

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran LoPresti <fflopresti@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Petition in support of the East Columbia 50+ Center
Attachments: 2018 petition additional signatures.pdf; 2018 petition.pdf

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

Hello,

I am transmitting a petition from the senior citizens that use the current inadequate East Columbia 50+ Center. This petition was started last year after the capital budget did not include funds for a full design of the center and was counter the FY15 Master Plan. As a result of this petition as well as letters, testimony, emails, and calls, the capital budget was amended to include full design funds for FY19 with full funds for construction in FY20 with an opening in FY21. The current proposed capital budget has reneged on this promise with construction slipping into FY21 and opening in FY22. This is unacceptable since we have been waiting for this center since the capital budget of FY16. Another year of delay is unacceptable to the every growing senior population. The Connections program is vital for our area. Please amend the budget and restore the timeline that seniors clamored for last year and this year through letters, emails, calls, and testimony. Thank you.

Fran LoPresti
6985 Deep Cup, Columbia, MD 21045
410-995-6160
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Fran LoPresti

↓

Maesha Spriggs 5585 Waterloo Rd #413
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Betsy Lew 3031 John Bernard Drive Ellicott City MD

Pam Segare 6390 Windharp Way Columbia MD 21045

Yvette Young 5303 Butler Ct Columbia, MD 21044

Newbern Bridgeton 130 Forest Edge Pl LAUREL MD 207

Amanda Payne 6140 GATESILL 21045

Carol Atkinson Stewart 7190 Lanting Light Way 21045

Henrietta Mulwood 10570 Two Rivers Rd C2 Columbia MD 21044

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Joan Branch 9895 Palace Hall Dr #413 Laurel MD 2070

Kevin Daye 5705 Little Belts Row Clarksville MD 21029

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Maurie Foster 9509 Twilight Ct. Columbia, MD 210

Donna Wells 5460 HARRIS FARM LANE
CLARKSVILLE, MD 21029

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Aileen Broider 10548 HUNTERS WAY LAUREL, MD 28723

BALLO 14826 Michale Dr Glenelg, MD 21737

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Int Est 4166 Martin Way May Columbia 21046

THOMAS FEARER 10721 Autumn Splendor Dr 21044

Debra Williams 8961 Skymark Ct, Columbia 21046

Captha, Sharon 5613 Columbia Rd, #302 Columbia md 21044

Jim Barto 2911 E. Gagetown Way, Spring MD 20794

John L. Whitaker 7382 Broken Staff, Columbia MD 21045

Bruce Whitaker 7382 Broken Staff, Columbia MD 21045

Phil Morgan 9342 Ourtown Ln Columbia MD 21045

CHANGPING ELLEN SHIH 10322 Cromwell Court, Ellicott City, MD 21042

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Gina Szymanski 6676 Star Park, Maryland MD 21045

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Carol Powell
cell 8 Tristeridge Ct, Columbia 21044

Leanna Allen
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Juan Juan Fan
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ELICOTT CITY

MUSTANG KRAM 5764 Stevens Forest Road #90
Columbia - 21044

Columbia - 21044

Johni Gray
6635 Conna Ct Columbia 21044

Robert English
4665 PALMWOOD A Forest Hill
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It was 6507 River Run, Columbia, MD 21046

Stella Wm 2805 Wilors Way Dr Elicott City MD 21045

Jean Kluck 11205 Forest Rd, Elicott City 21042

Rafaela 9 MEMORY CT, SILVER SPRING MD

JAYNE KRAMER 10377 BLUE AREAS CT COLUMBIA MD

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Pam Russell 8580
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Kathleen M. Woodley ECO Library.

~~Judy Strunk~~

Wally Sun 6233 Sebring Dr. Columbia, MD 21044

Nirmala Malhya 8834 Warm Granite Dr Columbia Md
apt 122 21045

Jane Jaffe 5370 Dorsey Hall Dr 21042

Martha Poch 9416 Bullring Lane Columbia, Md 21045

Russell Dean " "

Florence Warren 9526 Pophwater Way 41046

PETITION

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

NAME	ADDRESS
Rose Johns	5417 FALLRIVER ROW CT 21044
Dolores Bramer	9611 Rocksparkle Row 21045
Sue Wisniewski	8582 Horseshoe Rd 21043
Meg Cuff	10048 Whitworth Way E 21042
Anne Watson	558 Eagleback Row Columbia 21045
Dorothy Friedman	7183 Peace Chimes Ct. Columbia 21045
Patricia Deeg	
Margie Reyes	8814 Sandhope Ct. Columbia 21046
Betty Hmyrek	5288 Raccoon Ct Columbia 21045
Louise Basnight	6236 Blue Dart Place Columbia, Md 21045
Rosemary Chen	6384 BARBET FOOT RD COLUMBIA, MD 21045
EMILY HARRISON	6533 OVERTHEART LANE COLUMBIA, MD 21045

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NAME	ADDRESS
Linda Haneuwerker	Columbia MD 21024 6579 Dorect Dr.
Annette Williams	9351 Curtis Dr Columbia MD 21045
APRIL McPATRICK	6300 PARKTHURGE COLUMBIA, MD 21045
BERTINA LEWIS	9509 Deerfoot way Columbia MD 21046
CHRISTY GRAY	7324 SECOND TIME LN COLUMBIA MD 21046
RUTH SANFORD	6412 LORING DR COLUMBIA, MD 21045
FAR McPherson	11090 SWANSON RD Cal 21044
Nimela Halligan	8834 WOODMOUNT DR. Columbia, Md. 21045
Bridgid Seery	8418 Jopenda Dr E.C. MD 21043
Kim Hughes	1308 BRISTL Plano Columbia MD 21044
Mayya Sniadokovs	

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N. Jill Scott Shannon Erickson	njscott31@verizon.net 9517 Pampplona Rd Columbia 21045
Jean Kranfield	9354 Overtime Lane. Cal. 21045
Susanne Stoloff	6332 Guilford Rd 21029 clarksbeer
Ellen S. McNulty	8865 Blade Green Lane Columbia MD 21045
Laurene Retovic	6437 Coken Door Col MD 21045
Nancy Newhouse	8340 Montgomery Run Rd ELICOTT CITY, MD 21043
Cynthia Chesot	6128 L. Ranford Dr Columbia MD 21044
Landra Rowan	10230 Westlight Dr. Columbia, MD. 21046

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NAME	ADDRESS
ARLENE TRAPP	6321 LORING DR COLUMBIA, MD 21045
Blaine Puler	7186 Justice Light Way Cal. MD 21048
J. Tucker	COLUMBIA MD 21045
John W. Kelly	10801 Bird Song Pass Columbia md 21044
Lula M. Kelly	10801 Bird Song Pass Columbia md 21044
Steve Hamm	10101 Governor Weisfeld Pkwy Columbia md 21044
Mrs. James	10075 Windstream Dr. Columbia Md 21044
Row ALLSOPP	6972 Sun & Lake Row Columbia MD 21045
RITA Moy	11914 Yellow Rush Pass Columbia MD 21044
C. M. Woodruff Christine Woodruff	5071 Columbia Rd. Columbia MD 21044
Lula M. Benjamin	4315 Ericson Rd. #406 Ellicott City, MD 21043



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Lionel S. Mahoney	9457 Wandering Way, Columbia, MD 21045
Ed Warner	7161 Hays Spring, Columbia 21095
Dolores Roberts	9482 Billmerhansen Dr.
Deborah Crabtree	7225 Knicker Rd. Col. MD 21045
Elizabeth A. Felson	9774 Polished Stone Columbia MD 21046
John Stiff	6332 Gumbel Clark Rd 21049
Carol Graves	6470 Sewells Orchard Drive, Columbia 21045
Pat Rose UE	5436 Tilted Stone 21045
Karen Feagin	5935 Abrianna Way Unit 2 - Elbridge - 21075
Ira Brandon	10182 Garden Cir. Columbia Md 21046

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NAME

ADDRESS

Carmen Ortiz	6602 Windsor Ct. Columbia MD 21044
Dorothy Y. Beard	8800 Bosley Rd. #301 Ellicott City, Md 21043
Celest Wanzack	954 Carriage House Lane Columbia, 21045
Neil Boynton	8900 Brewster Rd. #403 Ellicott City 21043
Barbara Harris	11163 Woodclaw Way Columbia MD 21044
Alie Caze	6153 Wait. ob SP. Columbia 21045
Zyrome West	10814 Green Mountain Circle Columbia 21044
Honey Stuchel	9409 Hickory Limb, Columbia 21045
Opina Stroh	3128 St. Charles Pl. EC. 21042
Theresa	13205 W. Mountain Cir #109 21044
Arlene Gert	4645 Firefly Way EC 21042

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

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NAME

ADDRESS

- Tom Lis 6387 OPEN FLOWER, COLUMBIA, MD 21045
- Allison Korn 6550 Carlinda Ave Col 21046
- Clarie Fennario 3405 Font Hill Drive EC 21042
- David Bagwell 3156 Craefield Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Nick Brienza 9342 Big River Run, Columbia, MD 21045
- Wanda Daise 5705 Little Belts Row, Clarksville MD 21029
- Joan Baynch 9895 Palace Hall Dr #413 Laurel MD 20723
- Helen Barber 7070 Cradlerock Way, #426, Columbia 21045
- Ann Heban 10101 Gow Woodfield Pkwy UNIT 406 21045
- Jane H Cooksey 6324 Sandcham 21045
- Denée Barr 6168 Wating Spring, Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Bridget Graham <bridget@howardcountytourism.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:46 PM
To: CouncilMail; Amanda Hof
Subject: Testimony: Howard County Tourism Council
Attachments: 2020 Funding Request_Council Testimony May 1.pdf

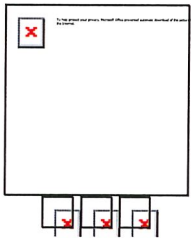
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello Howard County Council,
Please accept this attached PDF with our apologies for not being in attendance tonight. We know that budget season can be long and arduous, so on behalf of the 11,000 people employed in the hospitality industry of Howard County, thank you for all that you do, and for keeping Howard County running! If you have any questions about any of the objectives or details of our funding request, please don't hesitate to contact Amanda Hof or myself and we'll be more than happy to talk to you about them. We know you work hard to elevate the quality of life for every resident of Howard County, and we are proud to be able to share that quality of life with our visitors.

Have a lovely evening and we hope to hear from you soon,

Bridget Graham

CC: Amanda Hof



Bridget Graham
Director of Operations & Visitor Services
Visit Howard County

Phone: 410-313-1474

Email: Bridget@howardcountytourism.com

Visitor Website: VisitHowardCounty.com

Industry Website: HowardCountyTourism.com



Request Prepared By

Amanda Hof, Executive Director

Amanda@HowardCountyTourism.com

410-313-1904

Howard County Tourism Council

8267 Main Street

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Howard County Tourism Council

FY2020 Funding Request

(Testimony)



May 1, 2019

Howard County Council

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

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

The Howard County Tourism Council respectfully requests that you fully fund Howard County Executive Calvin Ball's proposed FY2020 budget of \$1,009,877 be included in your for the Howard County Tourism Council.

The amount of \$1,009,877 is based on a sustained budget from FY2019. This allocation will be used to fund continued marketing for the recovery of Old Ellicott City businesses and improving the in-market visitor experience while sustaining strong marketing campaigns for the entire county and covering the expenses associated with supporting signature Howard County events and cultivating new events to fill need times throughout the year.

In making this request on behalf of 11,000 employees of Howard County's hotels, shops, restaurants, farms, museums, attractions, the arts, and parks we recognize how fortunate we are to live and work in a County with leaders who understand how a continued investment in tourism is part of the economic solution. For our part, we are currently following a strategic plan with input from government and sector leaders. This plan will guide our efforts to most effectively market and sell Howard County as a fantastic place to visit, live and run a tourism business.

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

During the first half of FY2019 our organization focused on promoting a series of actionable travel activities including Restaurant Weeks, Maryland's Korean Way culinary trail, agricultural tourism opportunities like Farms Food and Fun, The Patuxent Challenge, The Made Marketplace Elkridge, our growing population of breweries, and individual campaigns for spring and summer festivals and concerts encouraging festival-goers to make a multi-day visit out of their festival experience. Holiday travelers are encouraged to use Howard County as their base when they're visiting Washington D.C. and Baltimore.

On May 27, 2018, when the flash flood that ravaged Old Ellicott City for the second time, including our offices and Welcome Center, we activated a plan to prepare for marketing the retailers and restaurants when the timing was appropriate. The hard work of the local business owners, Howard County Government, Howard County Economic Development Authority, Ellicott City Partnership, and Howard County Tourism Council has helped to put Old Ellicott City on the track towards complete restoration.



We quickly built a landing page www.visithowardcounty.com/ecstrong/ for flood response and recovery inquiries that included information on the open businesses and on the upcoming events. Our campaign for Old Ellicott City targeted residents in Howard County, in the surrounding regions of Baltimore and Washington D.C. and to major leisure travel feeder markets in nearby states. The campaign, combined with the excitement for the return of a beloved area, directly attracted thousands of web sessions and contributed in a large way to the busier weekends at the newly reopened shops and restaurants of Old Ellicott City.

Thanks to these initiatives and many others that were made possible through funding from Howard County Government we continue to generate regional and national publicity, including 50+ media placements so far in FY2019. Many of the stories featured recovering Old Ellicott City as we dedicated resources to spreading positive news.

Our measurables are showing progress in marketing the community as a destination for spending customers. Website traffic in the first quarter is on pace to exceed last year. We attribute our website traffic to our trackable marketing campaigns and event posts. Attractions we promote are claiming increases in attendance.

Tax revenue generated from hotel stays continue to grow since a stable investment in tourism promotion was legislated in 2012. Since 2012 \$36.5 million in tax revenue has been collected and invested not only in boosting the tourism economy, but also in the Economic Development Authority, and other county programs such as education, public safety, and citizen services.

As our organization looks forward to FY2020, Howard County residents, local businesses and visitors alike will see benefits from significant initiatives intended to promote and enhance the attractions in Howard County. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Hof".

Amanda Hof, Executive Director
Howard County Tourism Council

Enclosures:

- FY2020 Budget Request
- About the Howard County Tourism Council
- Summary of Successes FY18-19

FY2020 Budget Request (Testimony)

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

With \$1,009,877 in funding we will focus on the following in FY2020:

Group visitors

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

Leisure travelers and locals

- **More targeted, niche marketing focusing on ROI**
 - Focus on marketing niche opportunities for visiting Howard County like the breweries, distilleries, and agritourism.
 - Complete shift to digital marketing.
 - Video marketing.
 - Social media and storytelling through quality content.
- **Events and destinations that make Howard County unique**, including our festivals at the Fairgrounds and the events and attractions in communities like Ellicott City, Columbia, Elkridge, Maple Lawn, Savage, and Western Howard County.
- **Old Ellicott City's return**, continuing to promote the new experience that's developing as the community, shops, and restaurants rebuild.

Media

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

Tourism cultivation

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

- Provide sponsorships to eligible events and attractions to help cultivate new reasons to visit Howard County.

Howard County Welcome Center and other Visitor Services

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

About the Howard County Tourism Council

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

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

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

Summary of Successes FY18-19

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

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

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

Destination Video - in partnership with locally owned, Ellicott City Main Street, based business, Hi-Pro Media Productions, we produced Howard County's first-ever destination video that debuted at our 37th annual meeting in September.

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

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

Media stories - Pitched stories to media and got coverage from the Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, Recreation News, and more. Attended the Mid Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance Annual Conference to promote Howard County and connect with travel writers.

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

Product development - Worked with many organizations and businesses to cultivate new or improved events and attractions in Howard County. Events and attractions impacted include the Columbia Festival of the Arts, Hops and Harvest Festival, US Quidditch Mid Atlantic Regional Championship, National High School Lacrosse Showcase, Korean Festival, multiple soccer tournaments, Symphony of Lights, Howard County Arts Council, Color Columbia, Movie Nights at Merriweather Post Pavilion, Blossoms of Hope, and more.

Cooperative marketing and education - working with industry partners we created aggressive marketing campaigns for several products including Asian-American owned businesses along Route 40. Our education efforts focused on the training needed by small businesses to be successful online; these courses were attended by dozens of small business owners and managers.

Good Evening, my name is Kim Drake, resident of Ellicott City, district 2.

Thank you County council members for your time this evening.

I met Chiara about a year ago when we attended the first CA Climate change and sustainability advisory committee meeting as new committee members. Right away she was telling me about her nonprofit, The Community Ecology Institute and engaged me to be a part of it. I had already been following her social media site on one part of the nonprofit, Columbia Families in Nature and loved seeing pictures of children in the natural environment. As a fellow degreed environmental scientist, I was enthused by her passion, it reminded me of my own. Since then we've talked about her vision and have been to the farm that the nonprofit hopes to purchase.

I feel strongly that this 6 acre farm in Columbia is worth preserving and will become a beneficial community center for Howard County. It will be unique as Howard County has nothing else like it.

In addition, this could benefit Howard County as the county has signed onto the US Climate Alliance Natural and working lands challenge = calls on jurisdictions to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration. The community ecology center will be nearly 6 acres of conservation landscape like rain gardens, pollinator garden, food forest and carbon sequestration in native trees.

As you can see from the support in this room, residents of Howard county want this to come to fruition and are willing to volunteer their time to make it a success. I can say that this group has been fundraising like crazy and still have not met the goal needed. This is where we hope we can get support from you. Having worked for an environmental nonprofit and as president of a board of directors of another nonprofit, I have created budgets and completely understand the difficulty balancing those budgets! I feel strongly that this is worth budgeting for. Chiara is highly capable and has the education and professional experience to make this a success. In addition she has help from several members of Leadership Howard, her board and a large group of residents to help. The benefits to our community will be felt by all as I'm sure Chiara will be sure everyone gets to experience the Community Ecology Center.

Thank you for your time.

environmental sustainability and climate action,

Nature-based experiential education programming

Farm preservation and agricultural knowledge

Health and nutrition programming

For more than 30 years the world community has tried to resolve the combined challenges of environmental degradation, fossil fuel dependence, economic inequality and persistent social injustice. Yet, the scale of these trends has grown, and their effects have become so widespread that they now threaten the stability of communities around the world. The global sustainability challenges of the past have become the local resilience crises of today.

Resilience is the ability of a system - like a family, a country, or Earth's biosphere - to cope with short-term disruptions and adapt to long-term changes without losing its essential character. We depend on the resilience of all the systems that support us for life and well-being; if these systems falter, we suffer. A crisis is an unstable state of affairs in which decisive change is both necessary and inevitable. Today we face four major crises - environmental, energy, economic, and equity - that threaten to overwhelm the resilience of the systems we care about, particularly at the local level*.

Communities are the ideal level of focus for building resilience because regular people can most effectively be involved at this level. Cities and states are traditionally the laboratories for social and economic innovation. One community's experiment can inspire thousands of other experiments, providing valuable insights and best practices and ultimately building support for larger-scale changes. This is where the Community Ecology Institute (CEI) comes in.

CEI is a 501c3 non-profit with vision for a world in which people and nature thrive together. Our mission is to help create communities that are both socially and ecologically healthy. We do this through evidence-based programs that provide nature-based experiential education around the 4E crises - environmental, energy, economic, and equity. We put these programs to place in our hometown community and create tools and resources to help other communities do this important work too. CEI is on a mission to offer solutions, and to serve as an example for communities all over the world!

Because of our good work, one of the last remaining farms in our community is being sold to CEI for a fraction of the market value a developer would pay to turn it into another housing complex. This 6.4 acre organic farm in an area rich with important Native and African American history - just saving the land from development is a worthwhile endeavor! We are going bring the farm back to life through regenerative, permacultural, biodynamic practices AND create a Community Ecology Center on the property. The center will be a place where the community can learn through hands-on experiences about how to live happier, healthier, more connected and sustainable lives while helping to create a healthier, more resilient community at large.

Small, local, community based urban/ suburban ecology centers have the power to transform communities, healing the earth and bringing people together with a sense of hope and purpose for the future. As we create this Community Ecology Center, we will develop resources about how communities around the country and world can create their own ecology centers in a way that strengthens their local resilience.

Howard County - US Climate Alliance Natural and working lands challenge = calls on jurisdictions to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration. The community ecology center will be nearly 6 acres of conservation landscape like rain gardens, pollinator garden, food forest and carbon sequestration in native trees.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Pollitt Hill <jpollitthill@wearehopeworks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HopeWorks testimony on County Operations budget FY20
Attachments: HopeWorks FY20 Budget Testimony to County Council.docx

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

Dear County Council,

Attached please find our written testimony asking for your support of level funding for HopeWorks of Howard county as presented in the County Executive's budget. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, I am more than happy to make myself available at your convenience. Thank you for considering our request.

Jennifer Pollitt Hill, MSW | Executive Director

Pronouns: she/her/hers

HopeWorks of Howard County

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 300

Columbia, Maryland 21046

410.997.0304 ext. 7750

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www.wearehopeworks.org





Public Hearing – Operating Budget FY 20
Testimony from HopeWorks of Howard County

May 1, 2019

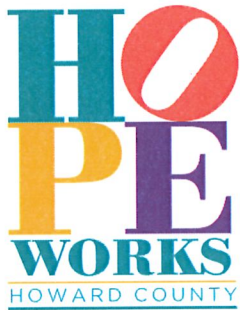
Dear County Council,

HopeWorks of Howard County is our county's primary human service organization tasked with addressing sexual and intimate partner violence in our community. We work to make Howard County residents safer through our customized and comprehensive client services as well as our public education, wellness programming and prevention work. We have been providing services for those affected by intimate partner violence since 1978. We expanded to include sexual violence in 2010 and created specialized services in 2017 for those who have been victims of human trafficking. This past fiscal year we provided more than 5,200 individual client services and we reached an additional 3,400 through our community engagement programs.

We are very proud of what we offer to the community, especially critical during these times of heightened awareness and we cannot provide these services without the continued partnership and financial support of the County. Our Community Services Partnership (CSP) grant makes up approximately 36% of our overall agency budget. Even though that may seem like a sizable amount, we have slowly been able to reduce the percentage of CSP funding over time because we have been successful in growing our total budget with other funding sources. In fact, some of our other grant sources such as the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding require non-federal matching dollars. CSP dollars are a key element in HopeWorks ability to leverage funding opportunities outside of County monies.

We ask that you support the Community Services Partnership grants program as well as HopeWorks inclusion in this budget. We have asked for level funding this year and thank you so much for considering this request.

In addition, we lend our voice to the budget priorities articulated by the Association of Community Services and the Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition. Although we are the resident experts in our field, we cannot and do not do our work alone. HopeWorks deeply values and relies on community partnerships to best serve our clients. Affordable housing, transportation, childcare, and reducing health disparities are not HopeWorks primary focus, but make no mistake these issues are critical to those we serve. We therefore support and advocate for the budget priorities that these groups have outlined.



Thank you for any assistance in advancing our vision of a world where all people are safe and valued and where everyone can reach their full potential. Should you want or need any additional information, I am happy to make myself available to you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Pollitt Hill".

Jennifer Pollitt Hill, MSW
Executive Director

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Parr <cparr@archoward.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 4:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fy'20 Budget Written Testimony
Attachments: Fy'20 Budget Testimony Arc Howard.pdf

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

I would like to submit this written testimony in support of the CSP grant allotment for The Arc of Howard County. Thank you.

Best,
Cindy Parr
Cindy Parr
Executive Director
cparr@archoward.org
The Arc of Howard County
410-730-0638, x225

Achieving full community life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities - one person at a time.





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THE ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY

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Ellicott City, MD 21042
T 410 730 0638 W www.archoward.org

May 3, 2019

County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball and Howard County Council
Howard County Government
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good day County Executive Ball and Members of the County Council:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the support and understanding you have for the mission of The Arc of Howard County.

I am writing this letter to serve as written testimony in support of the FY'20 budget as it relates to the financial support we receive from Howard County government through the Community Services Program grant. I am sure you know from our conversations, how critical this grant is to us at The Arc of Howard County. This grant is two-fold; as it affords the opportunity to provide respite services; and, retain one designated staff person, responsible for the maintenance of close to 40 residential settings throughout Howard County.

Our Respite House is one of four in the state of Maryland. This program provides quality, temporary care for children and adults at our home located in Columbia, Maryland. More than 45 families utilize these services which are provided on a daily, weekly and weekend basis. If we did not have the CSP grant funding, we would not be able to offer the program.

Our residential program supports 86 individuals living in close to 40 residential settings. Routine maintenance is necessary to ensure each of these settings remain intact and accessible. Two staff comprises this department, and without this funding, we would not be able to perform the various tasks necessary to maintain safe and livable environments for all the people we support residentially. Coupled with the routine maintenance, these staff members also oversee annual maintenance projects which aid in the accessibility and energy efficiency of our homes. Last year alone, 325 requests for residential repairs were fielded through our maintenance department. So far this year, we have handled 300 requests for home maintenance. This is due to issues associated with aging homes and unexpected electrical and plumbing problems. We will easily surpass the 325 requests from last fiscal year.

You can imagine the impact the CSP grant has on our program service delivery in these two areas. Both would be greatly compromised without the \$159,750 we receive from the CSP grant.

In closing, I would like to say that we here at The Arc of Howard County look forward to our continued partnership with each of you in the years to come. Once again, thank you for the financial and programmatic support the County provides.

Sincerely,



Cindy Parr
Executive Director
The Arc of Howard County



William Erskine, President
Board of Directors
The Arc of Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: edrewyer@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:33 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NATIONAL FAMILY RESILIENCY CENTER

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

May 1, 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

It has been brought to my attention, and I am deeply saddened and disappointed to hear of the proposed 50-percent funding cut for the National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC), where I have been providing therapeutic support to families and children for fifteen years. I have been a resident of Howard County since 1982 and have a deep commitment to supporting the wellness of our community. It concerns me deeply that the resources available to our community will be depleted by the decision to cut the funding to NFRC.

A proposal of a 50-percent cut in the funding for the National Family Resiliency Center should be reconsidered for the following reasons:

- * A large number of families and children in Howard County are experiencing high conflict relationships and other complex family challenges. Prior to seeking the many resources provided through the National Family Resiliency Center, these families are in highly volatile circumstances causing dire safety concerns in our neighborhoods.
- * The safety concerns occurring in our neighborhoods are the result of the families who struggle to cope with losses and changes, as a result of their family divorce or break-up. Very often these changes occur as a result of untreated mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, and untreated developmental challenges. I have worked with families and children with all of these challenges.
- * NFRC has an immense impact on families and children through their group therapy programs. I have witnessed these benefits through the facilitation of these therapeutic sessions with children. Over the 15 years I have facilitated groups for children, I have received only remarkable and compelling feedback from parents and children confirmed by their participation in multiple group sessions. Our therapeutic group program is a unique resource to families in Howard County.

- * Children and teen volunteers support the group therapy program and volunteer many hours of their time. The giving and receiving of support by the peer counselors provides families with the benefits of having a supportive community to help families through their grief. The grant assists with the peer counselor program and allows us to offer sliding fees to families who are eligible.

I see a severe need for the services provided to the children and parents of Howard County. As a resident of Howard County for 37 years, I am quite aware of and concerned about mental illness in our county. As a therapist at NFRC, I see children and adults living with severe mental health concerns; have reported many child abuse circumstances to CPS; supported and educated children about their parent's mental illness; counseled children and adolescents struggling with their illness of suicide and provided therapy to those experiencing trauma. This is what the clinicians of NFRC do on a daily basis, so that all of the families and children of Howard County can be a part of a healthy environment.

Please DO NOT cut the funding for this outstanding non-profit center. The National Family Resiliency Center has taken action for thirty years to support an area of need that is a prevalent and under-served population by providing creative and innovative programs that support families and children in our community.

Thank you for reading this email and considering the points made relative to the cut in funding for the National Family Resiliency Center.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Drewyer, LCSW-C
National Family Resiliency Center
410-740-9553 Extension 206
www.nfrchelp.org