assist both families and professionals in key areas surrounding Special Education.
- Yearly special education workshops put on in concert with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and other community partners.
- The translation of key autism resource materials into both Spanish and Korean in order to increase access to key services in the community. These materials are offered in both printed and online form.
- One on one special education supports offered to families with questions and concerns related to services they are receiving at HCPSS. These supports can include key discussions with an expert and fellow parent to receive specific advice and consultation on their areas of concern and if needed, a one-time consult with a lawyer from Disability Rights Maryland. All of these services come at no charge to the family.
- The creation of our annual Transition Symposium, which has now grown into a Transition Outreach Partnership with many other like-minded organizations in Howard County which offer several workshops and educational opportunities for those who are nearing transition out of the school system and into the adult community.

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

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410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

- Support from a family navigator and social worker for matters with extenuating circumstances beyond resources HCAS typically provides. In the first half of last year alone, this support included key items such as securing food, rent and energy assistance, therapeutic services, and connection with a variety of our community partners and other services offered throughout Howard County.

Without the past funds from Howard County, we would not have been able to provide these key services and opportunities to our broader community.

Once again, a sincere thank you to Dr. Ball for including a line item for this HCAS FAPE Program in the FY20 budget. We understand that tough decisions have to be made each budget cycle, and we are grateful for the continued confidence of the County Executive and the County Council Members in our ability to maximize the effectiveness and return to the community that this investment in our many efforts provides. These funds are a critical enabler for many of the programs, services, education and advocacy efforts we undertake here at HCAS; efforts that are instrumental in our mission to continue to improve the quality of and access to services and educational opportunities for those on the spectrum and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibodeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society



Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society



Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Carter <3carters@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony for the public hearing for the Howard County Operating Budget on May 1, 2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council members,

I serve on the Board of Directors for Adaptive Living, Inc. I strongly urge you to approve County Executive Ball's recommendation to fully fund the CSP grant request that Adaptive Living, Inc. submitted. Adaptive Living, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that for 31 years has met critical needs for adults with developmental disabilities in Howard County by providing housing, support, and integration into the community. We are an important resource for a vulnerable population that requires our help.

Sincerely,
Karen E. Carter, member, Board of Directors, Adaptive Living, Inc.

Sayers, Margery

From: Gary Carter <gary@adaptiveliving.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jimmy Schenk; Robin Phillips; Karen Carter; Mike Callison; Lisa Emmerling; Gary Carter; Duke Silvea; Sharon Powdrill; Nitin Nayak; Tim Mitchell
Subject: Testimony for the Public Hearing for the County Operating Budget on May 1, 2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

By way of introduction, I am the President of the Board of Directors for Adaptive Living, Incorporated (ALI). ALI is a non-profit located in Columbia, MD that provides housing, food, and supervision for adults with developmental disabilities in Howard County. ALI has been in existence for over 30 years and is licensed by Maryland's Department of Human Services.

ALI's primary focus is to develop the skills of its residents needed for them to become as independent as possible. ALI has had several recent "graduates" from our program who have gone on to live on their own. Another important goal is to help integrate ALI's residents into the community.

ALI raises about 45% of its operating budget from grants, fundraising, and donations. ALI has been a recipient of Howard County Government's Community Services Partnership (CSP) grant for many years which helps the organization deliver high quality services for a vulnerable population that cannot advocate for itself. The ALI Board of Directors urges you to keep County Executive Calvin Ball's 2020 CSP budget line item intact.

Sincerely,

Gary Carter
President, Board of Directors, Adaptive Living Incorporated
gary@adaptiveliving.net
cell: 443-812-5318

web: <https://adaptiveliving.net/>
facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alicolumbiamd>

Sayers, Margery

From: Joanne Addy <joanne_addy@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Support the Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

To Whom It May Concern,

I understand the budget next year might be cut causing class sizes to be increased. I cannot stress enough how detrimental that would be to the students learning. We have classrooms with many needs beyond IEP and physical disabilities. Students need both academic and social support which is hard to do when class sizes are large. I chose to work in Howard County because the county puts students and their needs first. I realize it is difficult to decide where to cut the budget so we are financially secure but doing it at the expense of students is just not the right choice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Joanne Addy
joanne_addy@hcpss.org
6037 Maple Hill Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Nora Hart <development@washear.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Cc: Gelwicks, Colette; Facchine, Felix; neely@washear.org
Subject: Letter to Christiana Rigby re: Metropolitan Washington Ear
Attachments: Letter to Councilperson Christiana Rigby re Funding Declination - 4-30-2019.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Rigby:

Neely and I enjoyed meeting with you back in January. We wanted to write to let you know that Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE) was denied a Community Service Partnership grant. As you know, MWE provides critical, free services for blind residents of Howard County. We respectfully request that you speak with County Executive Calvin Ball to restore MWE's funding in the budget.

Thanks so very much,
Nora

Nora Hart

Development Officer
Metropolitan Washington Ear Inc.
12061 Tech Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-681-6636

www.washingtonear.org

One of the best: Metropolitan Washington Ear was chosen by the [Catalogue for Philanthropy](#) as "one of the best small charities in the Washington, DC, region."



THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON EAR, INC.

A multi-media reading service for the blind and physically handicapped

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

Margaret R. Pfanstiehl, Ed.D.
Founder

Freddie L. Peaco
President

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April 30, 2019

The Honorable Christiana Rigby
Councilperson
Howard County
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: Metropolitan Washington Ear's declination for Community Service Partnership Grant

Dear Ms. Rigby:

Nora and I enjoyed meeting with you on January 16. We appreciated the opportunity to tell you about Metropolitan Washington Ear's (MWE) services for Howard County residents challenged by vision loss. MWE applied for a Community Service Partnership Grant. Unfortunately, our application was denied. As you may remember, MWE provides critical services to people challenged by vision loss. We have a radio reading broadcast, a Telephone Dial-In service, audio description of live theatre, and a lookup service. All our services are free and provide access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Without access to information, Howard County citizens are not able to seek and receive information on issues of importance to the public and their community. Whether it is a local government issue in Howard County or a national news story, people who are blind, have low vision, or have a physical disability that prevents them from reading print cannot fully participate in their communities and make informed decisions without information. This denies them a critical human need, the right to access information.

Information plays a critical role in sustaining a resident's life so providing access to information allows them to fully participate in their family, workplace and community. MWE fills a critical gap that jurisdictions like Howard County cannot fill. We bridge the divide between what the County can provide to blind residents and the information that they need to fully participate. For example, the Howard County Library System refers those with vision impairments to the Maryland State Library for Blind & Physically Handicapped. This requires access to a computer and screen reader to access the LBPH's website. Not all seniors are tech savvy and not all can afford expensive assistive technology. Howard County Library System also provides a screen reader in their branches which could be used with Maryland Digital NewsBank to have an automated voice read national or local news. This is limiting because it is not 24 hours access, requires user to be comfortable with technology, and is available to a limited number of

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users. We provide immediate, broad and comprehensive access to current local news including the *Howard County Times* and information necessary to everyday living such as election guides, TV listings, theater schedules, food and general shopping ads, and public service announcements in people's homes 24 hours a day. We also have national news including *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*. This is information that is not readily available 24 hours a day to Howard County residents and requires dependence on transportation to the Library. Howard County is providing very limited services to residents challenged by vision loss. Our service is 24/7 and is read by human voices which many of our seniors say they prefer because it is easier to understand.

Last year, Howard County supported MWE and worked as a partner with MWE to bring information to residents who are blind, low vision, or have a physical disability that prevents them from reading print. Our work continues and the need is great. Our funding request this year which was denied was for the 43 Howard County residents who depend on our service to fulfill a critical human need for information. While it may be tempting to dismiss the needs of a small group of citizens, people who are visually impaired have the same right to access information as the sighted population. MWE's mission is to bring the printed word to the visually impaired. Our service allows them to be self-sufficient and prevents further reliance on costly County services. We are uniquely positioned to provide a service that the County is not able to provide.

Our services fulfill a critical human need, promote self-sufficiency, and prevent dependence on County services. We worked in partnership with Howard County for many years and we hope to work with you in the future to bring access to information to the visually impaired. We respectfully request that you include the Metropolitan Washington Ear's request for \$5,000 in this year's budget amendments to support Howard County residents who are challenged by vision loss.

Sincerely,


Neely Oplinger

Executive Director

cc: Megan Godfrey-Jackson, Community Service Partnerships

Sayers, Margery

From: Margaret Danaher <margaret_danaher@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Special Education Students deserve instruction

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Hello Council Members,

This will be a short letter because my time is very limited.

I am a special educator in a HCPSS elementary school. 5 years ago, I had caseloads between 6-8 students. I co-taught with teachers, modified materials for my students as needed and enjoyed teaching them and watching them progress and grow.

This year, I have "processed" at least 24 students. I still do some teaching but most of my time is spent on casework which means paperwork including of a clerical nature. I am unhappy. This is not why I changed my career path 15 years ago to be a glorified clerk who tries to squeeze in teaching as I can. More importantly, this is not what my students deserve. They have a right to adequate and appropriate staffing and use of school personnel.

I encourage you to do whatever you are able to restore an appropriate instructional environment for the special education students in Howard County.

Thank-you.

Sincerely Yours,

Margaret E. Danaher, MS

Margaret Danaher
margaret_danaher@hcpss.org
3429 Plum Tree Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Pagani <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Please fund our operating budget!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I'm sending out a brief plea on a personal level to ask for desperately needed funding for my department. Special Ed is dangerously understaffed. I believe that every child should be able to attend their neighborhood school and not be "shipped out" because of their special needs. I was tending to the needs of a student last week by myself and I couldn't control him. He ended up biting me and causing significant nerve damage to my arm and hand. I am in a "wait and see" situation now, as the doctor said it could take months for the nerve to heal. Please please give us the funds to get the staffing we need to tend to our children safely!

Thank you,

Katherine Pagani
Special Education Paraeducator

Katherine Pagani
chattykathy0516@gmail.com
7006 Bristol Place
Sykesville , Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Meade <Allison_Meade@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:35 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Special Education PLEASE

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

This year, we had a student who was not able to get the required services that they needed - one of the teachers who could have served him was split between two different schools and they other had 15 other kids on her caseload. This student was not able to get the services that they required for their speech, occupational therapy, or behavioral needs. Because of his needs not being met, his general education classroom teacher was acting as his special educator and so she was not able to teach her classroom properly. It caused a chain reaction of students not getting the education that they are legally entitled to. At the end of the day, it's about students getting the education that they deserve and they are required to get. Special education needs more funding so that all students, regardless of their disability or lack thereof, are getting the services that they require.

Allison Meade
Allison_Meade@hcpss.org
25 Queen Anne Road
Columbia, Maryland 21060

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly McKim <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Class size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Today, in our staff meeting our principal mentioned the possibility of increased class size. This shocked me! As a county, we have been a leader in the educational field. We pride ourselves on the level of quality education we provide EVERY student. As a teacher, I get to know my students and families very well. In order to teach effectively, I need to know them. Recently, I taught a 2nd grade math class of 29 children. I was barely able to get to every student each day. I can't imagine how we can continue to effectively educate all of our students with increased class sizes. I am a product of this county and the school system. As a teacher, I can not afford to live here because of the high real estate costs. These costs are in large part due to the excellent school system. Please consider this when making your budgeting choices.

Kelly McKim
kellylynnemckim@gmail.com
6715 White Rock Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Melissa Scobell <Melissa_Scobell@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:20 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Please Fund Special Education

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear Council Members,

I have seen the effects of limited budget clearly this year at Laurel Woods Elementary School in the department of Special Education. I work as a PreK special educator as a half day employee and also as an employee in the afternoon at BBES. At the beginning of this year we, as a team, spent countless hours before school on Wednesdays problem solving how we can support our special ed students with a limited staff and an always growing need. I started this year with 3 students on my caseload and took on 3 Kindergarten students to help the rest of the special educators in the building since we lost a staff member this year due to budget cuts. I am ending the school year with 11 students on my caseload for just my morning place of work (16 students total including my afternoon placement). This may not seem like a lot of students, but I am servicing 3 different classrooms in the morning (2 prek classes and a Kindergarten class) and it is impossible for me to do this as a half-day employee. I have 1.5 hours of instruction time I can provide during my half day schedule daily and student hours that total more than 10 hours daily of needs. I was lucky to gain the help of an excellent para-educator this year, but she is also split between three classrooms and our combined total hours of service we can provide fall short of what our students need on an average day. When we add in all of the meetings, paperwork, and emails/phone calls to parents on top of an already too heavy schedule... the students suffer. That is the bottom line.

Last year I was able to work just in the two PreK classrooms and provide services throughout the morning for both classes and my students are flourishing in Kindergarten. One will be dismissed this year from his IEP and the others are leaps and bounds more successful and able to keep up with grade level work with some support. My students this year, in contrast, are not where they need to be for Kindergarten and it is clearly lack of time and resources.

My story is a small example of the special education department at Laurel Woods on a whole. I have seen a Kindergarten student not receive sensory support he desperately needed due to an overworked OT (she works in 4 different schools!) and lack of resources from the county. Instead of flourishing in Kindergarten, this student destroyed his classroom multiple times and his cries for help were not met, which created an unsafe environment for our students up until right before Spring Break. The list of the effects of removing one special educator from our midst due to budget cuts could go on and on. Next year, due to further budget cuts, we will lose another special educator to a sorely needed ALS program at our school and we will also lose a paraeducator. Next year our students will lose even more than they already are.

I could go on to explain how many hours outside of the school day I need to work and neglect my own children due to filling out paperwork and not taking my planning time, but I hope you come away from this letter with an understanding of how budget cuts for Special Education has been detrimental to the county as a whole and it is tragic to see our resources dwindling even more next year.

Sincerely,
Melissa Scobell

Melissa Scobell
Melissa_Scobell@hcpss.org
9701 Early Spring Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support of HoCoWSA
Attachments: rigby letter 4.29.19.docx

From: Mary Price <mcprice92@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support of HoCoWSA

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Rigby,

Attached is my letter asking you to support the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy for inclusion in the FY 2020 County Budget.

Again thank you for your support.

Mary C. Price

9254 Pigeonwing Place

Columbia, MD 21045

April 29, 2019

To the Honorable Christiana Rigby,

Last summer when you were campaigning in the Owen Brown neighborhood of Columbia, we spoke on two occasions. I was particularly appreciative of how willing you were to listen to my concerns about the environment. I am writing today to urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the **Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA)** into the County's FY 2020 operating budget. HoCoWSA provides valuable service to the Howard County community. The academy trains, educates and empowers local citizens in relevant stormwater and watershed issues through trained Master Watershed Stewards. These stewards assess neighborhoods and residential sites for stormwater management problems and potential solutions, while also guiding citizens as they seek to initiate residential-scale best management practices that will reduce the volume, pollution and potential public health risks that leaves these sites as stormwater runoff.

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

I have partnered with Cradlerock Elementary School for three years, providing presentations to grades three, four, and five. With the third graders, I discuss the watershed and the effects of pollution on a local river. With the fourth graders, I teach about horseshoe crabs, and how development along the shores of the Bay and along the Atlantic are reducing the land on which they spawn. With the fifth graders, I teach how oysters from the Chesapeake Bay and fresh water mussels from Lake Elkhorn filter sediment from their waters. Educating our youngest citizens about the environment and what we can do to improve the quality of our water is very important to me.

Again, I urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) into the County's FY 2020 operating budget.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Price

Sayers, Margery

From: Millicent Nwolisa <MNwolisa@Laureladvocacy.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Leah Paley; Godfrey, Megan
Subject: FY2020 LARS - Howard County Testimony for Operating Budget
Attachments: FY2020 LARS Howard County Testimony for Operating Budget.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon Chair Rigby and County Councilmembers,

Please see the attached testimony from Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services Inc. (LARS) to be read at the Public Hearing for the County's Operating Budget on May 1st, 2019 at 1pm. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about the attached document.

Kindest Regards, Millicent

Millicent Nwolisa MSc.
Director of Client Services
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 776-0442 ext. 33
www.laureladvocacy.org

REGISTER NOW for the 5th Annual Spring into Summer 5K to Benefit LARS – May 18th, 2019!

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE HOWARD COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2020
EXECUTIVE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

May 1, 2019

County Council Chair Christiana Mercer Rigby
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening Chair Rigby and County Councilmembers:

My name is Millicent Nwolisa and I am the Director of Client Services at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS). I want to thank you for your current commitment of \$15,000 in Community Service Partnership (CSP) funding to LARS. We respectfully request that you approve the Fiscal Year 2020 County Budget proposal for LARS to receive \$15,000 in the upcoming fiscal year.

Your support over the last several years played a critical role in supporting the programs and services we provide to Laurel residents of Howard County who are facing a crisis. In Fiscal Year 2018¹, LARS processed 148 requests for assistance from 57 Howard County households (100 individuals). In total, CSP funds enabled LARS to assist 22 families (55 individuals) with 225 bags of food assistance and 35 households (45 individuals) with referrals to community support services. Fourteen households were financially assisted with securing permanent housing, avoiding an eviction, or maintaining or restoring power to their homes.

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 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.

¹ Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc., Fiscal Year 2018 CSP Financial Assistance Report, 2018.



An estimated 8% of Laurel's residents live below the poverty line, and many who live above it are barely breaking even. A single parent with two children in Howard County would need to earn an hourly wage of \$46.33 (\$96,366 annually) in order to meet their family's basic needs². This number is more than four times the current federal poverty level of \$20,160 for a single parent/two-child household. Ninety Five percent of Laurel households assisted by LARS live below the federal poverty line. Sixty percent earn less than \$2,000 a month in gross income, and another 22% have no income. Many residents are struggling to keep up with the cost of living expenses and are turning to organizations like LARS for assistance.

We appreciate the County's support of \$15,000 as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Millicent Nwolisa', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Millicent Nwolisa, MSc.
Director of Client Services
mnwolisa@laureladvocacy.org

² Economic Policy Institute's 2018 Family Budget Calculator

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Jackson <rjackson@b-rollmedia.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2019 11:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony
Attachments: B-Roll OverviewHC.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members

I respectfully submit this letter of testimony on behalf of B-Roll Media & Arts inc.

Thank you for your consideration of a CSP One-Time Grant in the amount of \$3000.

Letter attached!

rj

Robert Jackson
Executive Director
B-Roll Media & Arts Inc.
202-251-6247
www.b-rollmedia.org



B-ROLL MEDIA & ARTS INC.

Mission/Purpose of the Organization, History, Mission & Goals

B-Roll is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates on the premise that traditional education is not designed to accommodate non-traditional learners. We flip the script on education, building a student-centered plan for learning through STEM centered media and arts programs. Participants are taught and mentored by industry experts with years of experience in radio, television, film and fine arts with the goal of guiding each individual toward a career path that will support his or her lifestyle while encouraging personal growth. And because B-Roll's programs are available at no cost, there is no financial barrier to participation.

The organization was founded in 2012 by Robert Jackson, a media/arts professional, who experienced the struggles and humiliation of going through school with an undiagnosed learning disability. He found solace and direction in media arts which gave him confidence, built his self-esteem and put him on the path to a successful career in the field. In creating B-Roll, Jackson sought to use his knowledge and life experience to provide positive educational experiences for young people just like him. Last year B-Roll served 200 students through 15 media and arts classes held in The Maryland area. With your support that number will continue to grow as B-Roll expands its programming to additional youth with programs throughout the Howard County area.

The organization's goal is to redirect the lives of young people who struggle to succeed with traditional education, focusing on positive activities that lead to a stable and economically secure future by:

- a) Identifying and recruiting youth from area schools, recreational and rehabilitation programs and churches who will benefit from the B-Roll program;
- b) Ensuring that each participant is fully engaged in the instruction and promotion of media and performing arts;
- c) Supporting each young person in the program with relevant programs, technology, mentors and the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and confidence;

d) Hiring staff who understand the needs of B-Roll participants and have the capacity to engage them, develop relationships with community leaders, and be in-tune to the issues impacting young people today;

e) Establishing itself as a credible resource for supporting youth in local communities.

Students who complete the full B-Roll curriculum are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence required to enter the media arts workforce or successfully transfer those life skills to other post-secondary education and work opportunities.

The needs/problems to be addressed by your support

B-Roll serves under-resourced youth ages 13 through 21 and youth with diagnosed learning disabilities. Fifty percent of our students fall into both categories. The majority of B-Roll students (75%) are African American. Sixty percent are male and 40% are female. Three-fourths of our participants are under the age of 18 and an estimated 10% identify as LGBT.

Low income youth and youth with learning disabilities often struggle to succeed in traditional educational settings. Their dropout rates are higher, and they wrestle with low self-esteem and deficits in both life and work skills. In addition, financial limitations can restrict their access to high quality, enriching arts programs that are readily available to youth from more affluent households.

The combination of B-Roll's high quality, hands-on instruction paired with leadership development, mentoring and internship opportunities can make a real difference in the lives of these young people, giving them new options and opportunities for a successful future. And because B-Roll's programs are available at no cost, there is no financial barrier to participation.

Please visit our website to learn more about the outstanding work we are doing.

www.b-rollmedia.org

Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson,

Executive Director

202-251-6247

Sayers, Margery

From: stukohn@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Consideration of County Funding to Howard County General Hospital Needs to Be Reinstated
Attachments: Hospital Funding.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Ball and Council Members,

We the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would appreciate you taking the time to read the attachment for consideration of reinstating County funding to the Howard County General Hospital as previously promised.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 26 April 2019

Subject: Consideration of County Funding to Howard County General Hospital Needs to Be Reinstated

Dear County Executive Ball,

We the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would appreciate your consideration to follow through to include in the County budget the funding of the Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) as was promised by your predecessor. The former County Executive, in his FY19 budget cover letter, said the county is “providing \$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...an inpatient psychiatry unit and a short stay observation unit.” Howard County has a long history of pledging – and then fulfilling the pledge – to contribute toward capital expansion at HCGH. Quite simply the Hospital cannot recoup capital expenses in the rates charged to patients.

As you know, HCCA has testified over the years as to the significance of the Hospital to ensure we can obtain the best care possible. Please refer to our testimony on 1 May 2018 to County Executive Kittleman -- <http://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HCCA-Testimony-Hospital-Budget-to-Council.pdf> as to the importance of such funding and the potential benefits for all your constituents regarding the future health of the County. We simply can't afford not to fund the hospital if we care about the welfare of all. When you consider that we have an “aging population, the continuous development, only one hospital for our substantial population of over 323,000 residents, and growing rapidly the following HCGH FY2018 Utilization Statistics are daunting at best:

Fiscal Year 2018 Utilization Statistics

- HCGH provided services to approximately 200,000 people
- Evaluated and treated 78,049 patients in the Emergency Rooms
- Admitted to or observed in the hospital 21,417 patients
- Performed 10,693 surgeries; of these, 2,851 were performed in the hospital and 7,842 were performed as outpatient procedures.
- Delivered 3,369 babies
- Provided outpatient services to 52,063 patients (including laboratory / excluding outpatient surgery)
- Provided outreach, health promotions and wellness programs to over 30,000 people

As a Councilman you and Councilwoman Jen Terrasa saw the importance of attempting to ensure that Quality of Life Issues including the Hospital be considered to be a part of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance which HCCA has been promoting for years. We are sure based on your appreciation for your constituents and their welfare that the Health of ALL Howard County residents are a major priority for you and your administration. We are very pleased you recognize that the population health and community-facing programs the Hospital is pursuing are worthy of the partnership, support and benefit for Howard County.

Ralph Waldo Emerson is quoted as saying, "The first wealth is health." We believe this quote says it all as the "Wealth" of our County depends on the "Health" of our residents. This should unequivocally be the number one priority and we would hope it will be yours. It is too important a subject not to be. We would appreciate you renewing the commitment from the previous administration as it is undoubtedly the right thing to do. Your feedback would be appreciated and we hope it will be positive for the betterment of the County.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sayers, Margery

From: LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 5:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget testimony (cannot make it tonight)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your hard work during this busy budget time. So many competing needs and never enough money for all we need and want to accommodate. Due to my involvement with development issues, and the State Impact Fee Bill, I have a suggestion for an area of adding revenues to the budget. A bit of a different "ask" than you are used to reading.

Since the State enabling legislation to increase school surcharges to developers, which will give you that right if/when Governor Hogan signs HB1409, exempted all senior housing, that lost a lot of local income. Many believed that was a helpful consideration toward having more affordable senior housing. Unfortunately, that is not the case. As I forwarded to you recently, in our code, school surcharges do not apply to homes priced under \$200,000 (adjusted for inflation for over a decade, so likely far higher now). Thus, not allowing these fees to be increased, is only favoring high-priced units, not helping lower income seniors.

Therefore, I suggest you look at every single local fee, permit, filing, tax, or any expense associated with development that is under local control, and raise it, every year, to the maximum legal amount possible. It is only right to capture these funds, when your hands have been tied for inaccurate reasons, not to mention the fact that we have foregone so much in fees for so long, them being so woefully low compared to other growing counties. I realize many of these types of charges are capped, but do the best you can. We are the highest growing county, yet again, and we cannot seem to get proper fees to fund needed infrastructure to maintain our high quality of public services for residents current and future.

Thank you,

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Debbie Nix <covenants@harperschoice.org>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 1st Operating Budget Public Hearing - written testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Honorable Council persons Christiana Mercer Rigby, Opel Jones, Liz Walsh, Deb Jung and David Yungmann:

I urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the **Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy** (HoCoWSA) into the County's FY 2020 operating budget.

Here in Harper's Choice, residents (and local HOA's) are often at a loss when facing issues relating to flooding at their homes and local communities and having educated, trained volunteers and an organization with deep knowledge, real concerns and resources is truly an answered prayer for many! The Harper's Choice Community Association has referred quite a number of our residents to the HoCoWSA for help with their personal property water issues and to those interested in becoming watershed stewards. We find this organization to be a great resource for us when working with our residents.

HoCoWSA provides valuable services to the Howard County community. The academy trains and educates local citizens in relevant stormwater and watershed issues using trained Master Watershed Stewards. These stewards assess neighborhoods and residential sites for stormwater management problems and potential solutions, while also guiding citizens as they seek to initiate residential-scale best management practices that will reduce the volume and pollution that leaves these sites as stormwater runoff.

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

Again, I urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new program the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) into the County's FY 2020 operating budget.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Debbie E. Nix

Covenant Advisor
Harper's Choice Community Association
5440 Old Tucker Row

Columbia, MD 21044

410-730-0770

“Working to keep Harper’s Choice the BEST Choice!”

Sayers, Margery

From: LISA MARKOVITZ <lmarkovitz@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Senior housing and other suggestions
Attachments: seniorUDGchanges.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Senior Housing Benefits to Developers - Time for an Offset

Seeing that the State enabling legislation was passed to give you the ability to raise developer school surcharges, but tied your hands on the exemption decision regarding senior housing, I believe it is time to look at senior housing issues in zoning. The Bill exempts ALL senior housing from your fee increases. This adds another to the growing list of benefits to developers of this zoning label. I believe it is time to get more back for the seniors and the community. Please take a look at these zoning areas, in need of change.

1. Senior Affordable Housing - Title 13 subtitle 4, Section 13-402c - Senior housing is exempt from providing affordable options. Time to change that, given the developers will now save an enormous amount in fees, especially in large projects.
2. Senior Housing Density increases - You have ZRA 187 coming to you soon, which deals with disallowing density increases for senior housing in certain zones, unless they have access to a more major road. All the regulations cites are in there. I am going to testify to suggest this be amended to include floating zones, such as CEF, that have customized density. DPZ was favorable on this ZRA. My suggested amendment would encompass larger projects that go for CEF's which often increase density over the underlying zone far more than even the considered zones can in this ZRA.
3. Senior Housing Requirements - Given the large amount of benefits, exemptions in zoning requirements and now no increased fees, it is time to amend the Universal Design Guidelines on Age-Restricted Housing in Howard County (UDG). There are SO many benefits, and more over time, that are given to senior housing projects, those listed herein, and also not having a school test in APFO. All this even though supposedly resales adds more students than new development? In any

event, clearly, it is time to require more to get the label of "senior housing" and all the benefits that come with it. Please see marked up attachment for suggested changes to the UDG. These have not been updated substantively for some time.

4. School Surcharges - where they apply - Title 20, Subtitle I, Part VI, Section 20.142 (e) (1) - School surcharges are rebated for residential units that sell for under \$200,000 (for all housing, not a senior housing issue here). This has been adjusted for inflation since 2004. I couldn't find the current value threshold, but it is much higher now. Given one of the arguments regarding exempting senior housing from increased fees, was that raising fees may raise home prices, it is clear many are not aware of this rebate. I believe market issues bear out regarding costs and home pricing, but regardless, we are losing a lot of fees here. I think the home price threshold should be lower, not eliminated to continue to assist lower income buyers from having higher prices as some fear with higher fees, but the current rate is too high to fully exempt these fees, when large projects go in (remember all not senior here) and the per unit costs get rebated, even though they are adding many students.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues, and all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Lisa Markovitz

*Edits/Suggestions
Requirements and from Lisa Markovitz
4/10/19*

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN GUIDELINES
FOR AGE-RESTRICTED ADULT HOUSING IN HOWARD COUNTY**

The Howard County Zoning Regulations allow for “active adult housing” as either a conditional use in residential zoning districts or as a permitted use in the Planned Senior Community, Planned Office Research, Community Center Transition, and Residential Institutional zoning districts. Age-restricted developments must be appropriately designed for adults at least 55 years of age. Site improvements must ensure accessible routes between parking, dwelling units and common areas. Individual dwellings must incorporate universal design features to be adaptable for residents with mobility and functional limitations that often result from aging.

Design standards for site accessibility and usable common areas have been established for multi-family housing by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act of 1988. While recognized standards for individual units for older adults have not been established, Universal Design is an evolving concept that provides some guidance.

Accordingly, the Department of Planning and Zoning met with several senior housing developers, representatives of the Homes for Life Coalition of Howard County, the Office on Aging and the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits to discuss minimum requirements. Divergent views were expressed regarding the features that should be required vs. optional. Features vary considerably in cost, relevance for different users, and adaptability to different sites and project types. Developers chief concerns were that the current market doesn't perceive a need for most universal design features since the oldest boomers are still relatively young and aren't focused on how their needs may change over time. Concern was also expressed about increasing the cost of senior housing if many universal design features are required rather than optional.

These guidelines reflect a middle position focusing on requiring those features that are relatively inexpensive if part of initial construction, but would require major renovation to retrofit in the future. Items that are either relatively less expensive to retrofit in the future are listed as desirable or optional.

Required

- for multi-family apartment or condo developments, an accessible path between parking, dwelling units, and common areas that meet ADA standards
- for single family detached and attached developments, a “no-step” access to the front door entrance to all dwelling units and community buildings. if a no-step front entrance is not feasible, an alternate no-step side or garage entry to the first floor may be approved. (a no-step entrance is desirable, but not required at other entrances)
- 36” wide front door with exterior lighting at the entrance (exterior doors shall be provided with an artificial light source located in the immediate vicinity of the exterior door; the illumination of the exterior light shall be controlled from inside the dwelling unit. exception: lights that are continuously illuminated or automatically controlled.)

- all interior doorways at least ^{36"}32" clear width in the open position (2/10 doors or a 36" is preferable)
- 36" wide fully accessible route must connect through out the first floor of the dwelling unit. The maximum vertical floor level change is 1/4" inch, except when a tapered threshold is used, the maximum height is 1/2" inch. (40-42" is preferable)
- complete living area including master bedroom & bath on first level floor (or elevator access if multi-story apartments)
- lever handles on interior and exterior doors
- clear floor space of 30" x 48" inches centered on the appliance or fixture shall be provided at each fixture in the kitchen. floor spaces can overlap. (fair housing act)
- reinforced walls to allow for the later installation of grab bars around the toilet, tub, and shower stall.
- maneuvering space within the bathroom to permit a person using a mobility aid to enter the room, close and reopen the door, with a clear floor space of 30" x 48" outside of the door swing. In addition a clear floor space of 30" x 48" should be provided at each fixture and centered on each fixture. the 30" x 48" floor spaces can overlap each other. (note: this is a requirement in the fair housing act guidelines)
- wall mounted light switches, electrical outlets, or environmental controls shall be mounted for a reaching range of minimum 15" off the floor and maximum 48" above the floor.

X Desirable → Location on existing transit route or builder provides three year subsidy after 75% occupancy is reached, for a new traffic route or connection to same, for any density increases over 50% of underlying zone.

Required or more

- Low maintenance exterior materials
- Covered main entry
- Entry door approach with 18"-24" of clearance at side adjacent to handle
- Smooth transitions between rooms (vertical threshold of 2" or less)
- Slip resistant flooring
- Maximize accessible path between main living rooms (preferably 38-42")
- Lever handles on kitchen and bathroom sinks, plus shower
- Anti scald devices on all plumbing fixtures
- 5' turning radius or T turn in kitchen and first floor bathroom
- Parallel and forward approach maneuvering space in front of appliances and plumbing fixtures
- Main electrical breaker box located on the first floor
- Switches, doorbells, thermostats, and breaker boxes should be located no more than 48" above the floor; electrical receptacles should be at least 15" above the floor
- Stacking of closets large enough to accommodate future installation of an elevator
- Reinforcing in shower stalls to permit future installation of a wall-hung bench seat.

Custom Options

- Security system
- Visual ID of visitors

- Visual smoke detectors ✓
- Handrails on both sides of exterior and interior stairs ✓
- Task lighting in kitchen, bath and other work spaces ✓
- Rocker light switches
- Lighting in closets and pantry
- Closet rods adjustable from 3' to 5'6"
- Slip resistant flooring in kitchen and bath ✓
- Multi-level or adjustable kitchen countertops and work spaces
- Pull-out shelves for kitchen base cabinets
- Front mounted controls on stove ✓
- Installation of grab bars in bathroom ✓
- Hand held showerhead in shower
- Curbless shower ✓

Low kitchen overhead cabinets ✓

Check marks denote move to Required.

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Wisner <nancywisner16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 4:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Capital Budget Hearing 4/9/19

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To: Council Members
From: Nancy Wisner

I'm unable to attend the Hearing tonight and am submitting a written testimony.
I've lived in Howard County for 41 years, residing in Hammond Village.

I'm addressing the North Laurel Community Center Swimming Pool Facility, which had funding approved to start ground breaking this fall and then a major portion of the funding was diverted to other projects. We're devastated that the pool has once again been put on hold.

I've been honored to represent the Senior Council at the pool planning meetings. With the input from our meetings, the Recreation and Parks Directors and Architect have proposed an outstanding facility for our Center. It includes an 8 lane lap pool, separate Therapeutic Pool and a spiral slide for the kids. Also in the plans are Large Locker Rooms for men, women and and 2 for families. It all looks great on paper and we were hoping for a ground breaking ceremony in a few months.

I'm pleased that County Executive Calvin Ball stated: "The community has requested a North Laurel Pool for many years. Our proposed \$1.5 million funding, together with prior appropriation, will enable the project to move ahead with its planned bid, permits, and site work. Though our fiscal reality does not allow for allocating the full amount in a single year of \$15.3 million, I am committed to moving the project forward."

We're still hanging in there, being hopeful that the reality of the pool is in the next few years.

Thank You.

Nancy Wisner, Past President North Laurel Senior Council.

Sayers, Margery

From: Elizabeth Russell <elizabeth.d.russell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 12:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for NLCC pool in upcoming budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

A neighbor mentioned that there is some uncertainty about funding for the NLCC pool (Capital Project C0358), a project that my family wholeheartedly supports. Do you have any information about its inclusion in the upcoming budget or if there is anything my family can do to show our support for fully funding the project?

Best,
Elizabeth Russell

Sayers, Margery

From: D. Graham Cruickshank <d.graham.cruickshank@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony for Howard County FY2020 Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Evening,

My name is Graham Cruickshank. I am a 20-plus year resident of Howard County, and a Program Manager for a major defense contractor with offices in Howard County. I would like the opportunity tonight to submit online testimony with respect to the Howard County FY2020 budget.

As a concerned resident and voter, I urge the Council and Dr. Ball to make funding for Arts and Culture in Howard County a priority in the FY2020 budget. It is easy to lose the "soft items," like recreation and entertainment, in the mix of determining budgets for infrastructure, schools, and other essential services. Indeed, Arts and Culture must not be forgotten, but should be considered essential in their own right to developing and maintaining a healthy community.

In particular, I request that the Council and Dr. Ball ensure appropriate funding for the Inner Arbor Trust's needs in developing Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods is part of the final budget for FY2020. There is a lot of great programming and development being planned and executed there - major pathways and work towards the Butterfly Building, with much-needed bathrooms as well as visual arts space. Without the support of the county which it serves, that work would be hampered, delayed or even prevented.

I have a special needs child who has been able to develop a love of the arts because he is able to access amazing family arts events all summer long in an accessible, friendly space at the Chrysalis. I am a volunteer and donor (\$4,000 in 2018) for the Inner Arbor Trust. As a volunteer, I spend time doing everything from helping raise money to picking up trash. I do this out of love for the Park and the vision for the future of the Park and Howard County.

Supporting the Park in the FY2020 budget also supports businesses in Downtown Columbia as the Park is an attraction, keeping people coming to Downtown Columbia and Howard County. Columbia/Ellicott City and Howard County are not consistently ranked high in various "Great Places to Live" articles in national periodicals solely because of the schools, or the county's attractiveness to businesses. Access to quality Arts, Culture and Recreation also factor highly in each of these assessments.

Again, I am asking that you please ensure Arts and Culture are not ignored or marginalized in the FY2020 budget. As with any efforts in growth and improvement, there must be a balance, and quality family access to Arts, Culture and Recreation must be part of that balance.

I could not find an email address for Dr. Ball. Please forward my testimony to him.

Thank you,

Graham Cruickshank

Sayers, Margery

From: Talvacchio <talvacchio@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2019 1:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Hearing FY2020-- Frederick Road Sidewalks/Bridge Project

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members and County Executive Calvin Ball,

I will not be able to attend or present testimony at the FY 2020 budget hearing as I have the past two years on behalf of the Font Hill Community, but I still urge you to please maintain adequate funding for the capital improvement project for crosswalks at the intersection of Centennial Lane and Frederick Road, and sidewalks and pedestrian bridge along the south side of Frederick Road between Centennial and Gray Rock Drive. We understand that 30% plans, a stormwater management report, and construction estimate have recently been completed for this project. These improvements are still critical to increase safety and continue to move Howard County toward walkability, healthy lifestyles, and citizen interaction within neighborhoods. They will also increase community access and support of local businesses nearby on Route 40 and county services such as the Miller Library and 50+ Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Talvacchio
3650 Grosvenor Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-461-5624

Sayers, Margery

From: Cathy Spain <cathyspain@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 5:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: jledelson.omca@gmail.com; 'Sandy Cederbaum'; 'Frederick Gottemoeller'
Subject: Support for Testimony of Jonathan Edelson

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Afternoon Council Members:

Congratulations on your recent election to the Howard County Council.

I am writing to endorse the testimony given by Jonathan Edelson, Chair of the Oakland Mills Village Board, at the December 12th budget hearing. I especially want to highlight the community association's support and my support for the bus transit link from Howard County Hospital, through Downtown Columbia, across Route 29 near the refurbished pedestrian bridge through Oakland Mills to the Gateway area (the so-called Transitway). This project will be critical to the redevelopment of Oakland Mills and will be an essential solution to the traffic and congestion that will clog the Downtown area as it is being built out. The Oakland Mills neighborhood has great potential but that potential will not be realized unless there is public capital investment to spur private investment. I have lived in the neighborhood since 1977 and long to see it rehabilitated for the next 50 years.

I have been a member of the local advocacy group, Friends of Bridge Columbia, for six years. We worked tirelessly to achieve the improvements on the Route 29 pedestrian bridge that were implemented during the past year and most recently we provided input to the Office of Transportation staff on the initial Transitway planning. We look forward to working with the Council to achieve needed transportation improvements for Columbia.

Sincerely,

Cathy Spain
6167 Camelback Lane
Columbia, MD 21045
cathyspain@verizon.net

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

2019 APR 29 PM 3:16
DJ JFMS

April 23, 2019

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball and Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment and dismay with the omission of construction funds for the Capital project C0335, building a new 50+ Senior Center at the East Columbia library site in the FY20 budget.

In 2015 a Master Plan was developed to "Create an Age Friendly Community". The plan was simply ignored. In the subsequent FY16, FY17, and FY18 budgets there were funds, but no design was undertaken. When the FY19 budget had the same language (4 years of no action) the seniors of East Columbia spoke out loudly in testimony at budget meetings of the County executive and the County Council, wrote letters, and a petition was delivered to the County executive asking that full design money be allocated for FY19 with **construction in FY20 and opening in FY21**. Those efforts led to an amendment to the FY19 capital budget which was approved.

The FY20 proposed capital budget it calls for **design and beginning construction in FY20, construction in FY21 and open in FY22**. The text clearly states that the construction portion of funds for the new 50+ center is in **FY21 not FY20, as expected**. It is now my understanding that the county has concerns about the parking for the site and wants to acquire land for additional parking spots, which is an issue thought to be resolved in the site analysis.

This leaves the seniors feeling ignored and rejected once again. I strongly hope you will reconsider and restore the original schedule as promised in the FY19 budget with full funding for construction in FY20 and an opening in FY21. Seniors are not getting any younger and have been waiting for 5 years for this project to move forward. If this pace continues, many of us will not see this new center. Please do not disappoint us.

A response from the County Executive's office would be greatly appreciated, since an amendment would need to originate from that office. I ask that every Council Member urge the County Executive to amend the FY20 budget. Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter!



Henrietta S. Milward
Celebration Church Member
Member, East Columbia 50+ Center Advocacy Steering Committee
10570 Twin Rivers Rd., Columbia, MD 21044
Henrietta.milward@gmail.com
443-756-8375

Testimony by Rev. Tim Siemens, Chairman

Board of Directors, Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

April 24, 2019 at 7pm

Capital and Operating Budget Public Hearing Education - HCPSS

Howard County Council

Banneker Room, Howard Building

3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Madam Chairperson and Council members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Tim Siemens and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Director of the Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA and a pastor at Grace Community Church for almost 35 years. Howard County is well known for its investment of resources to level the playing field for those who would otherwise be marginalized. On behalf of the Chin Community in Howard County thank you for creating an environment where they can integrate and be contributors as good citizens of the United States. I would like to share about Chin community and our organization.

CIANUSA- Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

About Us

Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA (CIANUSA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, empowers the Chin community in Maryland, supporting Chins to successfully integrate into U.S. society, to know and exercise their rights, and to fully contribute to our community and to the wider community.

Chins are an ethnic nationality from Burma, and a major recent U.S. refugee group. In 2001, about 800 Chin asylees came to the U.S. through Guam, resettling largely in Maryland, Indiana, Florida, and Texas. Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled many more Chin refugees through Malaysia and India. Chins now number over 60,000 nationally, with about 3,000 in Maryland.

Mission

To support and empower the Chin community in Maryland, advocating for successful integration into U.S. society through educational programs and networking with other Chin communities across the United States.

Programs

Support

- Help access to mainstream benefits (food stamp, health, etc.)
- Provide employment services
- Conduct summer programs for Chin students
- Provide translation and referral services

Education

Our educational programs include the following:

- Legal rights
- Education system
- Financial literacy

- Affordable housing

Advocacy

- Advocate with the stakeholders including County, State, and national level about legal rights and opportunities. In addition, we will advocate for durable solutions for Chin refugees in Malaysia and India with stakeholders including in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Leadership Development

- Organize leadership trainings and conferences in partnership and networking with Chin and other community organizations across the country.

Madam Chairperson,

We are here tonight to advocate for an additional liaison position within Howard County Schools. We understand that there are many immigrant communities within Howard County who also would like liaison position. We believe that as refugees the Chin are the most vulnerable for several reasons

- Our 360+ Chin students are refugees or children of refugees; different from immigrant or migrants
- Most of our Chin students received free & reduced meal services (FARMS)
 - Most families are challenged by the economics of making minimum wage - Both parents working and doing a pass off between one working day shift while the other works night shift
- Many of our Chin students are English Learners (EL) taking ESOL classes
- Many of our Chin students live in multiple family situations
- Some of our Chin parents did not have opportunities to graduate from high school back home and would have a hard time helping their children with homework
 - Three years ago my wife, a young pastor and myself traveled the 20+ hours to Burma an additional 2 hour flight within the country and 6 hour drive into the mountains on poorly constructed roads to their home villages. There we saw that they are hard workers in the fields, persecuted and purposefully marginalized because of their faith. We saw the inadequate schools- unresourced, spoke to the students who did not have dreams about what they could become because opportunities were not available to them.
- Outreach to Chin parents work best when its a personal meeting or phone call; other communities respond to emails frequently.

Therefore, although, there is 1 Chin liaison, she can not serve all 360+ students and families by herself. She is assigned to 2 schools only. So we would like you to consider adding a second liaison.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Chin community.

Board of Directors

Rev. Tim Siemens, Chair
Rev. Joseph Nihre Bawihrin, Secretary
Pastor Thomas BK Lian
Cunglian Hup
Zo Tum Hmung

Contact Us

Howard County Multi-Service Center
9900 Washington Blvd Suite 1
Laurel, MD 20723
Tel. 443-936-8616
zotumhmung18@gmail.com

DJ
TW
MS
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED
2019 MAR 25 PM 12: 20

March 20, 2019

Dear Ms Jung

I am writing you to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I am a senior Howard County resident in District 4, and a frequent user of the East Columbia center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia for the following reasons.

- There is not enough space to accommodate all the activities wanted by the members. It's likely the smallest center in the County and is over-crowded most of the time.
- Activities that are available in other Centers cannot be available because the rooms are too small – see picture below
- The Center shares same lobby area with the recently refurbished East Columbia Library
- There is often congestion in the building lobby with both seniors and students who utilize the library after school.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last two years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget.

Thank you and sincerely,



Ernest Hilsenrath
11248-2 Chase Street
Fulton, MD 20759

Members of the East Columbia 50+ Center playing Bridge in the hallways because there is not enough room in the activity area



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Mark and Carolyn Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045

2019 MAR 19 AM 10:29
All TW MS

March 8, 2019

Ms. Liz Walsh
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Walsh:

We are writing in strong support of Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. We are both senior Howard County and Owen Brown residents since 1979 (in the same house!) and we are frequent users of the East Columbia 50+ Center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia. We are especially in need of a fitness center and larger spaces for fitness classes in East Columbia so that we do not have to drive longer distances to use other 50+ Centers.

We urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be completed by some time in FY21. Funds have already been invested in site analysis and architectural design, and several of us have already provided ideas and input to that design.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 2 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project!

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Zimmerman
Carolyn Zimmer

Mark and Carolyn Zimmerman

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Mark and Carolyn Zimmerman
6679 Drowsy Day
Columbia, MD 21045

2019 MAR 19 AM 10:30

March 8, 2019

Ms. Christiana Mercer Rigby
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

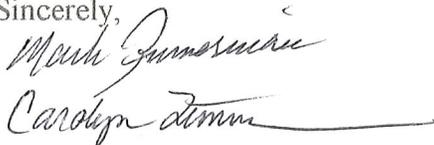
Dear Ms. Rigby:

We are writing in strong support of Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. We are both senior Howard County and Owen Brown residents since 1979 (in the same house!) and we are frequent users of the East Columbia 50+ Center. The current center is seriously inadequate to support services and activities for the growing senior population in East Columbia. We are especially in need of a fitness center and larger spaces for fitness classes in East Columbia so that we do not have to drive longer distances to use other 50+ Centers.

We urge you to support full funding for the project on an accelerated timetable, specifically that it be completed by some time in FY21. Funds have already been invested in site analysis and architectural design, and several of us have already provided ideas and input to that design.

The senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the last 2 years explaining why we think building a new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project!

Yours Sincerely,



Mark and Carolyn Zimmerman

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

March 14, 2019

Howard County Council
Liz Walsh, District 1
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

2019 MAR 18 AM 11:11
LW TW MS

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

As a senior in Howard County and a frequent user of the current East Columbia Senior Center's Tai Chi program, my opinion is that the current facility is seriously inadequate to support much needed specialized services for the growing senior population in East Columbia – and throughout Howard County.

I urge you to support full funding for the project according to the proposed design developed by the architects, with considerable input from the senior community. I note that this state-of-the-art facility can be constructed on an accelerated timetable and cost-efficient basis because, e.g., existing county land adjacent to the East Columbia Library is available now.

Your senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the past few years and is united that we think building this new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your previous time and efforts, as well as continued support of this project.

Sincerely,



Chris Woodruff
5071 Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21044

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

2019 MAR 18 AM 11:13
DJ TW MS

Jonni M. Gray
6635 Corina Ct.
Columbia, MD 21044

Deb Jung
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

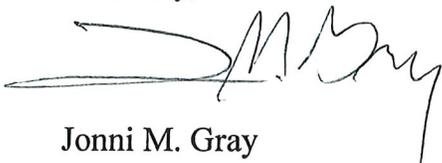
Dear Ms. Jung,

I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center. I have been paying for classes at the East Columbia 50+ center continuously since 2011. The Tai Chi classes have helped with my arthritis and have increased my balance, strength and mental focus giving me freedom from prescription medications. I wish to continue these classes with the world class instructor, Dr. Ping Mao, as long as I can. However, the class has become so crowded that it has become difficult to perform the moves.

If the current center is inadequate how will it serve the growing senior population that will need its services and activities? The staff at the center work hard to overcome the deficiencies and have created a warm community that stands out even in the welcoming diversity of Columbia. I believe the creative design for the stand-alone center exemplifies that positive community spirit and will welcome future generations with space and light as the excellent staff delivers all the services they need.

I have lived in Howard County for 40 years. I have lived in my current home for over 25 years and have been paying over \$10,000 in county taxes annually. I think that gives me some standing in this my first ever request to the county, that you fully fund Project C0335 in the FY 20 Capital Budget on an accelerated timetable. Thank you for your time, attention and representation.

Sincerely,



Jonni M. Gray

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

01
TW

MARCH 13, 2019

TO: 2019 MAR 15 PM 12:30 MS

OPER JONES, DISTRICT 2
HOWARD COUNTY COUNTY
3430 COUNTRYHOLME DRIVE
ELLICOTT CITY MD 21043

FROM:

BEVERLY ANDREASSEN
9217 OSPREY COURT
COLUMBIA, MD. 21045-1823

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE
COUNTY PURCH AND REASSEN
THE IMPACT OF A 55+ ACTIVE
ADULT COMMUNITY IN A
R-20 (SINGLE-FAMILY) ZONE
ON A PARCEL UNDER 10 ACRES.

I AM ENCLAVING A COPY OF
MY LETTER OF NOV 13 2018 TO
DPZ CONCERNING THE DON
REHMYEN / JEE RUTTEN PLAN,
KNOWN AS 'JORDAN OVERLOOK',
(4925 CANVASBACK PR, COLUMBIA)

THIS PROJECT IS A THREAT
TO PUBLIC SAFETY. TIME
IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Betsy Andrews

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

VAL LAZDINS, DIRECTOR
FLOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF PLANNING AND ZONING
3430 COURT HOUSE DRIVE
E LLEICOTT CITY, MD. 21643

Re: JORDAN OVERLOOK / MAP 30
/ PARCEL 309

DEAR DIRECTOR LAZDINS:

I FEEL COMPELLED, IN
GOOD CONSCIENCE, TO WRITE
REGARDING A POTENTIAL
THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY
IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD,
BEHIND MY HOUSE. (WHEN
I WAVE LIVEN FOR 46 YEARS)

THE PLACE OF CONCERN IS
IS CALLED 'JORDAN OVERLOOK'
(AKA. THE 'DALTON BARN')
LOCATED OFF CANVASBACK DR...

ON AUG. 20, 2018, DON REWERT,
PRESIDENT OF LAND DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT, UNVEILED
A DETAILED PLAN FOR A
55+ AGE- RESTRICTED
ADULT COMMUNITY. ON THE
APPROXIMATELY 5.45 ACRES
OFF 41925 CANVAS BACK DRIVE.
15 BA

THIS IS A SWITCH FROM
THE PREVIOUS PLAN FOR
S/WCE - FAMILY HOMES,
(LIKE THE SULLOWDING
MERGERTON HILLS, AND
THUNDER HILL, AND
GULFORD TOWNS).

THE JORDAN PROPERTY
[OWNER: SHERIE A. JORDAN
C/O MR ROBERT FILA)
(410) 715. 5255]
IS AN EMPTY LOT OF
APPROXIMATELY 5.45 ACRES.
IT IS SURROUNDED BY
THE BACKYARDS OF 17
(DECADES-OLD) S/WCE -
FAMILY HOMES, AND
A STRETA M. IT IS AN
'OVERLOOK' WITH A
COMPLICATED TOPOGRAPHY,
WITH A 30' SLOPE.

THE ONLY WAY 'IN/OUT' IS
VIA A NARROW, "PIPESTEM",
PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD
OFF CANVAS BACK DRIVE.
THIS ROAD IS OFF OFF-
OFF-ROUTE 29. AGAIN,
THIS ROAD IS PRIVATE,
NOT PUBLIC.

(2/5) MA

THIS AWKWARD ACCESS IS PROBABLY MATTC. THE TIGHT 'CLUSTER' OF DO HOMES WILL BE OWNED BY VULNERABLE SENIORS. (MOST COMMON RISKS - HEART DISEASE, CANCER, ALZHEIMER'S, AND DISEASES OF AGING.)

IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION EVERY SECOND COUNTS. AND JUST TO REMIND YOU, 80% OF PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL RECEIVE ACUTE MEDICAL ATTENTION AND OVER THE AGE OF 65.

MIDEN, (NOT IF), A BLIZZARD HITS, THE "OVERLOOK" DOWNS COULD BE STANDED FOR A LONG TIME; (REBEKAH THE 28th BLIZZARD A WHILE BACK).

IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY, THEY WILL CALL 911, NOT THEIR H.O.A. OR DON REUWER THE BURDEN AND RISK WILL GO TO COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONDER. 3/15 BA

FIRE IS AN LEVER PNEUMAT
THREAT. I ASSUME THE
DESIGNATED BUILDING IS

[RYAN HOMES, INC
5902 ABRIANNA WAY
ELK RIDGE, MD. 21075
(410) 969-2777]

WILL INSTALL SPRINKLERS.
ACCORDING TO THE

BUILDING CODE. HOWEVER,
HOWARD COUNTY HAS ITS
LINE OF JUNCTION STOPS.

LIGHTNING CAN CAUSE A
7-ALARM BLAZE. (RECALL
THE TRAGIC DEATH OF

FIRE FIGHTER NATHAN FLYNN
JULY 23 2018 AT THE HOUSE
FINE ON WOODSCAPE DRIVE

IN CLARKSVILLE.) PANIC-
STRIKEN 'OVERLOOK' OWNERS
COULD CHECK THE ANSWER

ACCESS REAR. THIS WOULD
HINDER AND ENDANGER
SERVANTS WELL AS FIRE
AND RESCUE PERSONNEL.

THE NIGHT THE "DALTON
BAND" BURNED WAS
UNFORGETTABLE TEMPESTING.
WIND COULD HAVE BLOWN
EMBERS ONTO MY ROOF.

(4/5) BA

YOU DON'T WANT VULNERABLE
SENIORS (LIKE ME) SPENDING
MONEY ON HOUSING THAT
CAN'T BE REVENUED SAFELY.

IT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE
FOR HOWARD COUNTY TO
PERMIT A 55+ COMMUNITY
TO BE BUILT WITHOUT
EASY ACCESS TO MAJOR
ROADS.

HOWARD COUNTY'S SUBDIVISION
AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS ARE INTENDED
TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE,
SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE
OF COUNTY RESIDENTS.

THIS 'SWITCHED' PLAN FOR
JOHN AND CENLOKS 15 UNTEXARBLE.
SINCERELY

Beverly Anderson
BEVERLY ANDREASSEN
917 OSPREY COURT
COLUMBIA MD 21045

(5/5) 73A

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

2019 MAR 15 AM 7:26
All TW MS

Mr. Opel Jones (District 2 Representative)
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Representative Jones,

Thank you and your staff for meeting a few weeks ago with myself and others from the East Columbia Senior Center Advocacy Committee.

Today, I am writing to support Project C0335, the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

As a senior in Howard County and a frequent user of the current East Columbia Senior Center's Tai Chi program, my opinion is that the current facility is seriously inadequate to support much needed specialized services for the growing senior population in East Columbia – and throughout Howard County.

I urge you to support full funding for the project according to the proposed design developed by the architects with considerable input from the senior community. I note that this state-of-the-art facility can be constructed on an accelerated timetable and cost-efficient basis because, e.g., existing county land adjacent to the East Columbia Library is available now.

Your senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the past few years and is united that we think building this new center should be a top priority.

We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY 20 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of District 2, as well as continued support of this project.

Sincerely,



Nelson V. Pollack
6252 Golden Coin Court
Columbia, MD 21045

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

March 11, 2019

2019 MAR 15 AM 7:25
All TW MS

Dear Mr. Yungmann

As you and the rest of the County Council plan the funding for building projects in Howard County, I am hopeful that you will approve full and speedy approval for Project C0335, the building of a new East Columbia 50+ Center.

So much time and money has gone into the planning of a new building for East Columbia's senior citizens. After using a tiny section of the library for years, we are all looking forward to a new building specifically suited to the interests and needs of older adults. We had understood that this was an approved plan with dedicated funding that would definitely move forward. We are hoping that that is still the case.

I teach yoga at the East Columbia Library center now. The facility is woefully inadequate. It is difficult to increase the number of yoga classes or hold extra events because of the limited classroom space. Yoga is beneficial for people with all sorts of conditions, and seniors in particular are helped by the practice. I was thrilled to see the beautiful architectural drawing of a new center. There are so many older people who would use and enjoy this design. Please fully fund this plan in the FY 20 Capital Budget. Thank you for your support of this project.

Thank you for listening,

Mary Garratt

Mary Garratt

PO Box 1198

Sykesville MD. 21784

garrattmaryk@aol.com

Howard County Courthouse
George Howard Building
8438 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

March 10, 2019

2019 MAR 15 AM 7:22
ALL TWM MS

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am writing to support Project C0335 the building of a new stand-alone East Columbia 50+ Center.

As a senior in Howard County and a frequent user of the current East Columbia Senior Center's lunch program, my opinion is that the current facility is severely inadequate to support much needed special needs service for the growing senior population in East Columbia - and throughout Howard County.

I urge you to support the full funding for the project according to the proposed design developed by the architects, with considerable input from the senior community. I note that the state of the art facility can be constructed on an accelerated timetable and not efficient base because existing county land adjacent to the East Columbia Library is available now.

Our senior community has testified at many Budget Hearings and Council meetings over the past few years and is united in thinking that the building of this new center should be a top priority. We urge you to fully fund the project in the FY20 Capital Budget.

Thank you for your support of this project and efforts as well as continued support of this project.

Jane Joffe
5320 Dorney Hall Dr. #111
Ellicott City, MD 21042