

HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
Testimony submitted to Howard County Council
Regarding FY2020 Proposed Budget
May 1, 2019

Good evening Chairperson Rigby 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 all that you do for the residents of Howard County.

In 1980, the Howard County Council adopted Section 12.804(a) to the County Code to establish and provide support for a private, non-profit arts agency to foster the arts. Shortly afterward, the County designated Howard Arts United, which later changed its name to the Howard County Arts Council, as the County's permanent arts agency authorized to distribute public funds appropriated for the arts. This year we are celebrating - 38 years of fostering the arts and serving the community.

I am here tonight to ask you to support County Executive Calvin Ball's proposed budget of \$890,000 – a 2.9% increase over last year's arts appropriation.

Seventy-four 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 is 311,000 and volunteers for local arts groups receiving grants donated 100,000 hours – a value of \$2.4 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 need to provide adequate wages and have maker spaces as well as world-class 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 is open, 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 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, Rep Stage 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 FY18, not only did Howard County grantees provide us with exceptional programming, they used these funds to leverage \$3.8 million in revenues – 43% from earned income and admissions, 22% Howard County, 13% individuals, 8% State and Federal, 8% corporations, 3% foundations, 3 % from the Columbia Association– and 135 FTE jobs.⁸

Statewide, there are 13,185 arts-related businesses that generate 52,723 jobs⁹, including 317 non-profit arts groups that generate 17,688FTE jobs. The non-profit sector alone has a total annual impact of \$1.4 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 \$4.12 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 FY18 for a total economic impact of \$19.45 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-four 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 \$345,000 (CAD: \$330,000, JRT: \$15,000; OD: \$0) to 19 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 \$168,000 to 11 city organizations.
- 3) The Outreach Howard program awards grants to City grantees to produce projects IN Howard County. In FY18, \$40,000 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 FY19, we awarded \$37,131 to 21 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 FY18 reports show that community interest and support, in terms of participation, is very strong – 311,000 attended arts events sponsored, in part, through County funds and 100,000 volunteer hours, valued at \$2.4 million, were donated. We also provided opportunities for 5,900 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 32,000 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 FY18, 34,154 people visited the Center and we provided opportunities for 4,590 artists and 2,465 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 100-150 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, through its grant from the County, 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 93 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/toolkit 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 FY18 Grantees, 2018.

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 Commerce, 2017.

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 Commerce, 2017.

¹³ *2016 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report*, The College Board, 2017; analysis by Americans for the Arts, 2018.

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.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, COLEEN WEST, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY2020 BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: COLEEN WEST, HCAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Signature: Coleen West

Date: 5/11/19

Organization: HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Organization Address: 8510 HIGH RIDGE ROAD

ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Number of Members: 14 BOARD MEMBERS

Name of Chair/President: JULIE HUGHES JENKINS, PRESIDENT,
HCAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening Council Chairperson Rigby and members of the Howard County council. My name is Misako Aoki, and I am the artistic director for Misako Ballet Company. Misako Ballet is a professional non-profit dance company, created in 2006, whose mission is to create classical ballet and Japanese-themed performances to bring joy to our community.

We receive a Community Arts Development Grant and a Jim Rouse subsidy grant from the Howard County Arts Council.

I am Japanese and desire to offer our community an experience of Japanese culture. To do this I combine western ballet and Japanese folk culture to create an original ballet style: Classical with a Japanese Twist. In recent years I choreographed one-act Japanese ballets based on Japanese folk tales such as, The Grateful Crane, Celestial Maidens, and Momotaro. Over the last several years, the Jim Rouse Theatre subsidy grant has given us the opportunity to present our newest Japanese themed ballets in this professional theatre.

Misako Ballet has performed in many other venues in Howard County and beyond including the Columbia Association's Sister City's event, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC, the Light City Festival in Baltimore, and at Baltimore-Kawasaki Sister City events.

Within Howard County, Misako Ballet Company has been committed to bringing dance to the entire community by providing free performances at public libraries, senior centers and the public schools. The Howard County Arts Council grants make these free concerts and community events possible.

Finding funds can often be difficult for arts organizations. Fortunately, since our beginning in 2007, Misako Ballet has received a Community Development Grant and in recent years, a Jim Rouse Subsidy grant from the Howard County Arts Council. These grants have been essential to our ability to grow and sustain ourselves and address the challenges of running a performing arts organization.

On behalf of Misako Ballet Company, we thank the Council for providing our local Arts Council with resources to support local artists and encourage you to not only continue to provide them with resources but to increase those resources so that small artistic companies like ours can continue to grow and flourish in Howard County.

Thank you for your time.

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 giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Head StART in ART program.

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

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Howard County Arts Council. My name is Annie Kalis and I have been the PTA Cultural Arts Chair for Hollifield Station Elementary School for the last 6 years.

In October 2017 I attended the Cultural Arts Showcase at the Howard County Arts Council in Ellicott City. This event was attended by PTA Cultural Arts representatives, Recreation and Parks representatives, daycares, libraries, and other cultural arts presenters. Through the showcase, I was introduced to more than 30 performing artists, each presenting an 8-minute excerpt of their work. It was at this showcase that I met South African multimedia artist, Carien Quiroga. Carien guides students in the design and creation of mosaic artworks, including murals, stepping stones, and translucent glass art.

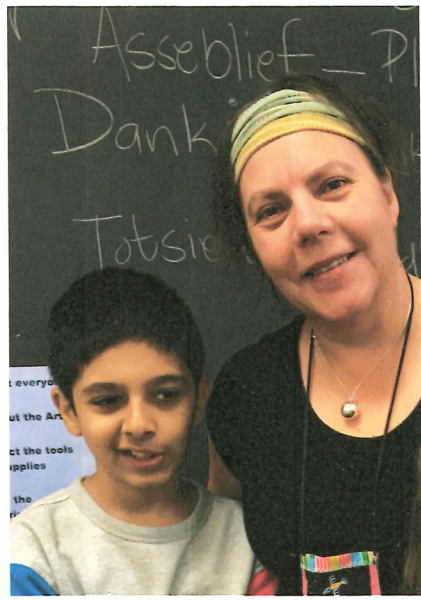
During the showcase Carien brought a 6 year old audience member to the stage to demonstrate that anyone can create a mosaic. In just a short 8 minutes she calmly instilled confidence and gentle instruction to the little girl as together they made a small mosaic in front of the audience.

After the showcase I spent the next few months trying to figure out how we could have Ms. Quiroga as our Artist in Residence at Hollifield. Our PTA had a successful fundraiser in the fall of 2017 and we were hopeful that our fundraiser in the fall of 2018 would be equally as successful, but it still wouldn't be enough to cover the \$10,390 cost associated with the two week residency unless we cut other programs or got financial help through a grant. So, in the spring and summer of 2018, our veteran art teacher at Hollifield, Mrs. Margie Eisenstein, and I got to work on the grant application to the Howard County Arts Council. We received word in August 2018 that our grant application had been approved and would cover \$2,733 of the cost. Mrs. Eisenstein and I were ecstatic knowing that our students were going to have the opportunity to create their own masterpiece. What I didn't know at the time, is that the experience would give the students much more than a beautiful entrance to their school.

In October 2018, students grades Kindergarten through grade 5 drew concept ideas, learned the skill of glass cutting, tiling, and grouting, and assembled thousands of pieces of glass and tile to make "Be Kind, Work Hard" under the direction of Mrs. Quiroga. Over 900 students participated in the project along with faculty and administration. Making a mosaic is something most people, let

alone children, never get the chance to experience. The students learned that with teamwork, they can make something beautiful. What I saw during the project was children of all age, race, and intellectual ability working together, as equals. Toward the end of the project, one of our special needs students who is primarily non-verbal was working on the finishing touches with his peers and he spoke loud and clear “We did it!” with a look of pure joy on his face. Art brings out something in us that we never knew was there.

Thanks to our PTA and the grant from the Howard County Arts Council, “Be Kind, Work Hard” gave students at Hollifield a once in a lifetime opportunity that taught teamwork, built confidence, and permanently transformed the entrance of our beloved school. I hope you vote to approve the budget for the Howard County Arts Council.





HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Hector Garcia, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

FIRN to deliver testimony to the
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County Council regarding operating budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Hector Garcia

Signature: H Garcia

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: FIRN

Organization Address: 5999 Harpers Farm Rd
Columbia MD 21044

Number of Members: 6

Name of Chair/President: Anthony Colon

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County Council Testimony 5/1/19

Good evening my name is Jillian Watt and I am a student board member for the Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

I am a graduate of Long Reach high school and a current student at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Three years ago, I was sitting in this same seat during my first year on the board. Honestly at that point I had a surface level knowledge of the immigration process. And most of us in this room will never have to experience it but I quickly learned how crucial it is to understand it. The immigration process doesn't just end after a family moves, there is an adjustment period of years where support is needed. And FIRN is there to offer that help as immigrants integrate and become active members of the community.

My position as a board member has opened my eyes to things I had never thought about before. FIRN offers so many services to the community like help maneuvering the health care system, an emergency food bank, and after school tutoring. FIRN also provides well trusted translating and interpreting services. One of my favorite aspects of FIRN is their annual International 5K race, which I will be coming home for this weekend. The event showcases a great sense of community and pride in heritage well also being a great fundraiser for FIRN.

When my friends and advisors at school ask me what FIRN is, I feel like saying an organization that assists immigrants never does justice. FIRN is so much more.

I have seen the passion the staff puts into the organization. The increase in demand due to the recent political atmosphere has spread the staff thin with one person working the jobs of many. Immigration can be a frustrating process, but the staff always maintains a positive and hopeful attitude.

This passion is also evident through the board members and our executive director. I have seen how important this organization is to them.

FIRN has given me an empowering role as young female to have a voice on a board of directors. Even as an eighteen-year-old, I know my opinion is valued. I will forever appreciate this role and will always be in awe of how eye opening each of the meetings are. I sit and absorb all of the knowledge and years of experience the board contributes to the foreign-born population.

My generation is a progressive one that wants to see changes in the world. When we see inequalities we speak up, and FIRN is there to listen. In such a digitalized world conflict and global issues can seem overwhelming. I saw FIRN as a way to get involved and make an impact on my community. I want Howard County to continue to be the inclusive community I grew up in.

The board is always grateful for the support from the county and understands we must do our part for fundraising, it is a topic always on our agenda at board meeting. FIRN's resources are vital and no other organization is providing them right now. FIRN needs the continued financial and collaborative support from the County.

Thank You



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

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May 1, 2020

Chairperson Rigby and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. is pleased that County Executive Calvin Ball has proposed an increase in funding to our organization in his proposed FY20 Operating Budget. We ask for the County Council support for the \$60,000y funding. It will be used to match our request for a \$100,000 Management Grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA).

Being a part of a Heritage Area brings great rewards for organizations which fall within the boundaries of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area. In the short time, February 2015, that the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area has been a part of the MHAA program, Howard County organizations have received over \$200,000 in funding through the MHAA Capital and Non-Capital programs and our organizations mini-grant programs.

The return on Howard County's investment in our Heritage Area is high. For FY19, Howard County Recreation and Parks was awarded over \$80,000 for the restoration of the Ellicott City Station Caboose and the restoration and interpretive reframe of Ellicott City Station's freight room diorama.

For FY19, Howard County organizations received \$11,500 in mini-grant funds. These funds were awarded to the Ellicott City Partnership, the Community Ecology Institute, the Howard County Conservancy, the Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group, and Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park.

We expanded our FY19 sponsorship program. Seven Howard County organizations thus far have received \$3,550 in sponsorship awards for their programs or events. These organizations are Howard ECOWorks,

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

Howard County Historical Society, EC250, Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group, Elkridge Rotary Foundation, Community Ecology Institute and the Howard County Arts Council. We've printed a new heritage area brochure (attached) to encourage heritage tourism in the Patapsco Valley. We've expanded our efforts in recreation, creating a Hiking 101 Guide and partnering with Patapsco Valley State Park to create a thru-trail map. Both of these documents are available in English and Spanish.

Looking forward to FY20, we will expand our partnership program; create a matching fund for our mini grants for smaller organizations currently hindered by our matching component. We will expand our recreation and environmental efforts. We will focus specific resources on Heritage education rescheduling our successful month of March Patapsco Days and adding more Heritage information to our web site.

We appreciate the County Council's support and full funding of the Executive Ball's request for our organization.



Grace Kubofcik
Board President



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Grace Kubofek, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Board to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 20 Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Grace Kubofek

Signature: Grace Kubofek

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Organization Address: P.O. Box 96 Ellicott City MD 21041
Old Columbia Pike

Number of Members: 90+

Name of Chair/President: Grace Kubofek

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**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Millicent Nwolisa, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY20 County Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Millicent Nwolisa

Signature: *Millicent Nwolisa*

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services Inc.

Organization Address: 311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707

311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Executive Director is Leah Paley

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Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 306
Columbia, Maryland 21046
443-518-7693 • info@mcrchoward.org

May 1, 2019

FY2020 Operating Budget Testimony to:
Howard County Council
Proposed budget: \$100,000
Community Services Partnership Grant

Good evening,

I am Barb Soscia and I am the Executive Director of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about the important work MCRC is doing in the community. Because this is the first time this Council is being asked to approve funding for our organization, I thought it was appropriate for you to learn more about us. MCRC is a small nonprofit with 2.5 FTE, 40 highly-skilled volunteers and a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members. We provide conflict resolution services to help individuals, groups and organizations have difficult conversations.

Our services include community mediation of disputes between neighbors, staff members, landlords & tenants, consumers & merchants and families; re-entry mediation for inmates at the Howard County Detention Center; restorative practices for youth as referred by the Department of Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Public School System; community building and restorative circles in schools; conflict management workshops for individuals and organizations; and group facilitation that helps groups or organizations have productive, focused meetings. In the first 10 months of the fiscal year, between July 2018 and April 2019, we provided 153 conflict resolution services reaching an estimated 665 people, benefitted our referral and community partners by efficiently dealing with conflict situations within their departments, agencies and organizations and reduced considerable burden on the courts.

In a very short time, just 2 years, MCRC has increased its level of alternate funding sources to cover a greater share of its programmatic expenses, however there is still need to cover operating costs that provide stability for the organization, such as keeping a roof over our heads, internet and phones and the staff to continue to spread the word to the people of Howard County about our valuable services and to respond to their conflict resolution needs. Those

operating costs are represented in the proposed FY2020 operating budget you have before you today.

MCRC's mission is to provide widely accessible and affordable conflict resolution services and education that help all members of the community manage conflict and have difficult conversations in a meaningful, proactive way. Funding through a Community Services Partnership grant is the means through which we can continue with our mission. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help you or any of your constituents, our fellow neighbors, in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Soscia".

Barbara Soscia
Executive Director
443-518-7694 (direct)



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Barbara Soscia, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 20 Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Barbara Soscia

Signature: Barbara Soscia

Date: 5/11/2019

Organization: Mediation & Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.

Organization Address: 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr, Suite 306

Columbia, MD 21046

Number of Members: 11

Name of Chair/President: Timothy Johnson

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Testimony to Howard County Counsel May 1, 2019
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 \$90,000 Community Service Partnership grant for Rebuilding Together and a One Time Grant of \$10,000.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest not for profit organization dedicated to providing the rehabilitation of residential structures for the purpose of providing decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for low income households. There are 140 affiliates in the United States. For the past 27 years, Rebuilding Together Howard County has worked to preserve the limited stock of affordable, single-family homes in Howard County and revitalize the housing community. We have repaired free of charge over 950 homes. Most recently, regarding Community Revitalization, we responded to meet the needs of the Ellicott City homeowners hard hit by two major floods in two years. We were an early member of the board starting in 2016 of the One Ellicott City Recovery Project and have provided critical/major repairs to over 14 homeowners impacted by the floods. We offer three different programs described below:

Our **Urgent Repairs Program** assists low income homeowners who have critical home repair needs that require immediate attention. For example, loss of heat during the winter, broken water pipes, tree crashing onto a roof, loss of electricity and a broken hot water heater are some of the examples of critical repairs provided under this program. These are expensive repairs that require professional contractors like HVAC technicians, plumbers, roofers and electricians.

Our **Handyman Program** provides repairs that are smaller in scope. One example would be an elderly individual living alone that needs a new door and door lock to be safe and secure in their home. Water damage is also a problem that occurs with

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



leaking toilets and our handymen are experienced in replacing wax rings to eliminate toilet leaks. These are just two examples of the repairs provided by the Handyman Program.

Finally, our **Year-Round Home Repair Program** marries teams of volunteers with homeowners in need. Our teams range from 10 to 50 volunteers. The expertise of the teams varies. Major regional builders like Harkins, Hamel Builders, and Buch Construction bring their experienced carpenters and subcontractors to accomplish major projects such as building a new deck, installing retaining walls, upgrading bathrooms to be handicapped accessible, to name a few major repairs. Local churches supply teams as well. We have even had a Girl Scout Troop who sponsored a house to achieve their Silver Project. The building materials and supplies are purchased by Rebuilding Together.

Regarding population served, to be eligible for any repairs, the applicant must (1) own their home (2) the home must be located in Howard County and (3) the homeowner must have a low income and be unable to afford to pay for their own repairs. Our clients include the elderly attempting to age in place, disabled individuals, veterans and families with small children. We also repair the facilities of other non-profits such as Athelas Institute, Humanim, and Bridges to Housing Stability. Individuals who receive our services are positively impacted when they see their homes transformed from unsafe and unhealthy places to live to being homes that are safe, warm and dry. Surrounding communities are revitalized when homes are rehabilitated by Rebuilding Together, like Ellicott City after the floods.

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
443-812-5627

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



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Ann Heavner, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Rebuilding Together Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Ho. Co. Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Ann Heavner

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: Rebuilding Together Howard County

Organization Address: 8775 Centre Park Drive #519
Columbia, MO. 21045

Number of Members: n/a

Name of Chair/President: Ann Heavner, Executive Director

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Testimony to the Howard County Council -May 1, 2019
Given by: Ayesha B. Holmes, Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

Good Evening Chair Person Mercer-Rigby and all the members of the County Council. It is an honor to come tonight to share a little about Grassroots and our impact in Howard County.

Grassroots has the honor and challenge of serving individuals when they are often at a low-point in their lives. I truly mean it when I say it *IS OUR HONOR*.

Grassroots has three important functions in the Howard County community.

- First: The Crisis Services Unit, which includes our 24/7 Crisis Hotline, Mental Health/Suicide Counseling, Walk-in Crisis Services, Single Point of Access for Housing Assessments, Substance Use Walk-in Services and Mobile Crisis Team
- Second: The 51 Bed Shelter, located in Columbia at the Grassroots Andrea Ingram Building
- Third: Day Resource Center, located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center in Elkridge

Each of these components of the organization work together to ensure there is a 24/7 safety net for the residents of Howard County. We are always open and always ready to help.

Grassroots serves people who often are experiencing a low moment in their lives. Through our crisis intervention and homeless services, we hope to help people out of despair and move them back to a place of hope. This is not easy work, the staff and volunteers who give their time to this are amazing people with a deep sense of caring and community.

Current data tells us that over 100 people living in a place not fit for human habitation, these numbers rise in the summer and include more children. Long term goals must include housing that is affordable to those with disability and low-income. However, the immediate needs for this group of citizens cannot be understated. Our Day Resource Center (DRC) is there to help people access basic needs while they wait for shelter and housing. They provide food, laundry, health care, showers and clothing. The staff and over 200 volunteers every year work to ensure people are treated with care and dignity.

Many times people in need will start at the DRC and get connected to the Crisis Center to start the process of rebuilding. Other times, people will walk-in, call-in or meet an MCT staff member. We often have police and others bring people to us, when they need help. We work in a connected way to help people with various needs, housing, substance use, serious mental illness, find a way forward.

This year our budget request reflects an increase in need throughout the community. The County Executive provided for level funding from FY2019 to be available in 2020. We are grateful for the level funding. However we think it's important for the Council to understand what the additional support was needed for, and if possible fully fund Grassroots. In FY 2020 we anticipate serving:

- 101 people per day, and over 40,000 per year in our Hotline and Walk-in Counseling Program
- 51 people per day, and over 210 people per year at the Andrea Ingram Shelter
- 100 people per day in the Day Resource Center (3xweek)
- 80-90 calls per month by our Mobile Crisis Team, with 75% of people avoiding hospitalization
- 100 per month with Substance Use needs through Screening and Stabilization services

If our projections hold true to the trends of the past 5 years, by the end of the Fiscal Year, Grassroots will have delivered over 40,000 services through our Crisis Center. This includes both hotline calls and walk-in clients. We are overwhelmed by the number of people needing services for both housing and behavioral health. Without additional funds, we fear that we will not be able to keep up with the demand. We are asking for an additional person to cover our busiest hours between 12-8pm, where demand for walk-in services increases, along with call volume. Without this person, we are looking at people in crisis having long wait times for a counselor, meaning more than an hour.

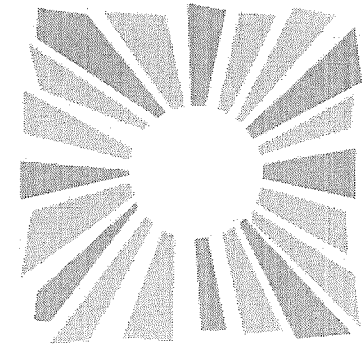
The Day Resource Center now serves about 100 people a day. When we opened last year we could not have anticipated a 25% increase in guests. The center is a large open space. Even with our amazing team of volunteers we need one more staff available during services hours (15 hr. /week) to mingle and assist guests. This is a SAFETY issue. We do not deny anyone service. However, some of our guest lack the social and emotional skills to be part of such a loud and busy place. Staff must be on hand to manage and de-escalate. Volunteers from our faith community are not trained or comfortable doing such things. We hope you will seriously consider this safety issue as you review our request.

Last year, Grassroots agreed to work with Howard County to use Call Point as our database for crisis services. Call Point is able to integrate with Service Point, the County's Homeless Management Information System. We were excited to do this! However, we let them know that in doing so, we would be adding this cost to our operations budget. Without the funding, we cannot do it. **We have already paid over \$27,000 for startup and licensing fees out of a different grant**. Grassroots will have wasted that money if we are not funded, even worse because we are now stuck, we will have to reduce staffing to make up the costs. We believe that good data drives good decisions. That was one of the reasons we wanted to partner with the County to share data more transparently. We hope this is still possible.

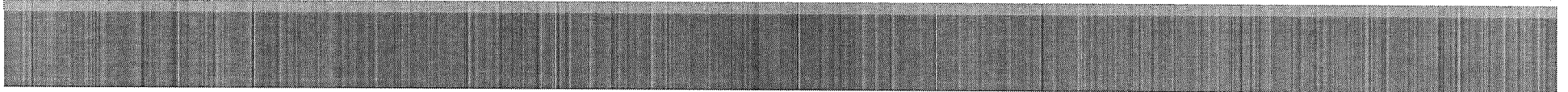
We know that FY2020 will bring success for those we serve. We need your help to keep up with the increasing demand and need for services. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

GRASSROOTS

CRISIS INTERVENTION



AYESHA B. HOLMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRASSROOTS CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER, INC.
6700 FREETOWN ROAD, COLUMBIA MD 21044
WWW.GRASSROOTSCRISIS.ORG



What Does Grassroots Do

Grassroots serves Howard County in the following ways:

- Providing a shelter to homeless families and individuals (51 Beds, 200 people/year)
- Serving the Homeless through our Day Resource Center (1000 people/year)
- Providing Behavioral Health or Housing Crisis Services through our 24/7/365 hotline and walk in center and through Mobile Crisis Teams (36,000/year)

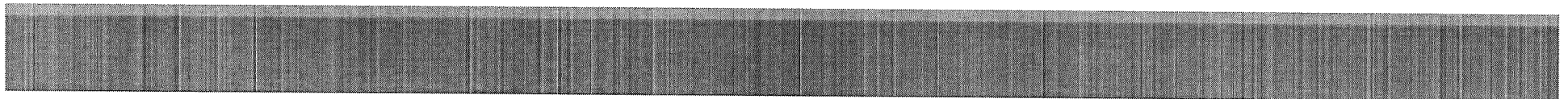
Briefly About Behavioral Health

Crisis Services:

- Operate a 24/7/365 Hotline for Crisis Intervention
 - Housing/Homelessness
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - Substance Misuse

- Operate 24/7/365 Crisis Walk-in Center
 - Housing Assessments
 - Substance Misuse Assistance
 - Crisis Counseling
 - Suicide Assessments
 - Emergency Food or Basic Needs

- Mobile Crisis Services
 - Partnership with Howard County Police
 - Serves 8am-11pm daily

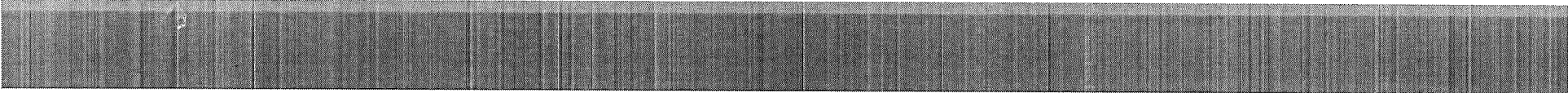


Briefly About Behavioral Health

Grassroots at the front lines of two distinct behavioral health epidemics:

- Suicide Crisis
 - #1 cause of death for middle school and high school aged children in the State of Maryland and in Howard County
 - Last school year, 4 children died by suicide
 - In FY 18, Grassroots responded to over 1100 suicide calls and conducted over 500 suicide assessments, including with people who were homeless at the time.
- Opiate Crisis
 - Overdoses are increasing, death by overdose is decreasing
 - Grassroots is available to assess and connect people to treatment with a trained counselor available 7 days a week
 - Of the almost 1000 walk ins this year, one third will have a substance misuse problem and of that half will agree to screening, treatment and follow up.

Grassroots Counselors are trained in trauma informed care and evidence base- practice models to ensure the best care is possible.



Briefly About Behavioral Health

Where Howard County needs to go next:

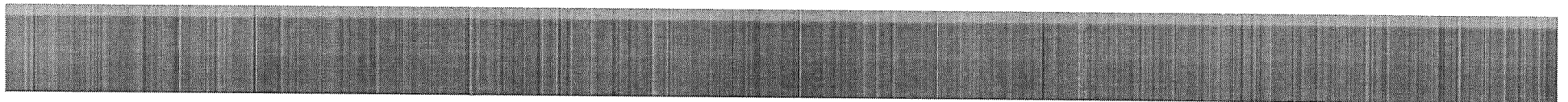
- Develop a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Crisis and Stabilization Center that is open 24/7/365 for individuals in a behavioral health crisis
 - Must have a place for people to stay and be evaluated for up to 72 hours
 - Must have licensed mental health/medical staff to screen, evaluate and develop next steps that are safe for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance misuse crisis
 - Models are available in Harford County, MD, and for Suicide prevention specifically in Arizona
 - This can be done, if the will is there.
 - **Grassroots does most of this already we just need a way to expand to include stabilization. This will SAVE money. It will prevent ED over-usage!**

Homelessness is a Crisis

Shelter Services: 51 Bed Crisis Shelter located at 6700 Freetown Road

27 Family Beds, 18 Men's Beds, 6 Women's Beds

- Service Rich Environment:
 - Case Management
 - 3 Meals Daily
 - Bagged lunch for children going to school
 - Bagged lunch for individuals to work
 - Hot dinner reserved for those returning late from work
 - Workforce Counseling
 - Office of Workforce Development
 - Volunteers
 - Friends from Atholton HS
 - Youth from Atholton volunteer to provide activities for youth at the shelter
 - Transportation to and from work and medical appointment
 - And more...




Homelessness is a Crisis

■ Cold Weather Shelter

- 20-25 beds
- Open late November-March
- 18 faith congregations partner
- Rotate weekly from one to the next
- Hot meals and transportation provided by the congregation and bus tickets donated by RTA

■ Code Blue

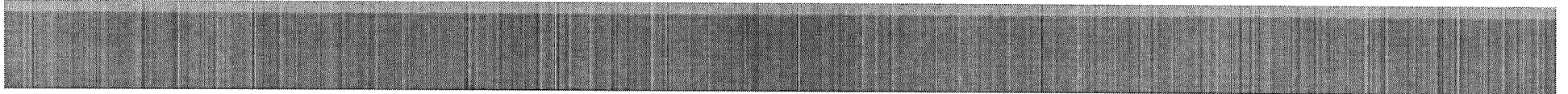
- Extreme cold intervention, 26* or lower
 - 20 beds at Freetown Road location in lobbies and hallways
 - Bagged lunch, with soup
 - Transportation
- 

Homelessness is a Crisis

- In FY18, over 1000 people receive a housing assessment.
- 151 stayed in Grassroots Shelter
- 357 were placed in motel shelter (short term)
- 69 stayed in Cold Weather Shelter
- 368 stayed in Emergency Overnight Shelter (Lobby Stay)

IN SPITE OF THESE RESOURCES:

Over 100 people every night sleep outside in tents, cars, doorways, and other places that are not meant for human habitation.



Day Resource Center (DRC)

Located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center (LDCRC) on Guildford Road in Jessup

■ Grassroots also operates the Day Resource Center. This located on Guilford Road in Jessup. The DRC sees between 90-125 people per session of service. We offer a full array of basic needs services – including:

- Hot Food brought by volunteering congregations (M/W/Sa)
- Showers
- Laundry
- Volunteer Run Medical Clinic
- Food Pantry
- Clothing Closet
- Resources to obtain ID/Social Security etc.
- GED classes through HCCC on T/Th
- And other services

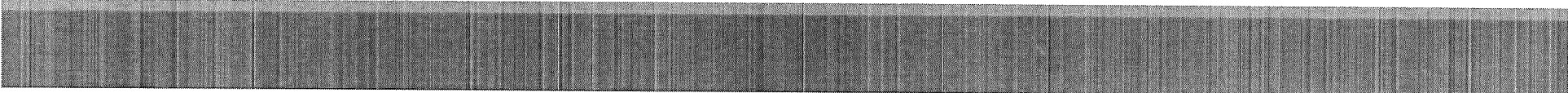
This is a 25% increase in guests, from 2017.

We need to add staff, for both safety and service reasons but can't afford

it.



Addressing the Homeless Crisis in Howard County

- *Divert* as many people as possible from ever becoming first time homeless.
 - *Increase shelter beds* so that every person can have safe place to lay their head at night
 - *Winter sheltering needs to expanded beyond what currently exists to include a low barrier shelter for anyone between mid November through March.*
 - *Increase case management capacity* in the system so that individuals do not end up in a chronic homeless status, which is much harder to overcome than that which is short term or first time.
 - *Increase deeply affordable housing* using a variety of funding strategies so that housing can be affordable for those who may not be high income earners.
 - *Address barriers* such as child-care affordability, transportation routes and times.
- 



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, AYESHA HORNES, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

GRASSROOTS to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Bgt. to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

full fund GRASSROOTS

Printed Name: AYESHA HORNES

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/1/19

Organization: GRASSROOTS

Organization Address: 6700 Freetown Rd, Columbia

Number of Members: Twenty member Board

Name of Chair/President: Nick LANGHouser.

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Jennifer Broderick, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jennifer Broderick

Signature: Jennifer Broderick

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.

Organization Address: 9520 Boyer Rd Suite 311

Columbia MD 21046

Number of Members: 13 Board members

Name of Chair/President: Jessica Zuniga

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Howard County Council Public Hearing: Proposed FY 2020 Operating Budget

May 1, 2019

Testimony

Good evening Council Chair Rigby, Co-Chair Jones and Council members. As President of the Association of Community Services and representative of our 160 nonprofit member organizations and community advocates, it is my privilege to offer comments on the Administration's proposed FY 2020 Operations budget.

FY 2020 Budget Requests

In consideration of the proposed budget, ACS has tried to balance consideration of County revenue projections and competing priorities with the continuing and substantive unmet human resource needs that the nonprofit sector continues to see and serve. The following ACS comments reflect our support for and issues with the Administration's proposed FY 2020 Operations Budget.

NonProfit Sector Infrastructure Support

- As President of Heritage Housing, I am pleased to take this opportunity, on behalf of my fellow 15 NonProfit Collaborative tenants, to share our appreciation for the continuing rent subsidy that enables us to serve vulnerable clients efficiently and effectively in a collaborative and productive workplace.
- The proposed level funding of the Community Service Partnerships (CSP) program is very much appreciated, but falls short of our request for a minimum increase over FY 2019 funding of two (2) percent—about \$130,000. As we have in the past, ACS continues to assert that an increase in funding is essential to helping CSP awardees keep up with inflation. Without at least minimal increases in this critical operational funding, nonprofits cannot remain competitive with the public and private sectors for well-qualified staff, to hire additional staff to respond to increasing workloads, and/or to absorb rent and other operations-related increases without having to dip into program funding. The proposed level funding of CSP funding will further exacerbate awardees', and therefore the County's, ability to provide basic services that support the well-being and safety of our communities' most vulnerable residents.
- We also strongly encourage the County to move towards multi-year contracts or service agreements where possible. In many cases there is only one service provider offering services. Multi-year awards would allow for better planning and increase efficiencies for all involved.

Affordable Housing

- The Administration's commitment of funding (through the Department of Housing and Community Development) for development of a **Housing Affordability Master Plan** is sincerely appreciated. Our County has invested in master plans for our aging residents, for

transportation development and for complete streets. It's now time to invest in housing. It won't be an easy task; but it is a task our community cannot afford to put off any longer. We anticipate that development of the Plan will provide a collaborative and open community process that, once complete, will provide a framework and specific actions to guide future policy, legislative and regulatory decisions to the end goal of increasing access to affordable housing across the County's income, workforce and population spectrums.

- We know there continues to be significant unmet need for housing, financial assistance and case management as people who are homeless or near homelessness continue to present themselves and use the Coordinated System of Homeless Services. We had therefore hoped, that rather than level \$1.1 million in funding for the Plan to End Homelessness, that there would have been, at minimum, a commitment of an additional **\$85,000 for five (5) additional Housing Stability Subsidy Program (HSSP) vouchers**. The current 16 DCRS-administered HSSP subsidies have proven to be highly successful in helping households with very low fixed incomes (and little opportunity due to disability or other factors to increase their incomes) to achieve economic stability.

Transportation

- ACS supports the continuing funding for improvements in access to safe and reliable public transportation within the County. Recent funding to improve bus stop accessibility and safety has been a good start toward helping disabled, senior and low-income populations manage the basic transportation needs associated with living independently and keeping jobs. But there remains a long list of shelter, crosswalk, lighting, curbs and median strip work to be done. The proposed funding for a **projected 60 bus stop upgrades** is important.
- ACS also supports the County's investment of \$330,000 for the **Human Service Transportation Program**, which has been shifted from the Office of Transportation to the Department of Community Resources and Services' CSP program. Partnering with organizations such as The Arc of Howard County and Humanim helps ensure efficient, quality client support and an excellent return on County investment.

Community Health

- ACS enthusiastically endorses the proposed County investment of \$750,000 in a long overdue **residential treatment facility** that will have 10 designated beds for Howard County substance abusers.
- In addition, we support the continued commitment to fund the Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) operations, particularly enabling development of **Population Health's community programs**.

On behalf of the ACS Board of Directors and Executive Director Joan Driessen, thank you for this opportunity to highlight our supports of and our concerns about the proposed FY 2020 Operations Budget. As always we are available to respond to Council members' questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Morris

President



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, GRACE MORRIS, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

the Association of Community Services to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 2020 OPERATIONS/BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: GRACE MORRIS

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1 MAY 2019

Organization: ACS

Organization Address: 9760 PATRICK WOODS DRIVE

COLUMBIA, MD

Number of Members: 160

Name of Chair/President: GRACE MORRIS

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Community Ecology Institute

May 1, 2019

Good evening Howard County Council Members,

My name is Chiara D'Amore, I live in Columbia, and serve as the President of the Board of Directors of the Community Ecology Institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this evening on behalf of the inclusion of \$70,000 in the proposed 2020 County budget for the Community Ecology Institute. I am here with a community of people that are in support of this allocation of resources.

CEI is a Howard County-based non-profit organization with a mission to create socially and ecologically healthy communities by enhancing the connection between all people and the natural environment. Founded in 2016, CEI's work uniquely focuses on tangible community-level change at the intersection of environment, education, and health. Our experiential education programs concentrate on four Cs: Connection to Nature, Civic Ecology, Community Health and Climate Action.

Our flagship program, Columbia Families in Nature, has offered 233 free nature-based experiential education events throughout the community, which have been attended by over 2,800 families which equates to more than 8,000 participants spending more than 17,000 hours of meaningful time outdoors.

Based on our history of providing impactful nature-based education programming to the community we have been offered the opportunity to purchase one of the last farms in Columbia at a fraction of the development market cost, provided that we commit to keeping it in agriculture and protect it from development, which we will do.

This 6.4-acre organic farm is in Hickory Ridge, directly behind Atholton High School and neighboring the Harriet Tubman School and Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. This farm has previously provided food for 80 local households through a community supported agriculture program and has a long history of providing fresh produce to the Howard County Food Bank. In addition to the agricultural area, on this property there are two acres of woodland, a small wetland, and two streams that feed into the nearby Middle Patuxent River.

The funding we have requested from the county will go directly to the time-sensitive acquisition of this farm. Due to personal considerations, the owner has determined that if CEI is not able to close on the property at the beginning of this summer he will sell the property at auction. The adjacent property to the east has just been developed into a 24-unit townhome community and this is the likely fate of this farm as well should CEI not secure the needed funding.

In addition to bringing the farm back into production using regenerative agriculture practices, CEI is committed to offering programming on this property that will serve the Howard County community in several areas that support the county's priority around having thriving and healthy residents and a clean and sustainable environment.

We are building on the "Urban Ecology Center" model that has seen tremendous success in Milwaukee Wisconsin, to develop a "Community Ecology Center" that will be based on this farm. The purpose of



Community Ecology Institute

this innovative community education space will be to offer opportunities for county residents to learn through hands on experience about how they can lead happier, healthier, more connected and sustainable lives. For example, we will be offering:

- Environmental sustainability and climate action demonstration spaces and programming that supports the county's commitment to the We Are Still Agreement and U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Lands Challenge;
- Community-garden based mental and physical health programming that is designed in collaboration with other county non-profits, such as the Howard County Autism Society;
- Nature-based experiential education programming, such as our award-winning Columbia Families in Nature program as well as field trips and community service opportunities for county school children; and
- African American land heritage programming offered in collaboration with the Harriet Tubman School, which is directly across the street from the farm.

The county's support of this endeavor is critical. We quite literally won't be able to save this farm and create a Community Ecology Center on the property without the county's financial contribution. It is important to save our rapidly disappearing farmland, especially what little remains in the eastern part of the county. It is also important to do everything we can to enhance the health of our community, and that means looking at both the people and the place on which we depend and the relationships between our connected well-being. There is strong research linking people's mental and physical health with the amount of time they spend in natural environments. There is also strong research linking people's commitment to environmental action to the exact type of experiences that CEI programs are designed to offer.

During last week's education budget testimony, I was struck by what the students shared about the mental health crisis our youth are facing and left thinking about how to address the root causes of these issues. We believe protecting this farm can be a piece of this complex puzzle. Small, local, community-based ecology centers like we are planning on the farm have the power to help transform communities, helping to heal the environmental and bringing people together with a sense of hope and purpose for the future.

Additionally, communities are the ideal level of focus for building social and environmental resilience because regular people can most effectively be involved at this level. One community's experiment can inspire thousands of other experiments, providing valuable insights and best practices and ultimately building support for larger-scale changes towards the type of future we envision for our children.

We ask that you retain the funding the County Executive has placed in the budget to support our purchase of this farm and creation of a Community Ecology Center for Howard County.

Thank you,

Chiara D'Amore



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Chiara D'Amore, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

the Community Ecology Institute to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding the 2020 operating budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Chiara D'Amore

Signature: Chiara D'Amore

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: The Community Ecology Institute

Organization Address: 5429 Endicott Ln.

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 10 board members + community volunteers

Name of Chair/President: Chiara D'Amore

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Testimony for the Howard County Council Public Hearing:

Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budgets

Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7:00 pm

Banneker Room

3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Council Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jones and members of the Council,

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Nora Hart. I live at 7855 Tuckahoe Court in Fulton. I am the Development Officer at the Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE), a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization which was established in 1974 to “Bring the Printed Word to the Visually Impaired.” Thank you for your past support for the services that we provide free of charge for residents of Howard County who are blind, have low vision, or have a physical disability that prevents them from reading print material.

We are in our 45th year of providing free news and information services for people challenged by vision loss. We currently provide services for 43 Howard County listeners. MWE provides 24/7 news and information and other services including:

1. 24/7 radio broadcast
2. 24/7 telephone dial-in news and information
3. Personal look-up service each evening
4. Audio Description of live stage performances

We have nearly 300 volunteers, including 16 residents of Howard County.

Our listeners rely on the vast amount of local information we provide, such as food and shopping ads, TV listings, election guides, and community newsletters including the *Howard County Times*. No other organization provides the wide range of vital services that we do for our listeners. They frequently call us their **lifeline**. We address a critical need in the County by providing essential services on behalf of the County to vulnerable County residents.

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 with vision loss 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.

As one of our listeners commented, “One of the greatest challenges faced by those who experience vision loss is accessing information. In today’s environment...it is especially critical that persons who are unable to read the print media have prompt access to the same types of information that are available to their peers. The ability to listen to the daily newspaper and periodicals at any time of the day or night is both a genuine pleasure and an absolute necessity.”

Last year, Howard County supported MWE and worked as a partner with MWE to bring information to residents who are challenged by vision loss 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.

When more residents have a way to meet the challenge of vision loss they become more employable, more likely to be active participants in their community and less likely to require other costly County services. Our services meet a need that Howard County does not provide within existing County services. We look forward to continuing to serve County residents who rely on us for information that is vital to their everyday lives, their independence, and their well-being and we ask you to urge County Executive Ball to restore our funding in his proposed budget.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Nora Hart, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Metropolitan Washington Ear to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY 2020 Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Neely Oplinger

Signature: Neely Oplinger

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Metropolitan Washington Ear

Organization Address: 12061 Tech Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Freddie Peaco

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



National *Family*
Resiliency Center

fostering
family
wellness

April 27, 2019

Dear County Executive Dr. Ball and Members of the Howard County Council: Chairperson Christiana Mercer Rigby, Vice Chairperson Opel Jones, Liz Walsh, Deb Yung and David Yungmann

We are extremely upset about the proposed 50% funding cut for our center. The National Family Resiliency Center, (formerly Children of Separation and Divorce) has been a stellar non-profit center in Howard County since we started as a project at the Family Life Center in 1983. If you look at recent funding, there is no explanation as to why our funding was cut in half.

Funding for the National Family Resiliency Center should not be reduced:

- The high divorce rate in our community has had an impact on children and families because of the significant conflict often involved, along with other complex family challenges.
- While some families are able to cope with family changes in healthy ways, there are still many families who struggle to cope with losses and changes, as a result of a divorce or family breakup. Many families don't fare well with a significant change because there may be untreated mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and untreated developmental challenges. NFRC works with families having all of these challenges. Studies show that divorce or the breakup of a family, can be the most stressful event that the family will ever experience, second only to death,
- NFRC peer counselors have won three county awards for their volunteer services. Children and teens volunteer to help out with group therapy programs, volunteering 12 weeks at a time, for two hours a week. Adults and children speak at court-ordered parent seminars on a monthly basis. Last year, they were given a standing ovation by judges and attorneys at a statewide conference.
- The operational grant assists with office rent, our annual financial review, provides support for our peer counselor program and allows NFRC to offer sliding fees as low as \$5 and \$10 a group to financially eligible families who want their children to participate in group therapy programs. Parents can attend the nine hour co-parent seminar for as little as \$20 thanks to the funding we get.

It is extremely disheartening to me, when professionals from other counties in Maryland tell me they wish they had an NFRC in their community and boards, to be in our own county and see this lack of support. Dr. Ball, several years ago, we met with you and you told us how important our services were. You reflected that before that time, you really hadn't understood what we do. I sincerely hope that you can help others to understand what you learned about our center. Since we last spoke, our center has played a significant role in helping more families in Howard County avoid court and resolve differences through additional parent education programs that the court asked us to develop. I served on the last Maryland Child Custody Commission that addressed the very issues we have worked on in our community. Howard County stands as a model for other counties. We collaborate with other nonprofits, therapists and psychiatrists, with the Howard County Public schools and the courts to support the families we serve. We have made a major difference in this community in how divorce is handled. It helps me to understand how our client families feel when their needs are being ignored and this is the message being sent if our funding is being cut so significantly.

Without our full funding, we cannot provide the much needed services to the children and parents in this community. The county is justifiably concerned about mental illness in this community. We see it, deal with it and help. Just recently, I had to work with the police, hospital and Grassroots to hospitalize a severely depressed adolescent; in April alone, other staff members had to report child abuse to CPS. We work closely with the schools to provide resources and to identify children and adolescents who are having academic and/or behavioral problems that may be a result of conflict in the home due to a separation, divorce or family breakup. Our center is truly unique in this regard and strongly supports the healthy development of families and children which we know is a major goal of Howard County.

What are we not saying that conveys the critical need for our center?

Please reconsider this funding and please don't diminish the work we have done and are trying to continue to do.

Thank you for your consideration.



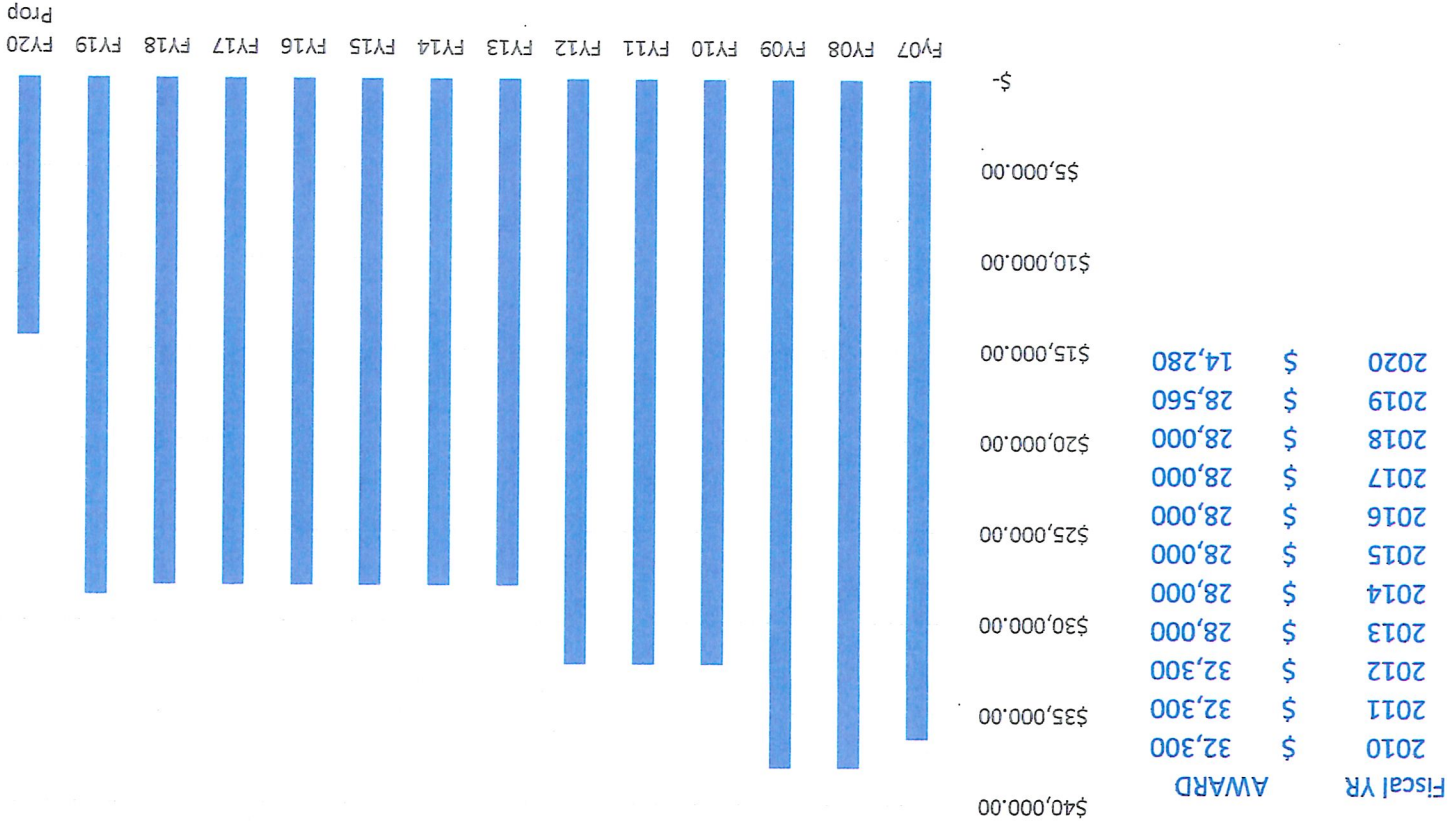
Risa Garon, LCSW-C, BCD, CFLE
Executive Director and Therapist
National Family Resiliency Center
410-740-9553 x203
www.nfrchelp.org

Sincerely,



Lester Bradshaw
President, Board of Directors
National Family Resiliency Center
10100 Twin Rivers Rd, #325
Columbia, MD 21044

National Family Resiliency CSP Grant Awards





**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Risa Garon, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

National Family Resiliency Center to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Risa Garon

Signature: _____

Date: 05/01/2019

Organization: National Family Resiliency Center

Organization Address: 10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy #115, Columbia, MD 21044

10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy #115, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Lester Bradshaw

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

My name is Larry Corsa and I am the President of the Heritage Green Townhouse Association. I represent a community of 80 homes and over 200 County residents located on Cedar Lane across from Cedar Lane Park

I am speaking tonight about the inequities created by the selection of the green space around Harpers Choice Middle School as the site for the proposed North Columbia Fire Station and the Third District Police station. This green space is currently highly utilized, by the School and by numerable community groups for recreation. It borders two great community resources, Cedar Lane Park and the Columbia Dog Park, and is across from my residential community. The selected site has no immediate access to a main highway or arterial road, and will cause a great increase in traffic and noise and raises significant safety concerns.

I know our County Council and County Executive are passionate about and focused on lifting up the citizens of Howard County and ensuring that our children have top-notch educational and community experiences. I hope that you consider carefully, therefore, that converting the proposed site into a fire and police station will deprive the children of Harpers Choice Middle School, one of the less-resourced schools in our County, of the greenspace that is used for practice fields and recreation, and subject them to years of construction, loss of walking paths, and the constant commotion of a fire station performing double duty.

I also know that historically the safety of our school children and preservation of our park land has been a County priority, as evidenced by a County taskforce, chaired by then Councilman Ball, which concluded that fuel facilities should not be sited within 500 feet of schools and parks. Yet, the current proposal will place a fuel facility at the boundary of the Harpers Choice Middle School, Cedar Lane Park and the dog park.

As a citizen, I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency in the site selection process. No numerical data regarding the urgent need for the proposal has been offered. There is still NO mention of the need or projection for building the latest County General Plan.

I appreciate that this proposal originated with the previous administration and I fault that administration for a failure in planning, in terms of choosing a site that best meets community needs, and for a failure of leadership, by not including the community in the site selection process.

I am grateful that this County Council and our new County Executive are in the position to correct these failures, by carefully examining the costs and benefits of the proposal and including the community in a dialogue, so that we can have our priorities, needs, and concerns fairly considered.

Our community is not opposed to a new firehouse per se. But, it is our understanding, based on statements made by representatives of the Fire Department, that the need for the firehouse is in large part created by recent push for downtown growth and development. The downtown developers and the County as a whole benefitted and continue to benefit enormously financially from this development. We do not believe, therefore, that an adjacent longstanding residential, school, and recreational community should be tapped to bear the burden of the intense usage of a fire and police station. Instead the County should be carefully looking for the best place to site this in terms of impact, with full access to the financial resources gained from the downtown redevelopment. The County should NOT look only in terms of the cheapest and most expeditious site to procure.

On behalf of my community, I ask that this project be placed on hold and a process developed using fair and transparent criteria, including impact analysis, community feedback, and a full and honest exploration of all possible options, before a permanent site for a new fire and police station is chosen.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Larry Corsa, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Capital Budget items F5976 and P4928 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Larry Corsa

Signature: *Lawrence J. Corsa III*

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc.

Organization Address: 5305 Village Center Drive, PMB184, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 80 owners plus families

Name of Chair/President: Lawrence J Corsa III

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening, Chairman and Council Members. My name is Roger Pyon, and I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC). On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and friends of KCSC, I would like to express our great appreciation for your support of the Asian-American community of Howard County.

I am here tonight to request the restoration of scheduled 25% cut in the upcoming budget and why this restoration of funding to 2019 level is critical for the services KCSC provides in Howard County.

KCSC's mission is to assist and empower Asian-Americans and new immigrants to become well-adjusted and fully contributing members of this great nation. Our bilingual staff work very hard to help clients understand US society and culture, so that they can quickly and smoothly transition to life in their adopted motherland.

Howard County is home to over 60,000 Asian residents with Korean-Americans comprising around 23% of this number. In particular, the number of Korean-Americans living in Howard County has more than doubled over the last 15 years, with the most recent data showing a population of 13,626 Korean-Americansⁱ. 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 in 2018. In fact, Korean-Americans make up over 7% of Ellicott City residents, one of the most densely populated Korean-American communities in the entire stateⁱⁱ.

Thanks to 2019 funding through Howard County's Community Service Partnership, KCSC was able to open a branch office in Howard County three days a week. KCSC provides comprehensive social services to low/moderate income, limited English proficient individuals and families. Our bilingual staff assist them every step of the process from gathering required information, to filing applications, referring them to additional resources, and resolving any matters that they may find difficult or confusing. KCSC strives to be a "one-stop" shop for all community members.

One of KCSC's most essential and successful program is our Safety Net program. I'd like to share a story of one of our recent Safety Net clients which is included at the end of this written testimony. Mr. Park's story is one of where KCSC was able to step in to prevent his family from becoming a homeless statistic when no other Federal, State, or Local government assistance was readily available.

The Community Service Partnership Operating Grant from Howard County has been vital important in helping us to provide crucial support to Korean-American community members, such as Mr. Park. This grant has allowed KCSC to offer services three days a week and after only 9 months of funding, we are exactly on target to meet our service goals by the end of the fiscal year. During the last year, we have been focusing on our long-term sustainability, working hard to develop new partnerships with local foundations and individual donors. For our Safety Net program, Howard County funds only the operational part of the program, with the rest coming from individual donors and faith-based organizations. Together, this partnership is able to help clients like Mr. Park to overcome many difficult challenges and quickly stabilize their lives and move forward.

We are very concerned that the 25% projected cut to our 2020 budget will result in KCSC having to reduce office hours and the services we provide. This will certainly be devastating to our clients. As we work toward a healthy and empowered community and to make a positive difference, KCSC truly needs stable support and adequate funding from Howard County to allow us to meet challenging community needs. We appreciate your commitment and support to KCSC and humbly ask that you reconsider our 2020 budget request.

Thank you,

Summary of Mr. Park's (KCSC Safety Net Program recipient) testimony:

Last year, about an hour after eating dinner with his family, our client, Mr. Park, had a heart attack and had to be rushed to the hospital. The thought of dying and leaving his wife and three children was terrifying to him. He was left in so much pain that he could barely sit, stand, or even lie down. He was informed that an immediate surgery was required but that news was overshadowed by his financial situation, especially since he wasn't able to work while recovering from surgery. The family was already heavily in debt plus they had been dealing with their daughter's Turner syndrome, which needed ongoing and very expensive treatment.

At that time, Mr. Park came to KCSC to find out if there was any government assistance for his family. Our social worker explained that he didn't qualify for government cash assistance, however, KCSC's own Safety Net program could provide support. Through this program, he was able to get three months of rental assistance for the time he was unable to work and coupons for groceries. The KCSC staff helped him apply for Medicaid benefits for his medical bills and the volunteer financial experts worked with him to sort out his finances.

ⁱ 2015 American Community Survey.

ⁱⁱ CNN Money, Nov. 12, 2015



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, ROGER PYON, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Korean Community Service Center of G.W. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding recommended budget for FY 20 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: ROGER PYON

Signature: Roger S. Pyon

Date: 5/1/2019

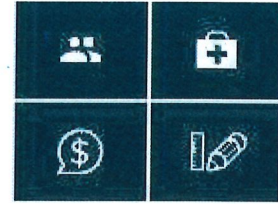
Organization: Korean Community Service Center of G.W.

Organization Address: 8430 Glenmar Rd.
Ellicott City, MD. 21043

Number of Members: N/A.

Name of Chair/President: Roger S. Pyon

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Why Howard County is Facing Record Budget Deficits

April 5, 2019

Hiruy Hadgu

"What we have found is that new development tends to more than pay for itself and disproportionately finances the growth in government..."

This was a quote by economist Anirban Basu from a 2005 Baltimore Sun article [3] citing a study his firm Sage Policy Group conducted for the Maryland Builders Association, in response to a slew of impact fee legislation adopted by several Maryland Counties.

The view Mr. Basu stated is an orthodoxy shared by most municipal leaders in Maryland if not the entire U.S. To them, more residential development means, more tax revenue for the county's coffers.

There were dissenters at the time who cast doubt on the assertion. A Baltimore County councilman at the time, Vincent J. Gardina, said the following: "... houses are selling for an arm and a leg, but if you look at one house with two children in school, that [cost per pupil] approaches \$20,000 a year. No way we get that kind of revenue from a property tax." [3]

Fourteen years have passed since Howard County enacted legislation that allowed the collection of surcharge fees to provide infrastructure needed for new development. Who was right?

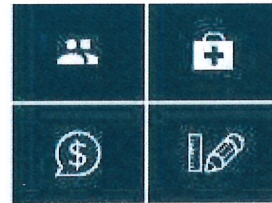
First lets clear up some terminology...

Impact Fees vs. Surcharge Fees

The technical terms used to define the fees differ based on how the fees are assessed and spent. Howard County collects *surcharge fees*, while others collect *impact fees*. Impact fees are required to provide direct benefit in the geographical region of those who purchase the new homes, while surcharge fees have no geographical restriction. Impact fees are also supposed to be spent within a prescribed period of time, after which they are returned to the Developer.

The TL;DR...New Development does not Pay for itself

Looking back, the evidence suggests Mr. Basu and others who pushed that orthodoxy were wrong. In fact, new development does not pay for itself. Each home has associated costs:



schools, roads, police, fire, hospital, water, sewer, environmental, bike paths, public transportation etc...

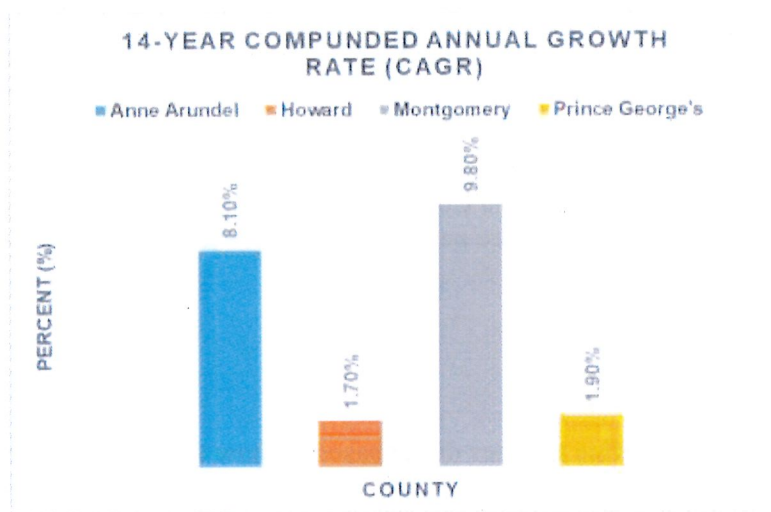
For example, the construction of High School #13 will cost nearly \$78,000 per new student. Furthermore, at the rate of 0.5 kids per home in Howard County, it costs \$15,000 per student to run the public school system.

The marginal revenue and cost of each additional new residential home is further complicated because “where the last units of service are more expensive to provide than the first- the cost of providing services to new residents may be higher than the cost of providing such services to existing residents.” [1]

Developer Corporate Subsidy

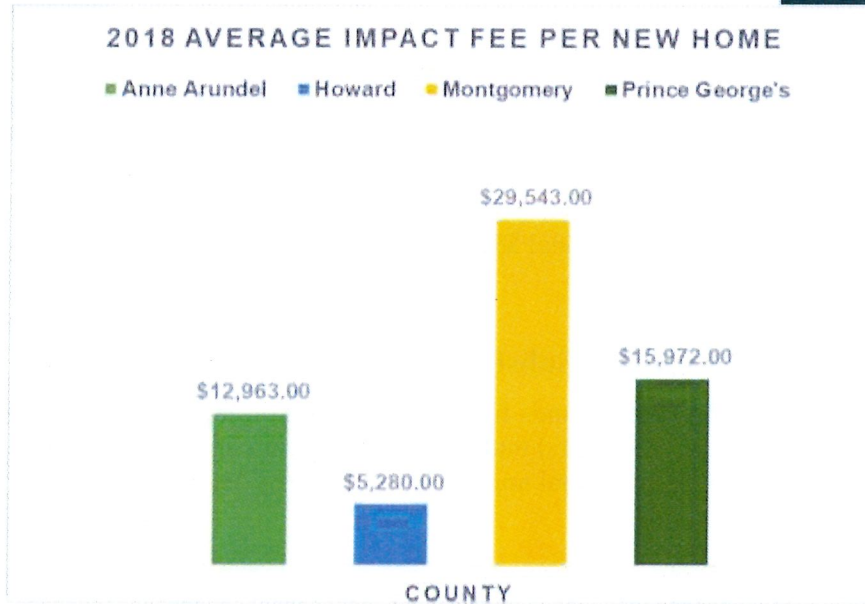
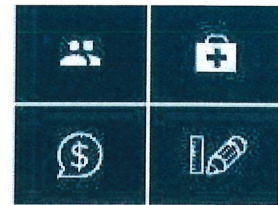
Radio personality Marc Steiner once said "Developers are the defense industry of local governments".

In 2004, the Maryland State Legislature enacted a law that enabled Howard County to charge Developers surcharge fees. The fee was set at an arbitrary value of \$1 per square foot, without any analysis to demonstrate the fee was market rate.



The 2004 bill also tied the County's hands by preventing it from adjusting the fee in the future. Consequently, since 2004, the fee has increased only at the rate of inflation to an annual rate of 1.7%.

In 2018, the average impact fee per new home was \$5,280. By comparison, Montgomery County charges nearly \$30,000, increasing at an annual rate of 9.8% over 14 years.

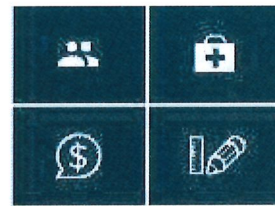


Since 2004, Howard County has approved a minimum of 1,700 homes per year, or nearly 24,000 new homes in 14 years. If Howard County's impact fees kept up in pace with Montgomery County, it would have received an additional \$500 million in fees. The county subsidized developer profits to the tune of \$500 million.

The Public School System's Record Deferred Maintenance

For perspective, as of October 2018, the school system's deferred maintenance has exceeded \$500 million. Furthermore, the county's trailer classrooms have increased annually to over 200 over those years.

Total Deferred Maintenance as of October 2018				
SHOP/Project Mgr	Count of SHOP/Proj Mgr	Sum of Total Deferred Operating Cost	Sum of Total Deferred Capital Cost	Sum of Total Deferred IEQ Cost
Building Envelope	62	\$6,901,475	\$13,812,260	\$825,000
Carpentry	6	\$467,250	\$13,350	\$0
Custodial	1	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Electrical	24	\$1,675,000	\$4,451,300	\$0
Elevator	1	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
Energy	2	\$160,000	\$0	\$0
Flooring	47	\$1,375,145	\$19,842,310	\$0
HVAC	74	\$10,162,000	\$433,875,365	\$0
Paint	66	\$7,715,000	\$0	\$0
Plumbing	30	\$6,761,000	\$10,714,471	\$0
Roofing	23	\$163,000	\$22,927,000	\$0
Construction	16	\$0	\$3,805,368	\$0
Total	352	\$35,419,870	\$509,541,424	\$825,000
Grand Total Deferred			\$545,786,294	

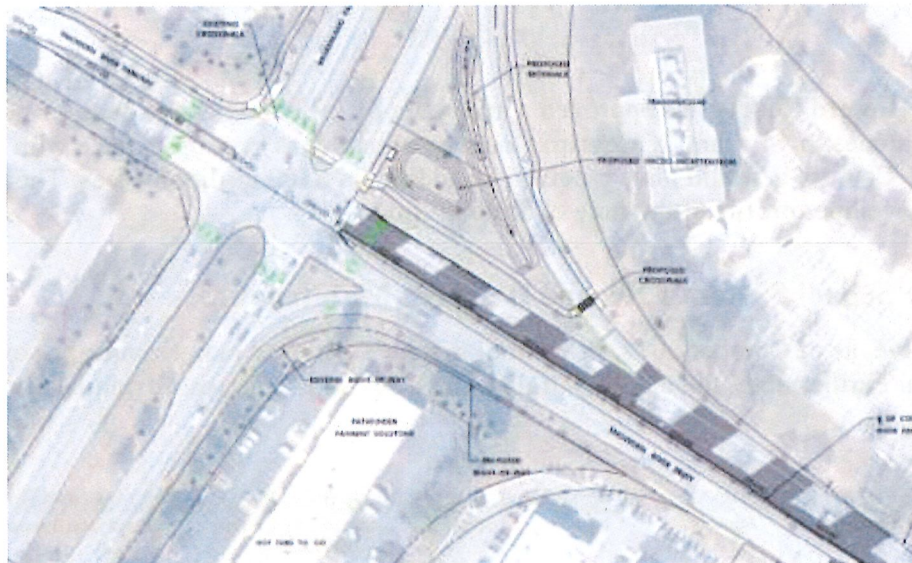


Howard County issues bonds backed by the collected surcharge fees. Since 2004, the county issued \$101 million in bonds based on \$84 million in surcharge fees. Assuming it can realize 20% more in funds through bond financing, how much would the county have raised based on market-rate surcharge fees? That is to say, if the county charged market-rate surcharge fees instead of subsidizing developer profits?

If the county had collected the additional \$500 million, it could have raised nearly \$720 million in bonds for schools.

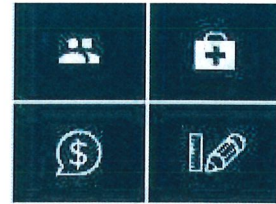
Specific Example of Developer Subsidy

Every year, the county appropriates funds for various capital projects. Between 2011 and 2017, an average of 5% of the county's capital budget was appropriated for road construction and resurfacing. As of 2017 an all-time total appropriation 8.7% of the county's capital budget was set aside for these two programs.



Many of the county's roads are operating at a very low level of service. Not by accident, but by design. For example the level of service for the intersection of Snowden River Parkway and Broken Land Parkway is 'F' because the mitigation process through the adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) requires a low level of service standard. Furthermore, the county collects very little money from the main beneficiaries of the road improvements- developers of the various businesses along the road.

The county approved construction of a Royal Farms gas station on Snowden River Parkway and Minstrel Way. Over the years, the approval of many such businesses led to significant congestion on the Parkway.



To relieve this congestion, a road widening project will begin in mid-2019. A portion of the project - to add a third westbound left turn lane - in that section of Snowden River road will cost taxpayer \$750,000. [7]



April 7, 2014

Mr. Chad Edmondson, Chief
Howard County
Department of Planning & Zoning
Development Engineering Division
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Based upon the potential improvement, a preliminary cost estimate has been developed and that estimate is also attached. The total identified cost for this improvement is **\$123,815.50**.

With a total cost of \$123,815.50, the pro-rata share for this development at **10.8%** would be **\$13,372** (10.8% of \$123,815.50)

J4222 Snowden River Parkway Widening



Widening of Snowden River Parkway between Oakland Mills Road and Broken Land Parkway.

Project will be phased with new third left turn lane to be constructed in Summer of 2018

Estimated Cost of 3rd left turn lane: \$750,000

Estimated Cost of Overall Project: \$30M

Overall project anticipated completion: 2023

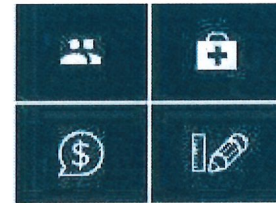
But, the price-tag diverges significantly from the amount estimated by the Developer-financed study of \$123,815.50.

The traffic study group provided the following estimate as the developer's share:

“With a total cost of \$123,815.50, the pro-rata share [Royal Farm's cost] for this development at 10.8% would be \$13,372 (10.8% of \$123,815.50)”.

So not only is the basis for the traffic study a weak APFO mitigation standard requiring low quality of service, the estimated cost impact is 83.5% less than the actual price tag. Furthermore, the Developer will pay only 1.78% of the actual price-tag. Not 10.8%.

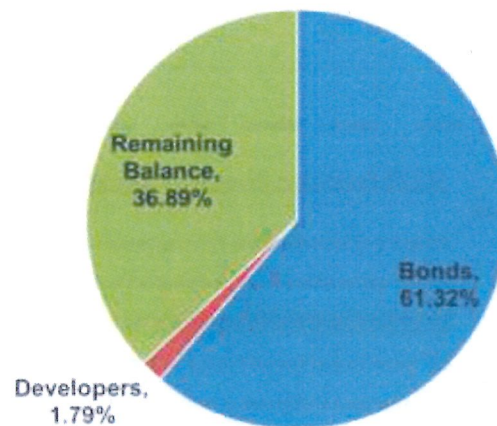
Here again is an illustration of how poorly the county does a poor job of accounting for all externalities in assessing the impacts of a project. In this case the job is to mitigate road congestion.



Record Deficits due to an Orthodoxy

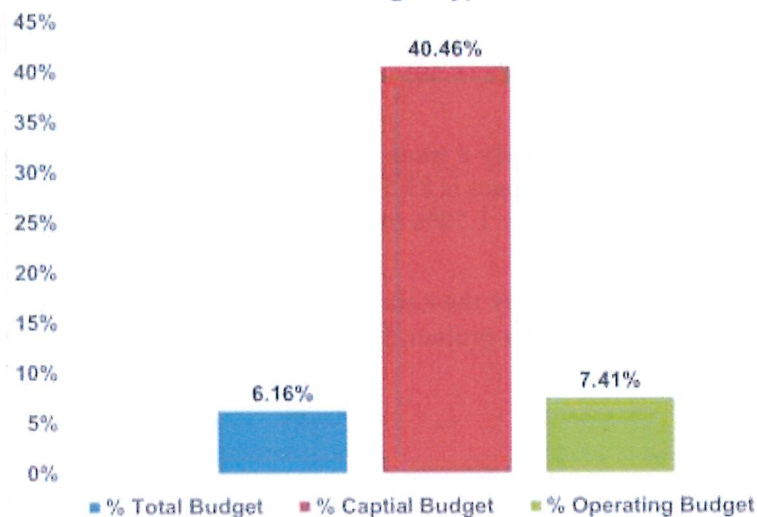
Over the years, the “new development more than pays for itself” orthodoxy has led to record deficit. Recent news reports state, Howard County's “...deficit will reach \$108 million in fiscal year 2020 and will likely grow to about \$275 million by fiscal year 2025 unless officials take corrective action.”[6]

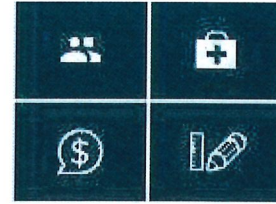
2011 - 2019 Average Capital Budget Funding Sources



Since 2011, the average annual contribution to the capital budget by Developers is equivalent in percentage to the road example presented earlier.

2011 - 2019 Average Debt Service as Percentage of Budget Type





More than 61% of the capital budget is financed through bonds, while developers pay less than 1.8% of the cost as shown by the road construction example. The average annual developer contribution is 1.79%.

Howard County has spent an average of \$100 million per year since 2011 to service these bonds, which amount to nearly 41% of the capital budget, 7.5% of the operating budget, and 6% of the total budget.

Little doubt exists as to the root cause of the deficits. Exorbitant bonds to finance capital projects primarily caused by unmitigated development.

County leaders have not used the benefit of hind-sight to change course. In fact they continue to push for policies based on the orthodoxies and economic approaches championed by Mr. Basu and many others in 2004.

The Traditional View of Development

Why is their approach wrong? Let's get back to impact fees (or surcharge fees in Howard County).

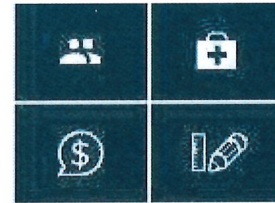
The approach is based on the traditional view [2] on impact fees that looks at the supply-side effect on housing. Broadly speaking, their orthodoxy says "more housing means more revenue".

According to the traditional view, impact fees are like excise taxes, which shift the short-run supply of housing up by the amount of the fee in a competitive market. The traditional view predicts, higher house prices, lower developer profits, and reduction in new home construction. In addition, the traditional view predicts impact fee increases would reduce prices paid to land owners and would hurt the availability of affordable housing.



What to do if an Impact Fee Seems Inevitable

- Suggest alternative mechanisms for the financing of public infrastructure (Chapter 6)
- Provide economic data to demonstrate the influence that impact fees have on housing affordability in an effort to lower the impact fee and/or transfer the timing of the payment of the impact fee further in the development and building process



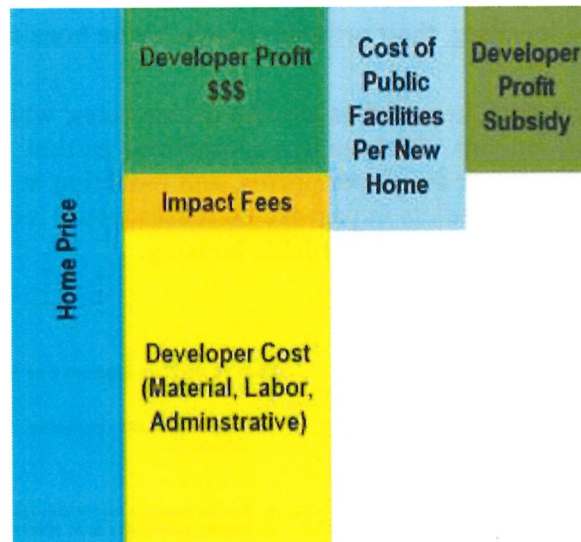
Developers would then be forced to leave the jurisdiction to avoid paying the fee. Consequently, the Developer flight combined with a reduction in tax base would lead to a decline in overall economic activity.

The Development Industry published a playbook [5] to reinforce the orthodoxy and traditional view of development. A snapshot of this playbook is shown. In addition to the predicted economic calamity, they also suggest the use of transfer taxes as an alternative means to raise infrastructure fees.

The Traditional View's Fatal Flaw

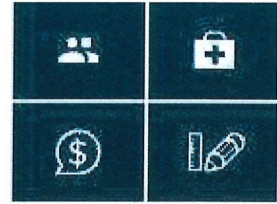
The traditional view has a fatal flaw, but it has the advantage of being intuitive to any consumer who has purchased any kind of goods. The concept of an excise tax getting passed on to the consumer is easy to understand since it happens every day. Alcohol and cigarette tax, gas tax, electricity tax, etc... This fatal flaw is reflected in the figure provided by the developers impact fee playbook.

This is not to say the model is not applicable to other jurisdictions, albeit with some heavy caveats. In Howard County, the traditional model has led to an increase in county debt, decrease in quality of infrastructure, and massive developer profits.



What happens in jurisdictions with low or no impact fees? Developer profits are subsidized because the taxpayer funds all infrastructure.

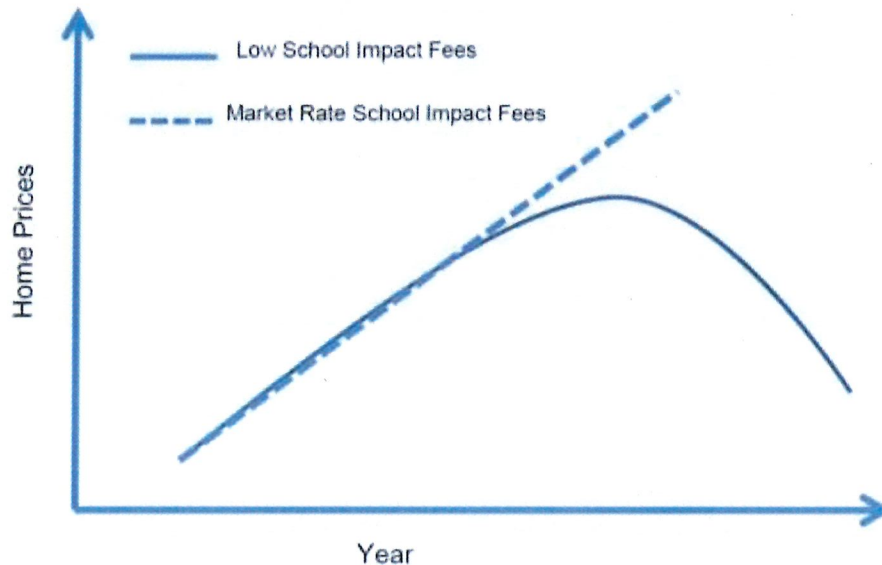
“When a development reduces the commons available to others, such as open space, clean air, or natural habitat, the developer will tend to provide too much of the housing or other product if



the developer and its home buyers are not asked to internalize the full costs of the development's use of commons." [1]

Furthermore, growth is delayed through lengthy planning review processes and a moratorium may be put in effect [by the taxpayer who becomes sick of subsidizing those profits] [2].

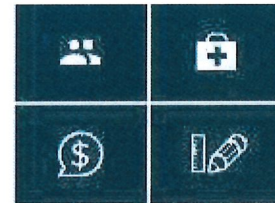
"Because residential development does not generate enough additional tax revenue to cover the cost of providing new public services, the community may adopt exclusionary barriers to the construction of residential property." [2]



Finally, developers move to other jurisdiction because of the inadequate public facilities and low quality of life they activities created.

In the long term, home prices decline because consumers look for jurisdictions with better infrastructure and the remaining tax-base is saddled with all the costs of maintaining existing infrastructure. Since the remaining tax base is poorer it won't be able to sustain the burdens, which leads to higher debt, resulting in a municipal financial crisis.

"In a competitive market, if a jurisdiction increases its property taxes but does not increase the quality or quantity of services it provides with property tax revenue, consumers will purchase housing in jurisdictions with lower property tax rates. Decreased demand will reduce the price of housing in the taxing jurisdiction so that the total housing price/property tax/service package will remain competitive with other jurisdictions." [1]



That is to say, it is the low quality of infrastructure that leads to decrease in demand, not increase in impact fees to keep up with infrastructure needs.

TRADITIONAL VIEW	"NEW" VIEW
<p>IMPACT FEES ARE LIKE EXCISE TAXES ...which shift the short-run supply of housing up by the amount of the fee in a competitive market.</p>	<p>IMPACT FEES HELP ...offset property taxes that would otherwise have been assessed, leading to a savings in these costs that will be capitalized into home values.</p>
<p>IMPACT FEE INCREASES ...reduce prices paid to land owners</p>	<p>IMPACT FEES IMPROVE ...the timeliness of availability of infrastructure. This increases the supply of develop-able land by adding capacity to public infrastructure.</p>
<p>IMPACT FEE INCREASES ...will drive away developers to other jurisdictions</p>	<p>LOW IMPACT FEES ...lead to a decline in quality of living. Developers AND Consumers will leave when quality of living declines due to bad infrastructure.</p>

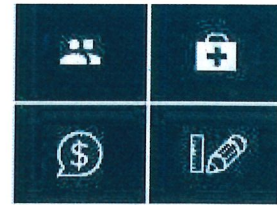
There is an approach to development that more accurately reflects its impacts.

The "New" View on Development

This "new" view, discussed in great detail in [2] says, impact fees are nothing more than the cost of providing valuable facilities to new development. They offset property taxes that would otherwise have been assessed, leading to a savings in these costs that will be capitalized into home values. They improve the timeliness of availability of infrastructure, which increases the supply of developable land by adding capacity to public infrastructure.

Empirical studies on effects of impact fees indicate future property tax increases are averted when the cost of public infrastructure is paid by the Developer at the time new homes are built. Studies also show that impact fees have at best a boosting effect on job and economic growth and at worst a non-discernible effect.

Furthermore, impact fees have an insignificant effect on construction rates, while positive effect on demand for homes in inner and outer suburban and rural areas. The study demonstrates that very little relationship exists between the Developer claims that impact fees reduce affordable housing. The mechanism to provide affordable housing in a jurisdiction with high home prices is not through low impact fees.



So, What is the Solution? Use Level of Service as a Metric

The framework used to assess the effects of new development needs to change. Not only is it grossly inaccurate and misleading, it does not take into account a key metric in the analysis.

For example an economic and fiscal impact study of the update to the county's adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) prepared for the Howard County Economic Development Authority [4] predicted a decline in "residential construction and employment activity" and a broader decline on "residential income and spending impact".

The predictions like those made by Mr. Basu in 2004 are not accurate because they have no consideration for the impact on the **level of service**. For developers, the level of service is an afterthought.

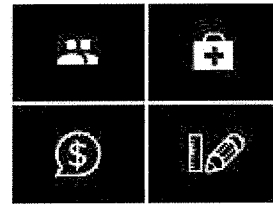
"For the market for housing (or other forms of development) to be efficient- to maximize overall social utility – standard economic theory holds that the price of housing must include all the benefits and costs that the development brings to or imposes on society." [1]

A socially, economically, and fiscally optimal rate of growth can only be achieved only when the impacts of growth on each of these factors are internalized.

Level of service of public infrastructure must be the main driver of new development. In a spectrum with extremes of moratorium at one end and unregulated development on the other, impact fees actually represent a happy medium.

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2. Burge, G. (20106, May 03). Impact Fees in Relation to Housing Prices and Affordable ... Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265228760_Impact_Fees_in_Relation_to_Housing_Prices_and_Affordable_Housing_Supply
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4. Clinch, R. P., & Steere, E. M. (2018, January 16). The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Proposed Adequate ... Retrieved from <http://www.hceda.org/wp-content/uploads/HCEDA-APFO-Impact-Report-1-16-18.pdf>
5. IMPACT FEE HANDBOOK - NAHB. (2008). Retrieved from <https://www.nahb.org/en/research/~/media/8B12E2AABAE549F49CDC751B378C737A>



6. Wilen, H. (2019, March 1). Howard County could raise taxes following panel recommendation. Retrieved from <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2019/03/01/howard-county-could-raise-taxes-following-panel.html>
7. Snowden River Parkway Lane Addition Project to Begin. (2019, March 26). Retrieved from <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bureau-Of-Engineering/Transportation-and-Special-Projects/Current-T-SP-Design-Project-Information>

May 1, 2019

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

As the Director for Student Services in the Howard County Public School System from 2000-2012, I had the opportunity to be involved with several agencies in the community that worked with and supported families and children. The many agencies with which I worked, provided resources and information to our school counselors and psychologists, pupil personnel workers and to our nurses, all of whom were in the Department of Student Services. When I made the decision to retire, my hope was that I could continue to be involved more closely with parents and children in our community, especially those who were 'at-risk' because they seemed to be caught in the middle of families in conflict.

The resources and support the **National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC)** provides to children and to parents who are separating, divorcing or who have never been married, but are ending their relationship, are unique and specific. There is no other agency or center in Howard County that solely provides specific and targeted parent education and counseling for parents who are divorcing or separating, groups and individual counseling for children who are struggling and in the middle of their parents' conflict, and classes on co-parenting which include creating child-focused parent plans.

Children and adolescents who are caught in the middle of their parents' conflict often internalize their feelings and take on a huge responsibility of guilt for their parent's problems. As a way of protecting themselves from further disappointment and emotional pain, they often disengage from their friends, from school, and from their parents. These are the children the NFRC provides counseling and support for. Parents who are engaged in 'custody battles' or who are 'fighting' to win custody and not focused on what's in the best interest of their children, are those parents with whom the NFRC works to teach how to co-parent for their children's emotional and mental well-being.

I am here tonight to express my disappointment in hearing that the Council is considering cutting 50% of the budget for this unique agency in our community, the **National Family Resiliency Center**, and am respectfully asking that Dr. Ball and members of the Council to please reconsider this funding cut. The number of children bearing the brunt of their parent's divorce, at a great cost to them, is growing and is often not recognized by teachers and school counselors. Continuing to fund the NFRC at previous levels, will enable the staff at the NFRC to continue to offer training for our schools, and the much needed services and support for families in conflict so that our children can thrive and enjoy their childhood and their parents can co-parent in a civil and respectful manner in two homes.

Sincerely,

Pamela Blackwell, M.Ed., LCPC
Former Director for Student Services for HCPSS (2000-2012)

NATIONAL FAMILY RESILIENCY CENTER

Adult Peer Counselor

~ Client

Youth Peer Counselor

~ Son

Volunteer - Co-Parent Seminar



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Margaret May Desautelle, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

National Family Resiliency Ctr. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

request to amend this legislation. restore funding
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Margaret May Desautelle

Signature: M. May Desautelle

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: NFRC

Organization Address: 1000 Century Plaza.

10630 Little Patuxent Pkysuite # 115 Columbia

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Risa Garon

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Bita Dayhoff, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Community Action Council of Ho. Co. to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Operating Funds FY 20 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Bita Dayhoff

Signature: Bita Dayhoff

Date: 5/1/2019

Organization: Community Action Council

Organization Address: 9820 Patuxent Woods Col. MD

Number of Members: 1

Name of Chair/President: Patrick Curtis

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Matt Fleming, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Ellicott City Partnership to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding County Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Matt Fleming

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1 MAY 2019

Organization: Ellicott City Partnership

Organization Address: 8321 MAIN STREET

ELICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Number of Members: _____

Name of Chair/President: Matt Fleming

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Colleen Morris, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HCEA to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Colleen Morris

Signature: Colleen Morris

Date: 5-1-19

Organization: HCEA

Organization Address: 5082 Dorsey Hall Dr.

EC MD 21042

Number of Members: 6,100

Name of Chair/President: Colleen Morris

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.